Accounting and Finance

Undergraduate study
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.

Why study accounting and finance at Bristol?

Accounting and finance lie directly at the heart of business: of all the FTSE 100 CEOs with a background in finance, nearly half are chartered accountants. In an increasingly complex and challenging operational environment, top companies are actively seeking leaders who have invested in financial training and education.

As one of the UK’s leading departments for research in accounting and finance and management*, 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 ensure you gain a solid foundation in economics and mathematics. We offer a wide range 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 UK’s large accounting and consulting firms have a base in the city and support our students with careers guidance, mentoring and professional skills development.

*The Department of Management and Department of Accounting and Finance were together ranked sixth in the UK for research impact in analysis of REF 2014 by Times Higher Education.

‘Teaching quality is good. They like to encourage students to be critical.’

Yiren (BSc Accounting and Finance)

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Yiren (BSc Accounting and Finance)
What will you study?

As a student in the School of Economics, Finance and Management you will benefit from 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 2017/18 included: Global Business Environment and Organisation Theory.

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 available in 2017/18 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 US;
• 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.

Accounting and Finance is a challenging course but Bristol has given me a lot of support. Teaching quality is exceptional here. Lecturers are very experienced and they are all willing to give extra support outside lecture or tutorial times.”

Henrietta (BSc Accounting and Finance)
What will you study?

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 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, Germany or Spain you need AS-level or equivalent in French, German or Spanish. To study in Italy you need at least GCSE in Italian. 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.

Professional Liaison Network
The Faculty of Social Sciences and Law has a dedicated team – the Professional Liaison Network (PLN) – that run a number of schemes linking students with organisations and professionals relevant to their degree programme. This can enrich their studies as they gain an insight into how the accounting and finance discipline is used in the wider world.

The PLN runs a professional mentoring scheme, whereby students in the second year of study get the option of having a finance professional or accountant as a mentor. The scheme was introduced last year for our economics students; recent mentors were drawn from a wide range of organisations, including the Office for National Statistics, the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Lloyds Bank. The PLN also run a series of Inside Track lectures during term time, in which speakers – often Bristol graduates – come to give students a unique insight into their sector and role.

Enrichment opportunities
Outside your academic study you have the opportunity to work through Bloomberg Market Concepts, an e-learning course that provides an introduction to financial markets analysis. This learning, together with the certificate of completion, is a valuable asset if you are 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 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.
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 at Bristol. You will prepare assessments 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, especially those with degrees in accounting and finance. Our graduates are rated fourth in the UK for employability by The Times top 100 graduate employers*. 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 the most recent cohort surveyed, 85 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.

*Graduate Market in 2018, High Fliers Research
**Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education Survey 2016/17, BSc Accounting and Finance
Making your application

Typical offer for BSc Accounting and Finance*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-accounting for 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 either 6 at Higher Level or 7 at Standard Level in Mathematics.

English Language profile B††

GCSEs No specific subjects required.

†For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

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

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2018); however, we recommend you check the University’s website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

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.

Why choose Bristol?

Top 10 UK university
(QS World University Rankings 2018)

4th most targeted university by top UK employers
(High Fliers Research 2018)

Ranked in the top 50 universities worldwide
(QS World University Rankings 2018)
Contact us

Enquiries Team
Tel +44 (0)117 394 1649
Email choosebristol-ug@bristol.ac.uk

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.

Accommodation Office
Tel +44 (0)117 954 6640
Email accom-office@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/accommodation

Disability Services
Tel +44 (0)117 331 0444
Email disability-services@bristol.ac.uk
bristol.ac.uk/disability-services

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

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Tel +44 (0)117 394 1573
Email ug-publications@bristol.ac.uk

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Dan Rowley, Nick Riddle
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