Programme Specification: Post Graduate Taught

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MSc Financial Technology (FinTech) MSc Financial Technology (FinTech) with Placement (see Annex)
Award type	Taught Masters
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	12 months Financial Technology (Fintech) (MSc) Entry points: September and January 18-24 months Financial Technology (Fintech) (MSc) with Placement
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	N/A
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	**UK students:** Full-time fee for 2025/26 is £11,400 **International students:** Full-time fee for 2025/265 is £17,700 The fee for the placement is calculated at 20% of the regulated Home undergraduate tuition fee for that year of study.

How this information might change: *Please read the important information at http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.*

2. Overview of the Programme

The MSc in Financial Technology (FinTech) at Keele University is a 12-month full-time postgraduate programme designed to prepare you for the rapidly evolving world where finance meets digital innovation. Drawing on cutting-edge industry developments, the programme blends advanced knowledge of financial systems with practical understanding of how technologies like blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, data analytics, and decentralised finance (DeFi) are transforming financial services.

Unlike conventional FinTech programmes that require prior technical expertise, this MSc is intentionally inclusive. It welcomes students from a wide range of academic backgrounds including those from non-STEM disciplines and provides tailored support to help all learners engage confidently with technical and analytical tools. Through hands-on modules such as *Fintech Applications and Practice*, *Quantitative Analysis for Fintech Applications*, and *Financial Markets and Institutions*, you'll gain core skills in Python programming, financial data analytics, and the understanding of emerging products and solutions in FinTech including, crypto assets, crypto currencies,

tokennization, CBDC and digi wallet

The curriculum is strongly career-oriented. You'll undertake practical, client-based challenges through modules like the *Business Consultancy Project* and deepen your expertise with an independent *Professional Project*. Throughout the programme, you'll engage in experiential learning activities that reflect real-world financial decision-making, product innovation, and ethical and regulatory challenges.

As a graduate, you'll emerge with a flexible and in-demand skill set that spans finance, technology, and strategic thinking. Whether you aspire to become a fintech analyst, product designer, compliance expert, data-driven entrepreneur, or policymaker, this programme equips you to shape and lead the future of financial services. Its balance of technical literacy, industry insight, and professional development makes it ideal for those looking to contribute to both the technical and human aspects of financial innovation.

If you choose the 'with Placement' route, you will undertake a Placement after completing the taught elements of the degree. While securing the Placement is your responsibility, Keele offers guidance and support to help you identify opportunities. This experience allows you to apply your academic knowledge in a practical setting, develop professional skills, enhance your industry understanding, and support your transition into advanced professional roles.

3. Aims of the programme

The aims of the MSc Financial Technology (FinTech) programme are to:

- Develop critical insight and applied knowledge at the intersection of finance and technology, enabling students to understand and influence the transformation of financial services through innovation, data, and digital tools.
- Equip students with practical technical skills, including proficiency in Python programming, data analysis, and fintech application development, using industry-standard tools and workflows to solve real-world financial problems.
- Foster ethical and strategic decision-making, enabling students to evaluate the social, regulatory, and governance implications of emerging financial technologies within a global context.
- Prepare students for leadership and consultancy roles**,** through experiential learning with real-world business challenges, strategic thinking tasks, and client-facing projects.
- Enhance employability and professional growth**,** by supporting the development of core transferable skills such as communication, critical reflection, creativity, stakeholder engagement, and career planning equipping graduates for a wide range of roles across the fintech and broader financial services sectors.

4. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

- Critically assess the evolving challenges facing financial services in dynamic global environments, including the role of financial innovation, regulation, and digital disruption.
- Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of financial markets, institutions, and digital technologies, and their interrelationships in traditional and emerging fintech ecosystems.
- Evaluate the strengths, assumptions, and limitations of financial and analytical models used in risk management, investment decision-making, and regulatory compliance.
- Analyse the ethical and governance dimensions of financial services and fintech innovation, drawing on relevant theoretical frameworks.

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Apply appropriate quantitative methods and programming tools (e.g., Python, NumPy, pandas) to analyse financial datasets, develop models, and derive actionable insights.
- Evaluate fintech business models, products, and services, and understanding of emerging products and solutions in FinTech including crypto assets, crypto currencies, tokennization, CBDC and digi wallets.

