

Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2026/27

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	MBus Finance and Management [Top-up degree]
Award type	Single Honours (Masters)
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 7
Normal length of the programme	2 years
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	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Fee for 2026/27 is £9,790*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Fee for 2026/27 is £18,200**</p>

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.

* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

** These fees are for new students. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

2. What is an Integrated Master's programme?

This programme is a two-year integrated degree designed for students entering with prior Level 5 qualifications (e.g., HND or equivalent). The programme provides direct entry at Level 6, followed by a Level 7 integrated Master's year, enabling students to graduate with an Integrated Master's award upon successful completion of both stages.

3. Overview of the Programme

The Integrated Master's in Finance and Management is a two-year top-up programme designed for students who

have successfully completed a relevant Level 5 qualification (e.g., HND, Foundation Degree, or international equivalent). It offers an accelerated pathway to a Master's-level award by integrating Level 6 and Level 7 study within a single, structured programme and is particularly suited to international learners and those from transnational education routes seeking to enhance their academic credentials and global employability.

In Year 1 (Level 6) you will consolidate your business and financial knowledge across two strands. In the Finance strand you study Corporate Strategic Finance and Banking Technology and Mobile Banking. In the Management strand you take Strategic Management and Leadership, Employability and Future Work, which develops professional skills, applied leadership, and career readiness.

Students who meet the progression requirements advance to Year 2 (Level 7), where you develop advanced financial and strategic capabilities through Financial Reporting & Performance, Management Accounting & Control and Managing People, Products and Organisation.

You will exit with an Integrated Master's in Finance and Management combining practical finance expertise with strategic insight, leadership capability, and research skills preparing you for high-level roles in finance, consulting, or business leadership, and supporting your development as a reflective, digitally fluent, globally engaged professional.

4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- Consolidate prior business and finance learning and rapidly progress to postgraduate-level study through a structured curriculum that combines final-year undergraduate content with advanced Master's-level modules.
- Develop a critical understanding of contemporary financial and managerial decision-making within complex global, economic, and regulatory contexts.
- Analyse and apply finance and management theories to real-world organisational challenges, including those involving risk, investment, and strategic financial planning.
- Enhance financial literacy, strategic awareness, and data-informed thinking through applied learning and case-based teaching.
- Prepare for career progression or further postgraduate research by developing their analytical, evaluative, and communication skills in a condensed and professionally relevant timeframe.
- Support the development of responsible, globally aware finance and management professionals who can navigate the challenges of financial strategy, sustainability, and digital transformation in diverse organisational environments.

5. 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

By the end of the programme, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate critical understanding of key theories and frameworks in both financial and strategic management, and their application to contemporary organisational contexts.
- Evaluate how financial decision-making, reporting, and control influence business performance and strategic direction.
- Analyse the impact of financial innovation, technology, and regulation on organisations and markets.
- Critically assess how management practices shape organisational performance, innovation, and change in dynamic environments.

Subject specific skills

By the end of the programme, students will be able to:

- Apply financial and strategic analysis tools to diagnose organisational issues and support evidence-based decisions.
- Evaluate alternative approaches to financial management, risk, and performance control using quantitative and qualitative data.

- Communicate financial and management insights effectively through written, visual, and digital formats.

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

By the end of the programme, students will be able to:

- Communicate effectively across academic and professional contexts, adapting style to audience and purpose.
- Work independently and collaboratively, demonstrating accountability, intercultural awareness, and leadership.
- Use digital tools and financial technologies to analyse, model, and present data.
- Reflect critically on their development and plan for continued learning or career advancement.
- Demonstrate adaptability, initiative, and resilience when responding to complex business and financial challenges.

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, environmental 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.

6. How is the programme taught?

Learning and teaching on the Integrated Master's in Finance and Management develops practical financial knowledge, strategic thinking, and professional skills through a blend of applied learning, digital engagement, and independent study.

- Students engage with a structured mix of guided teaching, interactive workshops, collaborative learning, and independent research, with methods sequenced to support progression from Level 6 to Level 7. Teaching methods vary by module and level, but typically include:
- Lectures which introduce key financial, strategic, and management theories and are supported by guided reading and digital resources to promote independent engagement; live polling, scenario discussions, and short analytical tasks foster active learning in real-world business contexts. Seminars and workshops provide space for student-led discussion and problem-solving, deepening understanding through case analysis, financial modelling, and collaborative evaluation of organisational scenarios; peer learning is embedded through group work, informal presentations, and discussion-based tasks. Problem-based tutorials focus on applied financial and strategic challenges; students prepare in advance and contribute to group solutions, building analytical reasoning, commercial awareness, and solution-focused thinking.
- Digital tools and learning platforms are used extensively. The Keele Learning Environment (KLE) hosts case resources, video content, quizzes, and discussion forums. Students also use standard digital tools for data analysis, financial reporting, and professional presentation as part of coursework.
- Independent study is a core component at both levels: students take responsibility for preparation, research, and assessment completion. At Level 6, the Employability and Future Work module develops applied leadership, reflective practice, and professional readiness, complementing discipline modules in finance and management.

