Embark on a rewarding career in finance in the digital age

The University of Manchester’s blended learning programme, MSc Financial Management, is designed to equip students with the requisite skills and knowledge to enter and advance in the finance sector.

The University of Manchester has had a presence in Hong Kong for over 25 years. Its long and illustrious history covers the East Asian regions including Japan, Korea, South China, and Taiwan. 2017 marks a major milestone in the university’s development as it set up The University of Manchester Worldwide (UMW) to extend its highly-regarded, world-leading education to an even wider audience through a distinctive blended or online learning mode.

To cater to the educational needs of professionals around the world in the current digital age, The University of Manchester Worldwide (UMW) and Alliance Manchester Business School (AMBS) have designed a highly flexible part-time master programme: MSc Financial Management. The course adopts a blended learning mode – a combination of online and face-to-face teaching that allows the flexibility for students to learn while continuing to work.

Financial management is one of the most important aspects in the business world. In order to start up or run a successful business, one requires excellent knowledge and skills in financial management. The strategic planning, organising, directing, and controlling of financial undertakings are pivotal to an organisation.

The MSc Financial Management allows students to understand the interplay between well-functioning financial markets and successful companies, and apply a full range of financial techniques to real-life business situations. It also equips one with the skill to search and gather relevant financial information from multiple sources, including companies’ annual reports and financial databases. Most notably, the programme offers data-based solutions to complex and relevant business challenges, such as the analysis of financial strategies and selection of valuable investment projects.

Targeting at students from a diverse background

AMBS is a distinguished centre of learning, and its Accounting and Finance Studies, in particular, is ranked 21st according to the 2019 QS World Rankings. Its MSc in Financial Management programme has been thoughtfully designed for both current finance practitioners who want to upskill for career progression, as well as for those who have no prior academic or working background in finance but are looking to launch a successful career in the field.

The course is suitable for people who are interested in gaining a deep understanding of the characteristics and functioning of financial markets in a global context. While one does not need to be a finance specialist to take the course, a strong interest in numbers and analytics is crucial.

“The curriculum is structured in a way that first imparts students with the theoretical underpinning of finance, before delving into the practical side of the theory through case studies, assignments, and presentations,” explains Prof. Arif Khurshed at AMBS. “Therefore, it provides a seamless entry for students without any academic or working experience in finance.”

Prof. Khurshed points out that, for instance, the foundational units in finance and accounting expose students to the fundamental issues in finance which well-prepares them to move on to more advanced courses, covering subjects like financial management, financial markets, financial strategy, business models, fintech; as well as venture capital and private equity – essential skills and knowledge required for companies to raise funds and seek investment opportunities.

“By the time students graduate, they will have acquired the skills and notions today’s financial practitioners deal with on a daily basis,” Prof. Khurshed adds.

An invaluable blended learning experience with high flexibility

This blended programme incorporates both online and face-to-face elements. Essentially, most of the learning experience happens on the online platform. At the same time, it holds intensive 6-day face-to-face workshops twice a year at either the Manchester campus or Shanghai.

Prof. Khurshed stresses that face-to-face interaction is a crucial component of the programme, and is the most enjoyable part for students. “If not only connects students to tutors whereby they can raise questions, and get feedback on their work, but also provides the platform to network with their cohorts,” he notes. “It’s an effective means of propelling collective learning.”

To provide greater flexibility to working professionals with busy schedules, students are given the option of completing the programme in between 2 to 5 years, despite it being a typical 2-year master degree. Students can also take a break during their studies if unexpected circumstances arise.

World-class faculty

As one of the leading business schools in Europe and beyond, AMBS boasts more than 60 full-time members teaching only accounting and finance. The majority of professors teaching on the programme are research-active.

“They know exactly what is happening in the world when it comes to new and innovative products emerging in the financial field,” says Prof. Khurshed. “There is, therefore, a high degree of practicality in the knowledge that students glean from the programme that can be readily applied to the real world.”

The School boasts a world-class faculty who has abundant experience in teaching blended programmes. With a total of seven accounting and finance professors having been honoured with the British Accounting and Finance Association’s (BAFA) Distinguished and Lifetime Achievement awards, AMBS is well-positioned to deliver a quality, novel finance management programme that keeps abreast with the rapid changes of the digital world.

Practical-based learning and contemporary course content

Another beneficial feature of the blended programme is that it provides a comprehensive merge between the theoretical foundation of finance and its practical applications. “The idea is for students to learn wherever they are while continuing to work, so that they can apply the skills and knowledge they learn to immediately solve the day-to-day business challenges in finance,” says Prof. Khurshed.

The programme seeks to equip students with the financial skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the contemporary business world. In the current years, Hong Kong has regained the top honour of raising the largest amount of funds in the world through the stock exchange. Prof. Khurshed himself has, for instance, conducted a research on the Hong Kong stock market, focusing on the roles of strategic and cornerstone investors in Hong Kong IPOs. By adopting an international perspective in their research, the experienced faculty is able to incorporate a global vision with local insights into the course curriculum.

The MSc in Financial Management offers the flexibility for students to learn while continuing to work and, at the same time, ensures the presence of invaluable face-to-face learning. Aimed at imparting the sophisticated tools and techniques that finance practitioners regularly exploit in their profession, it will equip students with the financial management knowledge and skills sought by organisations worldwide, thereby launching a successful career in finance.

The University of Manchester
MSc Financial Management

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