

Department of Economics & Finance

Master of Science in Finance Program

Program Handbook

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1. Program Overview

The rapid growth and increased sophistication in the finance industry internationally and recent developments in the financial sector in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia have created greater demand for specialized qualifications in finance. Therefore, the college of economics and finance (hereafter, CBE) has launched a specialized master program in Finance since fall 2017. The program was revised in 2020 to better meet the academic and professional development needs of students. The M.Sc. in Finance is a two years full-time program that will enable students to acquire advanced financial knowledge and enhance their analytical and quantitative skills. This program will prepare students not only for a career in the financial and banking sector but also provides them an opportunity to pursue PhD studies in Saudi Arabia or abroad.

2. College of Business and Economics (CBE) Culture

CBE provides a highly conducive environment for teaching, learning, research, and community services. The latest infrastructure is provided in each classroom, such as equipment like projectors and whiteboards to facilitate highly effective teaching and learning. Each faculty member is provided with their own individual office space, which helps them to concentrate on research and other academic activities. Faculty members schedule office hours during which students can contact them for individual discussions .

QU has a library stocked with the latest academic books, periodicals, and other learning resources. Faculty and students can access international databases through the online library, such as Thomson Reuter-listed journals, SCOPUS-listed journals, Science Direct, and SAGE publications. Presently, the library contains approximately 303,321 books, 1,065 periodicals, and 130 database subscriptions. QU encourages faculty members to participate in research, and CBE encourages its faculty members to publish research papers in high quality journals. The college recently revised its internal point system to encourage faculty to engage in quality research. CBE faculty members published more than 430 articles from 2016 to 2020. Recently, the Deanship of Scientific Research initiated highly lucrative incentives for publishing in quality journals, such as

SAR 25,000 for publishing papers in Q1 Thompson Reuters Journals. Faculty members also have access to Eikon Refinitiv terminals.

3. Faculty and Staff

CBE has a diversified group of highly qualified faculty members from across the globe. The nationalities of its faculty include the UK, Canada, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Syria, and Algeria, in addition to local members. Presently, 101 academic staff and 47 administrative staff serve the college.

4. Department of Economics and Finance Mission:

- Leadership in education, research, and sustainability in the fields of Economics and Finance

5. Department of Economics and Finance Department Goals:

- Guarantee the educational quality of the department.
- Boost college students' proficiency, competitiveness, and excellence
- Support and encourage scientific and applied research and innovation to promote sustainable development.
- Promote community service and local partnership with the business sector.

6. Program Mission:

- Provision of educational, research and professional services in financial sciences to prepare competitive competencies and contribute to the promotion of the economy and sustainable national development; In a renewable environment that inspires research, innovation, and partnership.

7. Program Strategic Goals

- Guarantee educational quality in financial sciences.

- Boost college students' proficiency, competitiveness, and excellence in financial sciences.
- Support and encourage scientific and applied research and innovation in financial sciences to promote sustainable development.
- Promote community service and local partnership with the business sector.

8. Program Learning Outcomes:

The M.SC. in finance program give great importance for the learning outcomes due to its belief that it is one of the most important elements that can be used to assess the quality of the program. It is also one of the means to achieve quality in the educational process. The program has carefully designed learning outcomes that consider a set of academic and professional standards, in addition to considering the program's mission, goals, and attributes of graduates. The program's learning outcomes were developed using various sources of inspiration as presented below:

- The program strategic framework; its vision, goals, and graduates' attributes.
- The Qassim University's General Learning Outcomes.
- The National qualifications framework (NQF)
- Local and/or international benchmark universities having comparable and similar programs with available learning outcomes.
- Feedback and suggestions from the professional advisory committee.

Knowledge and understanding	
K1	Recognize advanced concepts, principals and theories related to financial fields
Skills	
S1	Apply problem solving and critical thinking skills to solve complex and advanced problems in finance
S2	Process data and information quantitatively and/or qualitatively in complex and advanced contexts related to finance
S3	Conduct advanced research using research methods in finance
S4	Communicate advanced financial information and outcomes in writing
S5	Communicate advanced financial information and outcomes orally

Values, autonomy, and responsibility	
V1	Effectively collaborate and participate in finance group projects and undertake leadership roles
V2	Analyze ethical dilemmas that arises in the finance domain

9. Program Graduates' Attributes:

1. Knowledge and understanding:
In-depth and advanced knowledge and understanding of the discipline: a graduate who understands and explains advanced concepts, principles and theories related to financial fields and evaluate assets, projects, and financing and investment decisions using modern finance theory, tools, and methods.
2. Skills:
Data and information analysis and problem-solving skills: A graduate possessing the ability to analyze and evaluate data to solve complex and advanced problems in the field of finance
Information Technology Skills: A graduate possessing the skills of using information technology and databases.
Scientific Research Skills: A graduate possessing the ability to conduct advanced research using scientific research methods in the field of finance
Active personality skills: a graduate possessing effective communication skills (oral and in written)
3. Values, autonomy, and responsibility:
Career and leadership readiness: a graduate possessing the ability to work effectively within a team and to create a positive impact in the work environment.
Commitment to professional ethics: a graduate who is committed to professional ethics and respects duties and shows professional integrity.