Assessment reflects professional business and finance practice and supports critical thinking and applied learning. Typical formats include individual and group reports, case-based analyses, financial evaluations, reflective writing, digital submissions and presentations.

Academic and pastoral support is structured throughout the programme. Academic Mentors and module tutors provide regular one-to-one guidance, developmental feedback, and signposting to specialist resources; skills workshops (e.g., academic writing, data analysis, research methods) build core study capabilities. The Level 6 Employability and Future Work module offers dedicated support for academic development and professional planning, with tailored guidance for international students and those joining from diverse educational backgrounds.

Overall, the learning experience is intentionally applied, reflective, and collaborative. It enables students to consolidate prior business and finance knowledge, apply learning to contemporary organisational and financial challenges, and graduate with the analytical, digital, and professional capabilities required for advanced study or graduate employment.

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

7. Teaching Staff

The Integrated Masters in Finance and Management is delivered by Keele Business School. KBS staff have extensive teaching, research and work experience in their respective fields. KBS academics are supported by practitioners who provide guest lectures, case studies, problem based tasks, and who oversee assessments. Most permanent staff have PhDs or other higher degrees or professional qualifications. All staff members have teaching qualifications - or are working toward them - and engage in continuing professional development as academic teachers. Dedicated administrative support is also provided.

The School maintains a strong commitment to excellence and innovation in teaching and research. Teaching is informed by research with teaching staff presenting and publishing academic papers at national and international conferences, in books and in internationally ranked journals. All members of staff seek to ensure that module content represents up to date research, including the results of their own research.

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.

8. What is the structure of the programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. You can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid- December, and from mid-January to the end of May in each year of study. Each module is usually a self- contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 6	90	30	30
Level 7	120	0	0

Module Lists

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Corporate Strategic Finance	FIN-30003	30	Semester 1
Strategic Management	MAN-30167	30	Semester 1
Project	MAN-30185	30	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Banking Technology and Mobile Banking	FIN-30007	30	Semester 2
Employability and Future Work	MAN-30191	30	Semester 2

Level 7

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Financial Reporting and Performance	ACC-40018	30	Semester 1
Managing People, Products, and Organisations	MAN-40373	30	Semester 1
Management Accounting & Control	ACC-40020	30	Semester 2
MSci Individual Study Project (ISP)	MAN-40431	30	Semester 2

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.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate critical understanding of key theories and frameworks in both financial and strategic management, and their application to contemporary organisational contexts.	Corporate Strategic Finance - FIN-30003 Strategic Management - MAN-30167 Project - MAN-30185 MSci Individual Study Project (ISP) - MAN-40431
Evaluate how financial decision-making, reporting, and control influence business performance and strategic direction.	Financial Reporting and Performance - ACC-40018 Management Accounting & Control - ACC-40020 Corporate Strategic Finance - FIN-30003
Analyse the impact of financial innovation, technology, and regulation on organisations and markets.	Financial Reporting and Performance - ACC-40018 Banking Technology and Mobile Banking - FIN-30007
Critically assess how management practices shape organisational performance, innovation, and change in dynamic environments.	Strategic Management - MAN-30167 Project - MAN-30185 Managing People, Products, and Organisations - MAN-40373 MSci Individual Study Project (ISP) - MAN-40431

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Apply financial and strategic analysis tools to diagnose organisational issues and support evidence-based decisions.	Management Accounting & Control - ACC-40020 Corporate Strategic Finance - FIN-30003 Strategic Management - MAN-30167 Project - MAN-30185 MSci Individual Study Project (ISP) - MAN-40431
Evaluate alternative approaches to financial management, risk, and performance control using quantitative and qualitative data.	Financial Reporting and Performance - ACC-40018 Management Accounting & Control - ACC-40020 Corporate Strategic Finance - FIN-30003
Communicate financial and management insights effectively through written, visual, and digital formats.	Financial Reporting and Performance - ACC-40018 Strategic Management - MAN-30167 Project - MAN-30185 Employability and Future Work - MAN-30191 MSci Individual Study Project (ISP) - MAN-40431

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Communicate effectively across academic and professional contexts, adapting style to audience and purpose.	Project - MAN-30185 Employability and Future Work - MAN-30191 Managing People, Products, and Organisations - MAN-40373 MSci Individual Study Project (ISP) - MAN-40431
Work independently and collaboratively, demonstrating accountability, intercultural awareness, and leadership.	Banking Technology and Mobile Banking - FIN-30007 Employability and Future Work - MAN-30191 Managing People, Products, and Organisations - MAN-40373
Use digital tools and financial technologies to analyse, model, and present data.	Financial Reporting and Performance - ACC-40018 Management Accounting & Control - ACC-40020 Strategic Management - MAN-30167 Project - MAN-30185 Employability and Future Work - MAN-30191 MSci Individual Study Project (ISP) - MAN-40431
Reflect critically on their development and plan for continued learning or career advancement.	Corporate Strategic Finance - FIN-30003 Banking Technology and Mobile Banking - FIN-30007 Project - MAN-30185 Managing People, Products, and Organisations - MAN-40373 MSci Individual Study Project (ISP) - MAN-40431