- Interpret and synthesise fintech literature and case studies to formulate evidence-based conclusions and professional recommendations.
- Design and deliver strategic or consultancy-focused outputs through independent or client-based projects, incorporating analytical, regulatory, and technological considerations.

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Communicate technical, financial, and strategic insights clearly and effectively, adapting content and tone to suit academic, professional, and client-facing audiences.
- Demonstrate initiative, adaptability, and reflective capacity in complex problem-solving and professional decision-making contexts.
- Work independently and collaboratively in diverse settings, managing time and tasks effectively to meet deadlines and objectives.
- Critically reflect on personal development and career goals, articulating skills and experiences aligned with fintech industry expectations.

For students on Financial Technology (FinTech) with Placement:

Successful students will be able to:

- demonstrate the ability to apply advanced theoretical knowledge and skills gained during the programme to a professional business environment,
- critically evaluate workplace practices and contribute to organisational objectives.

Keele Graduate attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical responsibility.** You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

5. How is the programme taught?

The MSc in Financial Technology is delivered through an inclusive, interactive, and practice-led teaching approach, designed to support your academic, technical, and professional development in the evolving fintech landscape.

You will learn through a dynamic blend of interactive lectures, practical workshops, hands-on lab sessions, and consultancy-style projects, enabling you to apply theoretical concepts to real-world financial and technological challenges. Key modules such as *Fintech Applications and Practice*, *Quantitative Analysis for Fintech Applications*, and the *Business Consultancy Project* focus on experiential learning. These include tasks such as coding in Python, analysing financial datasets, solving business problems, and developing fintech solutions in areas such as payments, lending, and regulation.

The programme is intentionally accessible to students from diverse academic backgrounds, with scaffolded support throughout especially in technical areas like programming and data analytics. Regardless of your prior experience, you'll receive structured guidance and opportunities to build confidence with essential tools and methods.

To ensure all students - including those without prior mathematical training - can succeed in the FinTech sector, the programme includes a targeted and inclusive strategy for developing quantitative and coding skills. The core module *Quantitative Analysis for Fintech Applications* introduces essential analytical methods and coding tools, providing a dedicated space for skill development outside the pressure of subject-specific content. Students are supported through a structured pre-module pathway, including diagnostic assessments, asynchronous LinkedIn Learning content, and supplementary workshops. September starters complete this preparation in Semester 1 ahead of the module in Semester 2, while January starters receive parallel support during the same semester as the module. This structure ensures all students are equipped to apply quantitative skills confidently in their Professional Project and future careers.

A significant proportion of your learning is allocated to independent study, allowing you to explore topics in

depth, engage with professional literature, and complete assessments at your own pace. The Keele Learning Environment (KLE) provides access to core materials, including lecture recordings, toolkits, readings, datasets, and learning activities that support your progress.

Throughout your studies, you will be encouraged to reflect critically on your development, both through formal assessments such as reflective reports and project evaluations and through self-directed activities. You will also benefit from regular contact with Academic Mentors, who provide personalised support outside of modules, and from module leaders and tutors who offer academic and skills-based guidance throughout.

In alignment with the School's Employability Strategy, the programme also embeds strong connections with industry through guest speakers, client-based assessments, and exposure to real organisational challenges. This combination of academic rigour, applied learning, and tailored support ensures that you graduate with the skills, insight, and confidence to thrive in the fintech sector and to shape its future.

6. Teaching Staff

The programme is taught by highly qualified staff with specialist qualifications in various business and management subjects. Our academic staff are not only experienced educators but also active researchers and scholars. Their research has been disseminated across various outlets, ensuring that the teaching in the programme is informed by the latest developments in the field. This means you will benefit from developing cutting-edge knowledge, as staff are often engaged in ongoing research or practice in their areas of expertise. Additionally, some faculty members actively research teaching and learning methodologies within higher education, ensuring that our pedagogical approaches remain at the forefront of educational practice.

Key Benefits for Students:

Access to Expertise: Learn from faculty members who are leaders in their fields, ensuring you receive high-quality education informed by the latest research.

Research Opportunities: Engage in a research environment that encourages student participation, allowing you to connect theory with practice and enhance your learning experience.

Supportive Learning Environment: Take advantage of regular opportunities to discuss your learning needs with academic mentors and module lecturers, ensuring personalised support throughout your studies.

