Accounting and Finance
Undergraduate study
Accounting and finance lie directly at the heart of business; nearly 60 per cent of FTSE 100 companies have a CEO with a background in the subject and nearly a quarter are qualified accountants. In an increasingly complex and challenging operational environment, top companies are actively seeking leaders who have invested in financial training and education. Bristol has one of the leading departments for accounting and finance in the UK. We have a reputation for producing high-quality graduates with strong quantitative skills and a global outlook.

Our up-to-date courses are accredited by professional accountancy bodies ICAEW, ACCA and CIMA and combine theoretical and technical education with an understanding of how to tackle the many questions and challenges faced by those working in finance today.

Bristol will provide you with a rigorous education in accounting and finance, but we also make sure you gain a solid foundation in economics and mathematics. We offer a wide choice of optional units meaning you can either broaden your study beyond accounting and finance or tailor your degree to your own interests within those disciplines. Alternatively we offer fully integrated degrees where you can combine an accounting degree with either management or economics.

As one of the UK’s major centres for financial services, Bristol offers plenty of career opportunities. Many of the large accounting and consulting firms have a base in the city and support our students with careers guidance, enrichment opportunities and professional skills development.

**Courses**

**Single Honours**

BSc Accounting and Finance*
three years NN43

BSc Accounting and Finance with Study in Continental Europe
four years NN34

BSc Accounting and Finance with Professional Placement
four years (entry by transfer)

BSc Accounting and Finance*
three years NN42

BSc Economics and Accounting*
three years LN14

*Study Abroad option available, four years, entry by transfer.

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2018. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2017). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University’s website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.

‘Teaching quality is good. They like to encourage students to be critical. [The] University attaches importance to making students challenge authority and this has benefited me a lot.’

Yiren (BSc Accounting and Finance 2015- )
As a student in the School of Economics, Finance and Management you benefit from being able to study either BSc Accounting and Finance or a combination of accounting with economics or management. We offer an integrated approach across the three disciplines, with increasing choice and flexibility as the degree progresses. Across the three years of study you can choose to deepen your knowledge in a particular field or broaden your studies across an emerging theme, such as corporate social responsibility and sustainability, or international business and finance.

Year one
In the first year you will develop your skills across the core disciplines of accounting, economics, finance and mathematics with approximately two thirds of your time spent covering these in core units. If you are studying BSc Economics and Accounting you will study an additional economics unit and in BSc Accounting and Management you will study two management units.

All courses have at least one optional unit in the second semester of the first year. Examples of optional units offered in 2016/17 included: Global Business Environment, Organisation Theory and an additional economics unit.

Year two
In year two you will study financial accounting, management accounting and corporate finance in more depth. You will learn more advanced theory and techniques and we will teach you how to analyse data from quantitative models. As in year one you will be able to choose up to two optional units, allowing you to tailor your degree to your own interests. Second year optional units in 2016/17 included: Project Management, History of Economic Thought, and International Business Management. Many students choose Taxation and Foundations of Business Law for their options, which offer exemptions from professional examinations.

Additional year (optional)
You may be able to extend your degree to four years and spend your third year undertaking one of the following options:
• a professional placement in an accounting role within an ICAEW accredited provider;
• a year studying abroad in English at one of our partner universities, for example in Australia, Europe, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea or the U.S.;
• a year studying abroad in the host language in France, Germany, Italy or Spain.

With the exception of BSc Accounting and Finance with Study in Continental Europe, entry is by transfer only. Allocation is merit based, depending on your first-year examination results.

Professional placement
Your placement will be in a financial environment, perhaps in an accounting firm, and will enhance your understanding of the areas of accounting and finance encountered in your studies. Within the placement you will have the opportunity to complete the first stage of the professional accounting examinations of the ICAEW; some exemptions from exams will already be available on the basis of the units you studied during the first two years of your degree.

Study abroad
Our accounting degrees ‘with Study Abroad’ allow you to spend your third year overseas studying accounting and finance in English at a leading university. You can choose from one of our partner institutions in Europe or farther afield in destinations such as Australia, Hong Kong or the U.S. Your third year course will combine the challenging, broad academic content of all our accounting degrees with an overseas dimension that reflects the international nature of modern business.

Study in Continental Europe
On BSc Accounting and Finance with Study in Continental Europe you will spend the third year studying accounting, business, finance and management in the host language of a partner university in France, Germany, Italy or Spain. To study in France or Germany you need AS-level or equivalent in French or German. To study in Italy or Spain you need at least GCSE in Italian or Spanish. In years one and two you will take language units to develop your language skills, improving your understanding of the relevant language generally and in the context of issues in accounting and in finance.
Final year
There is greater flexibility and choice available when selecting optional units in your final year. You may choose to specialise and strengthen your skills in a particular area, for example by selecting units aligned to particular career goals, such as investment banking. You may prefer to keep your options open and follow a broader path, for example selecting a mixture of economics and management units. Options are subject to change but in the 2016/17 academic year units included:

Accounting and finance options
• Financial Crises
• Portfolio Management
• Derivatives
• Auditing
• International Finance

Economics options
• International Economics
• Labour Economics
• Economics of Developing Countries
• Macroeconomic Theory and Policy
• Environmental Economics

Management options
• Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability
• International Human Resource Management
• Operations Management
• Strategy.