9. Final and intermediate awards

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

Award	Total Credits Required	Level Requirements
Integrated Master's Degree (Top-Up)	240 credits	120 credits at Level 6 (entry year) 120 credits at Level 7 (Integrated Master's year)
Bachelor's Honours Degree (BSc) (exit award only)	120 credits	120 credits at Level 6

10. 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:

- Group Assignment
- Report
- Open Book exam
- Presentation
- Skills analysis
- Portfolio
- Exam
- Reflective essay

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 6)	14%	86%	0%
Year 2 (Level 7)	13.2%	86.8%	0%

12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

13. 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'.

14. 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/>

English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will sit a diagnostic language assessment. Using this assessment, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module *NB*: students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

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/>

15. How are students supported on the programme?

Support for student learning on the Programme is provided in the following ways:

- Module leaders are responsible for providing support for learning on the modules and in the tutorial groups for which they are responsible. They also give individual feedback on in-course assessments and more general feedback on examinations.
- Module leaders have set student consultation hours each week and students are encouraged to attend these hours to get specific help and support for their learning. Module leaders are available to see students at other times by appointment (usually via email).
- The Programme Director assumes responsibility for monitoring overall student progress through the subject, undertaking progress reviews and providing a general point of contact for students on the programme.
- Academic mentors support academic progress, help students reflect on their goals, and signpost them to specialist services when needed.
- Student Experience and Support Officer (SESO) is part of the Student Experience & Support team embedded within each faculty or school and provides advice, guidance, and one-to-one support to students on academic, welfare, and personal issues.
- Additional help for international students is also available from the Language Centre. Students for whom English is not their first language are offered language classes, facilities and services by the University's Language Centre. In addition to credit-bearing modules on English for academic study, students also have access to one-to-one tutorials for individual help and advice, and to a wealth of resources for self-study and practice.

- Student Voice Representatives - provide a focus for issues at module and year level to be raised. All members of teaching staff on the programme are available to see students during office hours, if available, and by appointment.

16. Learning Resources

Teaching takes place in a variety of lecture theatres and tutorial rooms all of which have appropriate audio-visual equipment. Copies of set texts are available in the campus library with an increasing number available as ebooks, together with electronic access to a wide variety of relevant academic journals.

All modules make extensive use of the Keele Learning Environment meaning that students have access to detailed module materials (lecture notes, tutorial activities, journal articles and so on) anywhere and anytime that they have access to the internet.

SAGE accounting software is installed in a variety of PC labs in the KBS building and campus library and Bloomberg information terminals are available in the KBS building.

The extensive collection of business and management materials relevant to postgraduate study held in the University Library. Much of this material is also accessible online to Keele students from anywhere in the world with a University username and password.

17. Other Learning Opportunities

In addition to the taught curriculum, students on the Integrated Master's in Finance and Management have access to a range of structured and informal learning opportunities designed to enhance their academic, professional, and personal development.

These include:

- **Business Engagement Events**
Keele Business School regularly hosts guest lectures, employer panels, and industry networking events. These sessions give students direct exposure to professionals working in areas such as strategy, HRM, consultancy, and digital business.
- **Workshops on Academic and Digital Skills**
In addition to embedded support through Employability and Future Work supervision, students can attend optional workshops on topics like critical writing, research methods, using Bloomberg and other business databases, and producing digital content.
- **Careers and Employability Support**
Students benefit from targeted sessions with the Keele Careers and Employability team, including CV clinics, mock interviews, application advice, and tailored sessions for international students exploring UK and global job markets.
- **Volunteering and Peer Mentoring**
Opportunities exist to engage in student mentoring schemes, join university committees, or contribute to student-led business societies. These activities help build leadership, communication, and collaboration skills.
- **Online Learning Tools and Platforms**
Beyond the Keele Learning Environment (KLE), students have access to tools such as LinkedIn Learning, business simulations, and virtual case competitions that extend learning beyond scheduled classes.
- **Global Perspectives and Intercultural Learning**
As a diverse cohort, students benefit from working with peers from different countries and professional backgrounds. Activities within and outside the curriculum foster intercultural awareness and global mindsets.

These opportunities are not credit-bearing but are highly encouraged as part of the Keele Graduate Attributes and the wider development of responsible, employable, and entrepreneurial business professionals.

18. Additional Costs

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.

19. 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 National Student Survey (NSS), 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/>

20. 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. Bachelor's Degree (2023):

Subject Benchmark Statement: Business and Management (QAA, 2023) [Subject Benchmark Statement - Business and Management](#)

c. Master's Degree (2023):

Subject Benchmark Statement: Master's Degrees in Business and Management (QAA, 2023) Subject Benchmark Statement: Master's Degrees in Business and Management

d. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement - Finance (2025) [Subject Benchmark Statement - Finance](#)

e. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 23 June 2026

Previous documents

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