By studying with the support of our accomplished teaching staff, you will not only gain comprehensive knowledge but also develop the skills necessary to excel in the modern business landscape.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

7. What is the structure of the programme?

The MSc in Financial Technology normally has intakes in both September and January. Students enrolled on the Placement route will extend their studies by an additional 6 to 12 months, depending on the nature of the placement.

The academic year is structured into three semesters, with scheduled teaching sessions typically taking place from late September to mid-December and mid-January to late April. January starters follow a comparable pattern, with sessions running from late January into the summer and resuming in the autumn. While most modules are delivered within a single semester, the programme has been designed with flexibility in how semesters are used, allowing for variation in module pacing, assessment timing, and independent project work across the academic year.

The programme consists of 180 credits of compulsory modules. Each module is a self-contained unit of study, and is assessed independently. In line with Keele's academic framework, 1 credit represents 10 hours of student effort, which includes scheduled teaching, self-directed learning, and assessment preparation.

Teaching across the programme is in situ and interactive, using a combination of lectures, workshops, practical labs, and project-based learning. Students benefit from direct engagement with real-world challenges, especially through modules like *Fintech Applications and Practice*, *Quantitative Analysis for Fintech*, and the *Business Consultancy Project*. These modules embed technical skill development and professional application, ensuring strong industry relevance.

You will also undertake a major independent *Professional Project*, which provides a capstone opportunity to

integrate learning across the programme by conducting research or developing a strategic proposal or consultancy report. Throughout your studies, you will have regular contact with Academic Mentors and module tutors to support your academic progress and personal development.

There are only compulsory modules on your programme.

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 7	180	0	0

Module Lists

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Financial Ethics and Regulations	FIN-40045	15	Semester 1
Fintech Applications and Practice	FIN-40091	30	Semester 1
Business Consultancy Project	MAN-40403	15	Semester 1
Professional Project	MAN-40399	60	Semester 1-3
Quantitative Analysis for Fintech Applications	FIN-40093	30	Semester 2
Financial Markets and Institutions	FIN-40095	15	Semester 2
Professional Development and Industry Insights	MAN-40369	15	Semester 2

Level 7 Module Rules

Students on the Placement route must complete all 180 Level 7 credits before undertaking their placement. The placement is not credit-bearing but is formally recorded on the transcript.

The delivery pattern for both September and January cohorts ensures all students complete the full 180 credits, with module sequencing adjusted to fit the intake. The programme uses a flexible semester model, meaning that some modules may be taken in different semesters depending on the start date. This flexibility allows the same high-quality learning experience for all students, regardless of entry point.

September start delivery pattern

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	+ 6 to 12 months
MAN-40403 Business Consultancy Project 15 credits	MAN-40369 Professional Development and Industry Insights 15 credits	Practical work towards project	Placement 0 credit
FIN-40045 Financial Ethics and Regulations 15 credits	FIN-40095 Financial Markets and Institutions 15 credits		
FIN-40091 Fintech Applications and Practice 30 credits	FIN-40093 Quantitative Analysis for Fintech Applications 30 credits		
MAN-40399 Professional Project 60 credits			

January Start delivery pattern

Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 1	+ 6 to 12 months
MAN-40369 Development and Industry Insights 15 credits	Practical work towards project	MAN-40403 Business Consultancy Project 15 credits	Placement 0 credit
FIN-40045 Financial Ethics and Regulations 15 credits		FIN-40095 Financial Markets and Institutions 15 credits	
FIN-40093 Quantitative Analysis for Fintech Applications 30 credits		FIN-40091 Fintech Applications and Practice 30 credits	
MAN-40399 Professional Project 60 credits			

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Level 7

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Critically assess the evolving challenges facing financial services in dynamic global environments, including the role of financial innovation, regulation, and digital disruption.	Financial Ethics and Regulations - FIN-40045 Fintech Applications and Practice - FIN-40091 Financial Markets and Institutions - FIN-40095
Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of financial markets, institutions, and digital technologies, and their interrelationships in traditional and emerging fintech ecosystems.	Fintech Applications and Practice - FIN-40091 Financial Markets and Institutions - FIN-40095
Evaluate the strengths, assumptions, and limitations of financial and analytical models used in risk management, investment decision-making, and regulatory compliance.	Financial Ethics and Regulations - FIN-40045 Quantitative Analysis for Fintech Applications - FIN-40093
Analyse the ethical and governance dimensions of financial services and fintech innovation, drawing on relevant theoretical frameworks.	Fintech Applications and Practice - FIN-40091 Financial Markets and Institutions - FIN-40095