Enrichment opportunities
Outside your academic study you have the opportunity to work through ‘Bloomberg Market Concepts’, an eight-hour e-learning course which provides an introduction to financial markets analysis. This learning, together with the certificate of completion, is a valuable asset to students interested in pursuing a career in finance.

The student-run EFM Society is one of the most active in the University and promotes a rich experience via numerous sporting and social events. The society also offers careers-based events and skills development opportunities with employers from a variety of sectors. Take a look at the EFM Society Facebook page to see the types of activities on offer.

Henrietta Cheung
(BSc Accounting and Finance 2017)
I chose the University of Bristol because of the city and also its reputation. It is a beautiful city with everything that you need and Bristol is also ranked one of the top ten universities in the UK. Accounting and Finance is a challenging course but Bristol has given me a lot of support. Teaching quality is exceptional, lecturers are very experienced and they are all willing to give extra support outside lecture or tutorial times. This is a beautiful, friendly and very supportive university.
Our courses are delivered by world-class academics and professionally qualified accountants from a wide range of complementary disciplines who incorporate the very latest research and ideas into their teaching. The quality of teaching and enthusiasm of our staff is rated highly by our students.

In addition to lectures we offer teaching in smaller groups, which supports discussion, participation and feedback with your peers. Our lecturers and tutors also offer office hours, when you can drop in to discuss the course or any issue.

In our teaching we emphasise the practical aspects of academic content with examples from the real-world business environment. We have an extensive events programme where we invite academics and accountants from the private and public sectors to talk to students.

**Assessment**

We appreciate the importance of timely and effective feedback and work closely with you to ensure you get the best out of your time here at Bristol. You will prepare assignments and receive feedback on them throughout each academic year. Assignments are intended to help your learning and results do not usually count towards your final degree result. Typically, each subject will be assessed with an examination of two-and-a-half or three hours duration at the end of the teaching block in January or the summer, although some units also include a coursework element that counts towards the final assessment.

Your final degree award will be determined by assessments in years two and three (40 and 60 per cent respectively). If you are taking a four-year course the additional year (abroad or on placement) will count too; the weightings for years two, three and four being 30 per cent, 10 per cent and 60 per cent respectively.

Bristol graduates are in demand. Our graduates are rated third in the UK for employability by *The Times* top 100 UK employers*, which include all ‘big four’ accounting firms among the top ten. Among the top 20 UK employers in the rating, half are accounting, banking and consultancy firms. You will have plenty of graduate-level career opportunities after your degree.

Among our most recent cohort, 100 per cent of accounting and finance graduates were in work or further study within six months of graduation. Accreditation by all the major accountancy bodies and the resulting exemptions from professional examinations mean that our graduates benefit from a flying start to their careers, be it in professional practice, industry or the public and not-for-profit sectors.

You will have lots of opportunities for professional skills development during your time here. We regularly host seminars, recruitment events and skills workshops with key employers from the financial services sector. The faculty has recently launched the Professional Liaison Network and is working with employers to increase engagement opportunities for students through work placements, internships, guest speakers, mentoring and company visits.

Employers who recruited Bristol accounting graduates last year include Deloitte, Capita and PwC in roles such as business analyst, trainee chartered accountant and finance manager.

*High Fliers Research 2017*
Typical offer for BSc Accounting and Finance*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug18-accounting for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

A-levels AAA (contextual ABB†) including A in Mathematics, or A*AB including A in Mathematics.

IB Diploma 36 points overall (contextual 32†) with 18 at Higher Level (contextual 16†), including 6 in Higher Level Mathematics. 7 in Standard Level Mathematics (not Mathematical Studies) is accepted in place of 6 in Higher Level Mathematics.

English Language Profile B††

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-apply/#typical-contextual-offers.

††For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

Deferred entry Welcomed.

Why choose Bristol?

Top 10 UK university (QS World University Rankings)

3rd most targeted university by top UK employers (High Fliers Research)

Rated in top 50 universities worldwide (QS World University Rankings)

Making your application

We don’t interview; selection is based on your UCAS application. In your personal statement we are looking for evidence of motivation, so tell us why you are interested in the degree for which you are applying. Tell us about any work experience or positions of responsibility that you have held, why you took on those roles and why they are relevant to your chosen degree.

Further information
Find out more about the Department of Accounting and Finance: bristol.ac.uk/accounting.

bristol.ac.uk/ug-study
Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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University guide to the city of Bristol
bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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