



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Programme title:	MSc Financial Computing	
Final award (BSc, MA etc): (where stopping off points exist they should be detailed here and defined later in the document)	MSc	
Cohort(s) to which this programme specification is applicable: (e.g. from 2008 intake onwards)	From 2007 (ie the first cohort)	
Awarding institution/body:	University College London	
Teaching institution:	University College London	
Faculty:	Engineering Sciences	
Parent Department: (the department responsible for the administration of the programme)	Computer Science	
Departmental web page address: (if applicable)	http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk/financialcomputing/mscfc_home.htm	
Method of study: Full-time/Part-time/Other	Full-time	
Criteria for admission to the programme:	Please see http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk/financialcomputing/mscfc_admissions.htm	
Length of the programme: (please note any periods spent away from UCL, such as study abroad or placements in industry)	One calendar year (approx). Students are encouraged to secure placements in industry for their summer projects. Project placements normally complete by the end of September.	
Level on Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) (see Guidance notes)	M	
Relevant subject benchmark statement (SBS) (see Guidance notes)	Not applicable. There is currently no Master's level benchmark statement for this subject area.	
Brief outline of the structure of the programme and its assessment methods: (see guidance notes)	Please see http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk/financialcomputing/mscfc_programme.htm	
Board of Examiners:	Board of Examiners in Computer Science	
Professional body accreditation (if applicable):	N/A	Date of next scheduled accreditation visit:

EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME:

This one-year full-time MSc programme in Financial Computing (MScFC) aims to increase the diversity of talented individuals choosing a career in Financial Services.

- It is specially tailored to the needs of graduates from less technical disciplines - for example, those with degrees in Physics, Mathematics, Economics, Psychology, History, Art, or Languages.
- It is designed not only for fresh graduates, but also for graduates with work experience who have taken a career break, who want to change their career direction, or who want to gain an extra qualification to aid career progression.
- It provides the grounding in IT, management and financial systems required to pursue Financial Services careers such as Financial IT and technology management.

A unique feature of the MSc is that students are encouraged to undertake their project as a placement at a financial services organization in the UK or abroad.

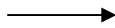
PROGRAMME OUTCOMES:

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:

A: Knowledge and understanding**Knowledge and understanding of:**

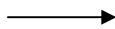
On completion of the MSc the successful student should:

- Have developed the technological aspects of their career in financial services; and
- Have a complete and up-to-date knowledge of the international financial services industry.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies:**

The programme will be based on formal lectures and a dissertation.

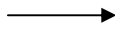
Acquisition through one-hour or two-hour lectures and classes. Studying UCL modules will underpin their financial computing interest. Passing relevant examinations. Production of a dissertation covering their technical interest.

**Assessment:**

Traditional examinations and dissertation.

B: Skills and other attributes**Intellectual (thinking) skills:**

Students will develop their personal interests in financial computing and financial services.

**Teaching/learning methods and strategies:**

Tutorials and personal project work with advice from a specialised project tutor.

Acquisition of skills is fostered in all courses offered in the programme, in that all courses will introduce information that will need to be assessed critically and will demonstrate how conflicting interpretations arise from the same information.

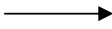
<p>Assess financial computing technologies relevant to their chosen career. Develop a software system or financial model in their area of interest</p>	<p>→</p>	<p>Assessment:</p> <p>Through examination, coursework, dissertation. The latter is a required method of assessment.</p>
<p>C: Skills and other attributes</p>		
<p>Practical skills (able to):</p> <p>Preparation of a financial computing system, and practical use of 'virtual trading' systems through a Financial Computing lab. The programme aims to help students with the following practical skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Communicate effectively in writing (b) Improve their knowledge of financial computing (c) Use databases, digital resources and word-processing (d) Present (non-assessed) seminar papers (e) Listen to and discuss ideas introduced during lectures (f) Practice research techniques in a variety of specialised research libraries and institutes. 	<p>→</p>	<p>Teaching/learning methods and strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) through the writing of long essays and dissertations (b) through seminars, hands-on instruction and private study (c) through 'hands-on' instruction (d) through presentations of personal and/or group work (e) through seminar discussion (f) through visits to libraries and institutes
	<p>→</p>	<p>Assessment:</p> <p>(a) – (f) by examination, coursework and dissertation</p>

D: Skills and other attributes

Transferable skills (able to):

The programme will encourage students to:

- (a) write good reports and dissertations
- (b) improve their business skills
- (c) use computer resources and information technology
- (d) present material orally
- (e) listen and contribute in class
- (f) understand ideas that are very different to conventional ones
- (g) study a variety of written and digital materials, in libraries, research institutes of a kind that they will not have used as undergraduates
- (h) present (non-assessed) material orally
- (i) reflect on their own ideas by becoming acquainted with ideas and practices foreign to them
- (j) make original contributions to financial computing
- (k) assess technical evidence for themselves and suspend belief in previous interpretations.

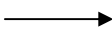


Teaching/learning methods and strategies:

- (a) Coursework, dissertation
- (b) Reading business plans and technology specs for courses
- (c) Submitting written work, using databases, consulting on-line library catalogues, using website material
- (d) Seminar presentations
- (e) Seminars
- (f) Seminars, directed private study, presenting business cases
- (g) Coursework, dissertation, seminar presentations, and private study
- (h) – (k) demonstrated indirectly through coursework and dissertation

Assessment:

- (a) – (k) examination, coursework, dissertation.



The following reference points were used in designing the programme:

- the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (<http://www.gaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/default.asp>);
- the programme specifications for UCL degree programmes in relevant subjects (where applicable);
- UCL teaching and learning policies;
- staff research.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course unit/module can be found in the departmental course handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed annually by UCL and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency.

Programme Organiser(s) Name(s):

Christopher D. Clack

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November 2005

Date of Review:

April 2008

Date approved by Head of Department:	TBA
Date approved by Chair of Departmental Teaching Committee:	TBA
Date approved by Faculty Teaching Committee	TBA