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Apply appropriate quantitative methods and programming tools (e.g., Python, NumPy, pandas, Scikit-learn) to analyse financial datasets, develop models, and derive actionable insights.	Quantitative Analysis for Fintech Applications - FIN-40093 Professional Project - MAN-40399
Evaluate fintech business models, products, and services, and understanding of emerging products and solutions in FinTech including crypto assets, crypto currencies, tokennization, CBDC and digi wallets	Fintech Applications and Practice - FIN-40091 Business Consultancy Project - MAN-40403
Interpret and synthesise fintech literature and case studies to formulate evidence-based conclusions and professional recommendations.	Fintech Applications and Practice - FIN-40091 Professional Development and Industry Insights - MAN-40369 Professional Project - MAN-40399
Design and deliver strategic or consultancy-focused outputs through independent or client-based projects, incorporating analytical, regulatory, and technological considerations.	Professional Project - MAN-40399 Business Consultancy Project - MAN-40403

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Communicate technical, financial, and strategic insights clearly and effectively, adapting content and tone to suit academic, professional, and client-facing audiences.	Fintech Applications and Practice - FIN-40091 Quantitative Analysis for Fintech Applications - FIN-40093 Professional Development and Industry Insights - MAN-40369 Professional Project - MAN-40399 Business Consultancy Project - MAN-40403
Demonstrate initiative, adaptability, and reflective capacity in complex problem-solving and professional decision-making contexts.	Fintech Applications and Practice - FIN-40091 Professional Project - MAN-40399 Business Consultancy Project - MAN-40403
Work independently and collaboratively in diverse settings, managing time and tasks effectively to meet deadlines and objectives.	Fintech Applications and Practice - FIN-40091 Quantitative Analysis for Fintech Applications - FIN-40093 Professional Project - MAN-40399 Business Consultancy Project - MAN-40403
Critically reflect on personal development and career goals, articulating skills and experiences aligned with fintech industry expectations.	Professional Development and Industry Insights - MAN-40369 Business Consultancy Project - MAN-40403

8. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

Master's Degree **Financial Technology (FinTech) (MSc)**	180 credits	You will require at least 150 credits at Level 7
Postgraduate Diploma	120 credits	You will require at least 90 credits at Level 7
Postgraduate Certificate	60 credits	You will require at least 45 credits at Level 7

Placement option: in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the placement in order to graduate with a named award including the 'with Placement' wording.

9. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

Assessment Method

- Assignment
- Exam
- Group presentation
- Portfolio
- Presentation
- Report
- Research report

Our approach to assessment aligns with the Assessment and Feedback Code of Practice, ensuring that a diverse range of methods that are directly linked to programme-level learning outcomes and reflect real-world practices. We emphasise the importance of authentic assessments that replicate tasks students might encounter in their future careers, promoting critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving abilities. Assessments are also designed to be inclusive and supportive of different learning needs, offering flexibility in how students can demonstrate their achievements.

10. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

11. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

12. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here: https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/

13. How are students supported on the programme?

You will be supported on the programme in the following ways:

- **Module and Tutorial Leaders**: Your module and tutorial leaders will support your learning within their classes. They will provide individual feedback on coursework, general feedback on examinations, and

guidance to help you develop your academic skills.
- **Programme Director**: The Programme Director will monitor your overall progress, conduct progress reviews, and act as a central point of contact. They are responsible for coordinating the programme, can be consulted on a wide range of matters, and may provide references for employment or further study. They are also your first point of contact for non-academic issues that may affect your learning, and can refer you to University health, welfare, and financial support services.
- **Academic Mentor**: You will be allocated an Academic Mentor for the duration of your studies, who will provide academic and pastoral support in line with University guidelines.
- **Language Support**: If English is not your first language, you will have access to the University's Language Centre, which provides classes, one-to-one tutorials, and extensive self-study resources.
- **Student Experience and Support Officer (SESO).** The SESO will support you by checking in if your engagement data or mentor suggests you might need help, offering guidance and practical steps to get back on track, and making sure any agreed actions are clearly recorded so you can follow your progress.
- **Disability Inclusion Tutor (DIT).** The Disability Inclusion Tutor (DIT) will support you by making sure your agreed reasonable adjustments are understood and applied within the school, and by being a key contact to help you access the support you need.
- **Access to Staff**: All teaching staff hold regular office hours, and you may also arrange to meet them at other times by appointment.