10. Program Structure:

This M.Sc. in Finance program offers 42-credits that combines a wide range of core and elective courses. The curriculum is designed to offer a solid foundation in Finance with a flexibility to pursue individual interests. Core courses in Accounting, Economics, Finance and Quantitative Analysis are supplemented with electives in Finance. These courses are presented in the following table:

M.Sc. in Finance program		Credit Hours
1	Core Finance Courses	21
2	Core Courses from related fields	15
3	Elective Courses	6
	Total credit hours	42

A/ Compulsory Courses (36 H Credit)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit hours
ACCT601	Financial and Managerial Accounting	3
ECON601	Business Economics	3
FIN601	Financial Management (I)	3
FIN613	Financial Management (II)	3
QUN601	Business Statistics and Quantitative Analysis	3
ACCT610	Financial Report Analysis	3
ECON625	Econometrics	3
FIN610	Fixed Income Securities	3
FIN616	Equity Valuation and Analysis	3
FIN637	Derivatives	3
FIN639	Portfolio Management	3
FIN698	Research Project	3

B/ Elective Courses (6 H Credit)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit hours
FIN622	International Finance	3

FIN620	Mergers and Acquisitions	3
FIN641	Real Estate Finance	3
FIN642	Corporate Governance	3
FIN644	Entrepreneurial Finance	3
FIN631	Financial Modeling	3
FIN624	Islamic Financial system	3
FIN625	Financial Markets and Institutions	3
FIN645	Commercial and Investment Banking	3

11. Program Study Plan:

First Semester:

Course Code	Course Name	Credit hours
ACCT 601	Financial and Managerial Accounting	3
ECON 601	Business Economics	3
FIN 601	Financial management I	3
QUN 601	Business Statistics and Quantitative Analysis	3

Second Semester:

Course Code	Course Name	Credit hours
FIN 613	Financial management II	3
ACCT 610	Financial Statements Analysis	3
ECON 625	Econometrics	3
FIN***	Elective Course 1	3

Third Semester:

Course Code	Course Name	Credit hours
FIN 610	Fixed Income Securities	3

FIN 637	Derivatives	3
FIN 639	Portfolio Management	3

Fourth Semester:

Course Code	Course Name	Credit hours
FIN 616	Equity Valuation and Analysis	3
FIN 698	Research Project	3
FIN***	Elective Course 2	3

12. Admission Requirements

For admission to CBE, applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- A bachelor's degree from one of these colleges (College of Business, Engineer, Science and Computer) from any approved university or college with a minimum grade of C+ or Good (cumulative GPA of 3.25 and above).
- A score of at least 67 in STEP or 8 in QUEPT, an English language test provided by the Deanship of Community Service at Qassim University.
- Applicants must set for the entrance examination conducted by CBE.
- Applicants should have a satisfactory score in the aptitude test conducted by the National Center for Assessment in Higher Education.

13. Academic Standing

In order to remain in good standing, graduate students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.75 out of 5.00. A student whose cumulative GPA falls below this level will be placed on probation and must raise his/her cumulative GPA to at least 3.75 by the end of the subsequent semester to be returned to good standing. If he/she does not raise the cumulative GPA to at least 3.75 by the end of the next semester, the student will be disqualified from the program. Students

must complete the degree requirements within 4 years from the time of initial enrolment in the program with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.75.

14. Program Completion Criteria

The student must fulfill the following eligibility criteria for award of the MSc Finance:

- The student must successfully complete the total coursework including pre-requisites specified by CBE, if any.
- The passing percentage for each Masters course is 75%.
- The final Cumulative GPA of the student should be no less than "Very Good (3.75)".

15. Potential Job Opportunities

Financial positions in various industries such as:

- Ministry of Finance
- Saudi Central Bank
- Zakat Tax and Customs Authority
- Capital Market Authority
- Financial Consulting Firms
- Public institutions and Private Firms
- Universities
- Research Centers
- Banking sector
- Insurance companies
- Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- Financial Markets

16. Contact Details

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact us through the following means:

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Quick contact with the department

Please, fill out the form here: [➔Link←](#)

17. Useful Links:

Deanship of Graduate Studies: Admission Details	
Deanship of Development and Quality: Handbooks	
Deanship of Admission and Registration	
Deanship of Students Affairs	