Duration of Course
MSc: 12 months full-time
PgDip: 9 months full-time

Entry Requirements
A good university degree that includes some study of accounting or finance, or an equivalent professional qualification. Degrees that include accounting or finance in a programme of economics, business studies, maths, statistics or computing are all welcome.

Fees
For information on current fee levels, see: www.strath.ac.uk/registry/students/finance

How to Apply
Apply online via the postgraduate course page: www.strath.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate

Contact
Enquiries can be made to either of the following in the Department of Accounting & Finance:

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www.strath.ac.uk/accfin

The MSc in International Accounting and Finance provides a suite of classes with an international perspective on the theory and practice of accounting, alongside studies of financial management and securities markets. The course complements the well-established and internationally-respected MSc course in Finance.

Companies in many countries are now using or moving towards, international financial reporting standards in their annual reports. Is harmonisation a desirable target? What are the cultural and institutional characteristics that may lead to differing interpretations of accounting standards? What is the position in countries that retain national standards, particularly the USA?

The course aims to enable participants to understand and respond to the challenges of bringing harmonised accounting to diverse business settings.
Aims of the Course
The course provides participants with:

- international perspectives on accounting theories of income and value
- critical awareness of international accounting standards and their implementation
- sound understanding of financial theory and analysis
- appreciation of the nature and functioning of financial markets and institutions
- ability to apply analytical techniques in practice

Target Market
The programme is designed for those who seek to broaden their previous study of accounting by linking international developments in accounting to a study of financial markets and financial management. For those already working in accounting or finance, the course advances their effectiveness by covering the latest developments in the field, encouraging them to question more traditional rules and techniques and take an analytical approach to practical problems.

The course will be of particular interest to those intending to pursue careers or undertake further research in areas such as:

- Accounting Information in Capital Markets
- Corporate Finance
- Treasury Management
- Investment Analysis and Management
- Consultancy and Corporate Planning

Course Structure
The course requires some background in accounting or finance and participants, as graduates with good degrees, are expected to assimilate the basic analysis and ideas quickly, thereby allowing the course to cover the latest developments in the field.

The curriculum comprises Foundation, Core and Elective Classes, plus a dissertation or three research projects. This structure gives participants the maximum flexibility in arranging their programmes.

Foundation Classes
These classes are common to all the MSc programmes within the Department and introduce the basic concepts and analysis in financial theory and decision-taking, the institutional structure of financial markets and the banking sector as well as the knowledge of accounting, statistics and computing that is necessary to work in finance.

The foundation classes comprise:

- Financial Theory and Decision-taking
- Financial Statement Analysis
- Accounting for Finance
- Financial Markets Financial Institutions & Banking
- International Finance & Banking
- Statistics
- Computing

Candidates with a good background in accounting, statistics or computing can substitute one of the options for the foundation class in the area of their expertise.

Core Classes
The compulsory core classes provide an in-depth coverage of financial analysis and decision-making. They also provide specialist classes for the different degrees and some are common to all our MSc programmes.

- Income and Value Measurement
- Positive Accounting Theory and Market-based Research
- Comparative International Accounting
- Management Accounting

Elective Classes
Two to be taken from the following:

- Research Applications in International Accounting
- Case Studies in Corporate Finance
- Security Analysis
- Portfolio Theory
- Options and Futures
- Treasury Management
- Statistics and Econometrics
- Money and Capital in Developing Countries
- Public Sector Finance in Developing Countries
- Project Management

Dissertation
In addition to the coursework, MSc students are required to complete a dissertation or three research projects.

Postgraduate Diploma
Students complete the same classes as for the MSc course but they are not required to submit a dissertation or research projects.

Assessment
Classes are assessed on the basis of exams, class tests and/or coursework.

The Department
The Department of Accounting & Finance is recognised as one of the major centres of research in accounting and finance in the UK. It was given the highest rating of 5 in all previous national Research Assessment Exercises and was included in the Business Schools submission in 2008 which again did exceptionally well.

The department is ranked Number 1 in the UK in the Complete University Guide Subject League Table for 2009. It also achieved a 98% student satisfaction rating in a recent survey carried out on behalf of the Higher Education Funding Council Executive. For Accounting Strathclyde is therefore the top rated Scottish University and second in the UK. The quality of the finance research in the department is internationally recognised. In a survey by Chan et al. (2007) of publications in the world’s leading finance journals, over the period 1990-2004, those by members of the Department resulted in it being ranked fifth of all European universities.

Research and teaching interests cover all the major areas of accounting and finance, with particular expertise in critical accounting theory, management accounting, small business finance and accounting, corporate finance, treasury management, the derivative markets, the bond markets, portfolio performance, volatility in the financial markets, international banking, financial issues relating to privatisation and the regulation of utilities, and development finance.