The programme will focus on major practical and theoretical applications in banking and the most innovative aspects of digital banking. The programme will emphasise the analytical foundation of finance and financial products, focusing on theory and methods and making extensive use of relevant practical applications.

Degree summary

The primary objectives of the MSc in Banking and Digital Finance are to provide students with the tools and skills of an in-depth understanding of the finance and banking industry. The programme is highly applied and the teaching is also research-driven, thus allowing students to have access to the most innovative aspects of digital finance.

Global demand is growing for financial managers to be capable of dealing with the interaction between finance and new technologies (fintech). Our Banking and Digital Finance MSc is a specialist master’s degree designed to address said demands of the next era of technology-led financial services. It is aimed at those already in or targeting technology-led finance and banking careers.

Finance is going through major changes due to disruptive innovations which have developed and accelerated the next era of technology-led financial services. The view of industry is that universities have not kept pace with the continuous innovations taking place in the finance sector. UCL’s Institute of Finance and Technology is addressing this concern from its inception by liaising with industry, government and other influential bodies, including BlackRock, HSBC, European Investment Bank, London Stock Exchange Group, KPMG, WILLIS Re, Bank of England, HM Treasury, The World Bank and the IMF.

The challenges and opportunities posed by new technologies, and in particular the Internet of Things, call for unique approaches and cross-discipline analyses. The Institute will be built around a vision of finance at the service of major societal challenges. New financial models, embedding technical, environmental and social aspects within financial mechanisms, will be developed by experts in their fields who will pass on this new understanding to future global leaders through Banking and Digital Finance MSc.

The programme will be delivered through a combination of formal lectures, seminars, classes, workshop sessions, and independent or group work. Industry experts in the field of banking and finance have been consulted during the detailed design of the proposed syllabus, and will contribute to teaching. In addition, you will be taught by UCL academic staff with international research reputations, who are specialists in their fields.

Degree structure

Mode: Full-time: 1 year
Location: London, Bloomsbury

This MSc lasts for 1 year. Students are classed as full-time. Lectures should be scheduled over 2 days, allowing students to work part-time if they wish. Applicants will be notified of any changes.

The programme consists of eight compulsory modules (120 credits) and a project dissertation (60 credits).

Please note that the list of modules given here is indicative. This information is published a long time in advance of enrolment and module content and availability is subject to change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPULSORY MODULES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Banking and Corporate Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Analytics and Machine Learning</td>
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<td>Asset Pricing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate Activity and Capital Structure</td>
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<td>Big Data in Quantitative Finance</td>
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<td>Finance and Artificial Intelligence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monetary System and Digital Finance</td>
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<td>Risk Analysis and Quantitative Asset Allocation</td>
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<tr>
<th>OPTIONAL MODULES</th>
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<tr>
<td>There are no optional modules.</td>
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<tr>
<th>DISSERTATION/RESEARCH PROJECT</th>
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<td>All students undertake an independent research project which culminates in a dissertation of 10,000 words (60 credits).</td>
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Your career

The programme aims to produce graduates who will serve the needs of universal banks, mutual and pension funds, investment banks, governments, central banks, and advisory bodies. The MSc will provide graduates with a systematic understanding of banking, financial systems and the advanced technological application of finance, the external context of these areas, and how they are managed. Graduates will be competent in applying a range of digital tools, taking account of their relationship and interaction with banking and financial markets. Through having gained critical awareness of current issues and the development of financial systems and markets, graduates will be able to convey their knowledge of leading-edge practice and research in the field.

Employability

Once they enter professional practice, graduates from this programme will be able to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills in the following areas:

- analytical aspects of banking and financial markets
- interpretation and analysis of data and big data
- banking products and operations
- crypto economics
- AI and machine learning
Entry requirements

A minimum of an upper second-class Bachelor’s degree in an appropriate subject such as Computer Science, Mathematics, Economics or other highly numerate disciplines. Knowledge of mathematical methods and introductory probability and statistics is also required. Applicants must show an interest in developing thinking and problem-solving skills.

English language proficiency level

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency.

The level of English language proficiency for this programme is: Good.

Information about the evidence required, acceptable qualifications and test providers is provided at: www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/english-requirements

Your application

We look for students with drive, intelligence, enthusiasm, and the right aptitude. Applicants should highlight any international experience they have, including international exchanges, trips, internships, fluency in other languages, and/or interest in other cultures. These attributes would be advantageous because applicants are likely to be working in a highly diverse and international environment.

FEES AND FUNDING 2019/20 ENTRY

UK: £27,470 (FT)
EU: £27,470 (FT)
Overseas: £27,470 (FT)

The tuition fees shown are for the year indicated above. Fees for subsequent years may increase or otherwise vary. Further information on fee status, fee increases and the fee schedule can be viewed on the UCL Students website.

Full details of funding opportunities can be found on the UCL Scholarships website: www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applicants: 14 June 2019

Details on how to apply are available on the website at: www.ucl.ac.uk/graduate/apply

CONTACT

Professor Francesca Medda, Programme Director

Email: f.medda@ucl.ac.uk

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7679 1557

EU referendum

For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to www.ucl.ac.uk/brexit