Active Learning

Active learning is embedded across all modules on the programme. You will engage in:

- Interactive activities using tools such as Mentimeter (e.g. word clouds, quizzes, and games).
- Analysis of current research papers to explore recent developments in FinTech.
- Use of newspaper articles, trade journals, and social media examples.
- Case studies to apply theory to practice.
- Guest lectures delivered by industry professionals.

Support for Students from Non-Mathematical Backgrounds

If you are from a non-mathematical background, the programme has a dedicated support strategy to ensure you are able to succeed. This includes:

1. **Diagnostic assessment** during induction week to identify your needs. Based on this, you may be directed to tailored support such as video resources, mathematics clinics, and academic mentoring.
2. **Additional resources**, including specially developed video content and extra clinics.
3. **Inclusive module design** that accommodates different levels of mathematical experience.
4. **Regular check-ins** with the Programme Director to identify and address any issues.
5. **Supplementary notes** with clear explanations and worked examples to aid your understanding.

14. Learning Resources

Teaching on the programme largely takes place in the Smart Innovation Hub 6, which is a new state-of-the-art home for Keele Business School. The learning resources available to students on the programme include:

- The extensive collection of materials held in the University Library, including books, case studies and journals; often in digitised form (e-books, online journals) accessible online to Keele students with their Keele credentials.
- The Keele Learning Environment (KLE) provides easy access to a range of learning resources including lecture notes, electronic materials available in a repository maintained by the University Library and other resources - video, audio and text-based - accessible from external providers via the internet.
- Extensive online datasets are given by the Bloomberg Terminal as mentioned. This is available via a computer link located in the KBS Multifunctional IT suite.
- Students will use languages such as Python to perform complex financial analysis as part of their coursework and their final industry project or dissertation.
- Microsoft Office & Teams - students have access to the Microsoft Office and KBS uses the Microsoft Teams platform for many of its online learning activities.

15. Other Learning Opportunities

The programme includes activities such as team-building exercises and consultancy exercises involving real-life business problems set by local companies. Students also have the opportunity to engage in short paid innovation projects with local businesses, to attend workshops and lectures from prominent external speakers, to visit organisations and to engage in wider networking and collaboration events. Students also have accesses to databases such as Bloomberg

16. Additional Costs

Students on the Placement route will be responsible for organising their own placement, with support from the Placement Officer. This gives students the flexibility to choose when and where to complete their placement, while considering any associated living and travel expenses, which they will be responsible for covering. Students are encouraged to factor in these potential costs when arranging their placement. All placements are subject to visa compliance, and students should ensure they meet any visa requirements. Additional guidance and support on these matters will be provided by the Placement Officer throughout the process.

Activity	Estimated Cost
Calculator	£50
Total estimated additional costs	£50

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

17. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students on the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:
http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/

18. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:
http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code
b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Business and Management Masters Subject Benchmark
https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/subject-benchmark-statement-business-and-management-masters-23.pdf?sfvrsn=3570a881_18
c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations

19. PGT Placement

MSc Financial Technology with Placement

PGT Placement Summary

Students can apply directly for the 'with Placement' degree programme, or transfer onto the 'with Placement' degree programme by the end of May or the end of October each academic year for students starting their studies in September or January, respectively.

International students can apply directly for the 'with Placement' degree programme. However, if they wish to transfer onto this programme while studying, they should discuss this with Immigration Compliance and Advice (ICA) and their Programme Director. If the transfer request can be approved in line with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) rules, students should be aware that a visa extension would be required.

Students accepted onto the 'with Placement' programme will complete an extra 6 - 12 months of study (the placement), depending on the duration of their placement, with a relevant placement provider after they have completed the taught component of their programme.

Admission to the Postgraduate Placement module is dependent on students i) achieving minimum academic standards and, ii) securing a placement via a competitive, employer-led selection process. The University does not guarantee placements for students who have registered for the 'with Placement' programme or for those who transfer on to the programme. All students will be provided with a detailed timeline, including deadlines, of the date by which their placement would need to be secured.

Students who successfully pass 180 credits plus the non-credit bearing Postgraduate Placement module will be awarded the degree title of 'MSc Financial Technology with Placement'. Students who are unable to secure a placement, fail to satisfactorily complete their placement, or who fail the non-credit bearing Postgraduate Placement module will revert to the standard degree title of the one-year master's programme. Failure of the placement will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 7 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the 'with Placement' option.

