Strathclyde Business School

Strathclyde Business School is the longest established business school in Scotland and one of the largest Business Schools in Europe. The eight subject departments and specialist units offer the full range of undergraduate degrees, postgraduate (taught and research) programmes, and research and consultancy. There are around 600 full-time and 1,800 part-time postgraduate students, and over 200 academic staff.

The School puts particular emphasis on combining excellence with relevance and has a high reputation for the quality of its staff, teaching, research and graduates. The School also has strong links with business and industry internationally: in addition to research contracts and consultancy, companies are involved in student placements and many contribute to programmes.

The results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise affirmed the School as a leader for “world-leading and internationally excellent” research, with SBS being rated top for research in Scotland – by a long way – and seventh equal in the UK.

The School has achieved accreditation from EQUIS, AACSB International and AMBA. It is one of only 40 business schools world-wide – and the only one in Scotland – to have achieved this recognition placing it in the top 1% of business schools worldwide. SBS is the only UK institution with both full international accreditation and UAE government accreditation offering postgraduate programmes in the UAE through campuses in Abu Dhabi and Dubai. These awards are added to the accreditation already gained from bodies such as the Economic and Social Research Council, the Chartered Institute of Marketing and the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

MSc
INVESTMENT & FINANCE

The MSc in Investment & Finance is designed for those interested in careers in areas such as security analysis, portfolio and investment management. It provides a rigorous grounding in the theory of finance and also covers the various techniques and analytical tools widely employed by investment professionals in practical decision-taking. The syllabus has been developed, taking into account the requirements of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute, and the course provides a starting point for students who intend preparing for the CFA qualification.

The course is suitable for individuals with good undergraduate degrees in areas such as Economics, Accounting & Finance, Business Administration, and more quantitative subjects such as Mathematics, Statistics, Physics and Engineering. Applications are also considered from those with appropriate professional qualifications and relevant practical experience.

The course provides appropriate training for a range of careers in the financial sector, as security analysts, portfolio and fund managers, investment bankers, brokers, traders, hedge fund managers and risk managers.

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 University of Strathclyde is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, number SC015263.
Aims of the Course
The course will provide participants with:

- an understanding of financial theory and analysis
- an appreciation of the nature of financial markets and institutions
- a good working knowledge of accounting principles and financial statement analysis
- an understanding of the techniques and concepts employed in the valuation of bonds and equities
- the ability to develop portfolios and investment strategies to meet risk-return objectives
- an understanding of derivatives – options, futures, swaps, etc
- an understanding of the quantitative analysis and techniques employed in finance

Target Market
The programme is designed both for people employed and those intending to pursue their careers in the finance sector. For those already working in finance, the course will enhance their effectiveness by covering the latest developments in the field, encouraging them to question more traditional rules and techniques and to take an analytical approach to practical problems. For those with no experience of finance the course will provide a stimulating and challenging introduction to a subject where the academic and practical approaches are very closely related.

Course Structure
The course requires no previous study or experience of investment or finance. The structure of the degree is flexible and allows the different interests and backgrounds of candidates to be accommodated. The course is made up of foundation, core, and elective classes (There are a relatively large number of classes of short duration to provide flexibility.)

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

Core Classes
The compulsory core classes cover the nature and valuation of a wide range of financial instruments and the markets in which they are traded:
- Bond & Fixed Income Securities
- Analysis of Equities
- Portfolio Theory & Management
- Options & Futures
- International Banking & Capital Markets

Elective Classes
The wide range of elective classes allows candidates to specialise in their particular area of interest. Two classes are selected from the following:
- Case Studies in Corporate Finance
- Treasury Management
- Statistics & Econometrics for Finance
- Money & Capital in Developing Countries
- Emerging Capital Markets

Dissertation
MSc students are required complete either a dissertation or three research projects following the taught component of the course.

Postgraduate Diploma
This covers the same subjects as the MSc course but does not include the dissertation/research projects stage of the course.

Assessment
Classes are assessed on the basis of a balanced combination of exams, class tests and coursework.

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

Entry Requirements
A good university degree in subjects such as economics, accounting, business studies, mathematics, statistics, or computing, or an equivalent professional qualification.

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.