Placement Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the with Placement programme aims to provide students with:

In-depth experience of a relevant workplace and the variety of ways in which their skills can be used in the world outside the university.

The opportunity to further develop their employability through skills development and reflection, enhanced organisational and sector knowledge, and networking and interpersonal communication.

Entry Requirements for the Postgraduate Placement Module

Admission to the Postgraduate Placement module is dependent on students i) achieving minimum academic standards and, ii) securing a placement via a competitive, employer-led selection process including successful application and interview. Therefore, the University cannot guarantee placements for students who have registered for the 'with placement' programme.

To be eligible to progress onto placement, students will need to have:

Passed all of their first Semester modules (i.e., obtained an average mark of ¿ 50%). Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded, performance on individual assessments in these modules will be considered.

Completed an online Health and Safety training session prior to commencing their placement and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.

Secured a relevant placement via a competitive, employer-led selection process including successful application and interview.

Progression onto the Postgraduate Placement module is then conditional on passing all taught modules from the Spring and Autumn semesters, excluding the research project/dissertation.

Students with up to 30-credits of re-assessment awarded as first attempts owing to approved exceptional circumstances, and who otherwise meet the progression requirements, may progress onto the Postgraduate Placement module and retrieve their outstanding credits during their placement. All other students who have failed one or more modules will not be eligible to progress onto the Postgraduate Placement module. This applies even if they have assessment attempts remaining. These students will revert to the standard degree title of the one-year master's programme.

International students only:

Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with Immigration Compliance and Advice (ICA) and their Programme Director. If the transfer request can be approved in line with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) rules, students should be aware that a visa extension would be required (this can be applied for within the UK) once the placement opportunity is confirmed. The cost of this would be the student's own responsibility, but ICA will be able to provide advice and guidance on the process.

International students who do not complete their placement or cannot secure a placement opportunity, but who do pass 180 credits of the taught element of the course, will be transferred to the non-placement version. This will be reported to UKVI as "early completion" and their Student Visa would be cancelled. UKVI would not issue any refund for overpaid Immigration Health surcharge in this instance.

Provided students have passed 180 credits of the course and met all other eligibility criteria, they will still be eligible to apply for the Graduate Route.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on their placement via the following methods:

Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff from the Placement and Project Managers (PPM) team who will be assigned to the student as their placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic). If the student has any academic queries whilst on placement they will be signposted to the relevant member of academic staff (i.e., Academic Mentor, Programme Director or module leader)

Formal contact with the student during the placement. The placement supervisor will meet once with the student, and their line manager (physically / virtually) at the midway point of their placement. Additional meetings may be arranged if required.

Placement providers will be issued with guidance on how to raise concerns about students as part of the placement approval process.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Placement programme will be able to:

1. Understand and discuss the variety of ways in which skills developed during their study can be deployed in non-academic contexts.
2. Develop broader organisational/sector understanding and reflect upon their activities in this context.
3. Assess their own strengths and weaknesses in an employment context.
4. Articulate their placement skills and experiences effectively and through a variety of means (verbal and written)

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Postgraduate Placement module which provides a structure to ensure that students make the most of the placement as an integrated learning experience. Students will complete an initial skills audit and placement plan when they begin their placement and submit a final placement portfolio which includes a reflective diary completed during placement.

Regulations

Students registered for the 'with Placement' programme are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the placement, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the 'with Placement' programme must successfully complete the zero-credit rated module 'Postgraduate Placement'.

In order to ensure a high-quality placement experience, each placement provider will sign a tripartite learning agreement (analogous to a service level agreement), and a health and safety checklist.

Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will submit a placement proposal and will be assigned a placement supervisor (from the PPM team). The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the required criteria, the placement organisation meets all health and safety expectations, and a tripartite learning agreement is signed by all parties.

The placement student will also sign up to an agreement outlining their responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

(i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and¿

(ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the University and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

Additional costs for the Placement

Tuition fees for students on the 'with Placement' programme will be charged at 20% of the standard Undergraduate annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1.

Students will be responsible for meeting the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement, but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider. As part of the placement approval process, all students will be referred to the Student Financial Support team for advice and guidance regarding scholarships, bursaries and access to additional funding.

International students who require a visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 03 November 2025

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes