Programme Specification

UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

Course record information

Name and level of final award	• Master of Science - FinTech with Business Analytics The award is Bologna FQ-EHEA second cycle degree or diploma compatible
Name and level of intermediate awards	• Postgraduate Diploma (Pg Dip) - FinTech with Business Analytics • Postgraduate Certificate (Pg Cert) - FinTech with Business Analytics
Awarding body/institution	University of Westminster
Teaching institution	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution	Recognised Body
Location of delivery	Primary: Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Business and Management
Professional statutory or regulatory body	None
Westminster course title, mode of attendance and standard length	• MSc FinTech with Business Analytics FT, Full-time, September or January start - 1 year standard length
Valid for cohorts	From 2025/6 For students starting from September 2025 onwards

Admissions requirements

There are standard minimum entry requirements for all postgraduate courses. Students are advised to check the standard requirements for the most up-to-date information. For most courses a decision will be made on the basis of your application form alone. However, for some courses the selection process may include an interview to demonstrate your strengths in addition to any formal entry requirements. More information can be found here: https://www.westminster.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/how-to-apply.

Aims of the programme

Financial technology is playing an ever-increasing role within international financial markets, with the digital assets market expected to increase by 5.13% between 2024 and 2028 and an expected 4.8 billion users in the digital payments market by 2028. The characteristics of this market also mean that it fosters genuinely sustainable and global economic growth, with the "Global South" accounting for 31 of the top 250 FinTech firms. Within this market, however, the United Kingdom (and particularly London) still maintains its position as a global leader within the market, placing second globally in terms of FinTech investment per capita, FinTech investment as a percentage of GDP and the number of unicorn firms (privately held firms with a valuation in excess of US$1.0 billion) headquartered locally (35 out of 355 globally), and over 76,000 jobs created in this sector.

"The future belongs to those who can rise above the technology and master it." – Jamie Dimon, CEO of JPMorgan Chase

Given this growth and the need for skilled graduates, the MSc FinTech with Business Analytics degree was one of the first Masters programmes in the UK to recognise this opportunity and provide a tailored degree that provided students with the skills necessary to take advantage of the opportunities within this ever-evolving market. As such, the MSc FinTech with Business Analytics programme has been designed to:

- Provide a robust foundation in both financial theories and modern technologies, integrating skills from finance, data science, and business analytics to prepare students for the multidimensional challenges of the FinTech industry.
- Focus on developing advanced capabilities in statistical analysis, predictive modelling, and data visualisation, enabling students to handle complex datasets and extract strategic insights that influence financial decisions.
- Encourage critical thinking and strategic problem-solving skills, preparing students to identify and tackle industry-specific challenges by applying technological and analytical solutions in a global financial context.
- Foster a deep understanding of the ethical implications of financial technologies and data usage, promoting responsible leadership that prioritises integrity and transparency in all financial and analytical practices.
- Enhance communication skills to ensure graduates can effectively convey complex ideas and data-driven insights to diverse audiences, facilitating better decision-making and leadership in high-stake environments.
- Stimulate innovation and cultivate an entrepreneurial spirit among students, encouraging them to explore new opportunities within the FinTech sector and beyond, whether in start-ups or established financial institutions.
- Ensure that graduates have a robust ethical foundation and appreciation of the importance of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria and the need to ensure sustainable development within the financial technology industry.

Employment and further study opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, i.e. employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

The MSc FinTech with Business Analytics programme has employability as its keystone within its design. As such, the programme incorporates as much interaction with external practitioners as possible, either through the integration of guest lectures by practitioners within the syllabus or field trips to attend industry conferences where students will be able to learn about the practical implications of the theoretical concepts taught in class and network with potential employers. The design of formal contact sessions integrates as many practical and "real-world" elements as possible, primarily through the integration of the facilities in the Financial Markets Suite within the module syllabus, the incorporation of case studies and simulations in lectures and seminars, and the enhancement of the traditional research-based masters dissertation module with the additional option for students to do an applied project instead, which would require students to address a real-world issue utilising both theoretical knowledge and situational information. This applied project may be work-based if students have obtained internships. The syllabus for the programme has also been designed in conjunction with respective alums from the programme and potential employers to ensure that students attain the exact skills and graduate attributes required in the workplace, and that the content reflects current developments in the FinTech market and meets the knowledge requirements of employers.

The programme's design also ensures that students fully appreciate the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion and sustainability within businesses, enabling them to appreciate these challenges and help drive these important agendas upon finding employment. By fully decolonising the syllabus, the programme also ensures that students are aware of the innovative ways in which the "Global South" has contributed to, and in many cases led, the development of the FinTech ecosystem thereby exposing students to a broader array of potential markets in which they can seek employment.

In addition to the programme-specific provisions, the University of Westminster has a dedicated Career Service (Engage), which includes personalised career counselling, resumé building, mock interviews, and job search strategies. Our career centre offers students the opportunity to apply for internships through the talent bank and hosts job fairs and networking events, connecting students with potential employers. The University of Westminster also offers a variety of opportunities such as the WeNetwork, Employability Awards, Coaching and Mentoring to enhance students' employability and ensure that graduates are not only market-ready but also equipped to excel in their careers from day one. We also have a global network of successful alumni who provide mentorship, job referrals, and career guidance, and our active alumni association offers continuous support and opportunities for professional growth.

Proving the efficacy of the design, examples of jobs obtained by graduates from the programme include employment as a business analyst at Umbrella Network, a business analyst at MD Tech Hub, a hybrid product manager/business analyst at Join Momentum, a finance analyst at Hudson Bay Capital, and a financial crime analyst at Revolut, amongst others.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Course learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning.

These are threshold statements of achievement the learning outcomes broadly fall into four categories:

The overall knowledge and understanding you will gain from your course (KU)

Graduate attributes are characteristics that you will have developed during the duration of your course (GA)

Professional and personal practice learning outcomes are specific skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course (PPP)

Key transferable skills that you will be expected to have gained on successful completion of the course. (KTS)

Level 7 course learning outcomes: upon completion of Level 7 you will be able to:

- CLO01 Synthesise advanced knowledge of the key concepts in finance and economics underpinning the operation of financial markets. (KU)
- CLO02 Synthesise advanced knowledge of the key concepts, principles and methodologies used to identify and mitigate risks and ensure ethical behaviour within the FinTech ecosystem. (KU)
- CLO03 Critically apply business analytics techniques and software to derive insights and support decision-making in organisational contexts. (KU KTS SS)
- CLO04 Design innovative FinTech products and critically evaluate their effectiveness in managing risks and achieving desired entrepreneurial outcomes. (KU PPP KTS)
- CLO05 Propose solutions for the complex problems inherent in developing innovative FinTech products in global markets. (KU KTS)
- CLO06 Critically evaluate and apply a range of analytical tools, programming applications and technologies as applicable to the FinTech field. (KU KTS SS)
- CLO07 Communicate and debate the ethical and regulatory considerations of finance and technology and advocate for sustainable practices, promoting responsible and inclusive innovation in the FinTech sector. (KU PPP KTS)
- CLO08 Synthesise knowledge of the impact of blockchain and cryptocurrencies in the financial sector and how these technologies transform financial services operations and tackle complex, industry-specific challenges. (KU SS)
- CLO09 Formulate arguments and competently communicate ideas within different contexts, whilst respecting the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion, thereby demonstrating advanced interpersonal, team, and networking skills within in a dynamic environment. (PPP KTS CS)
- CLO10 Synthesise knowledge of theoretical concepts, analytical methodologies and the academic research process to critically appraise solutions to complex problems within the fields of finance and technology. (KTS CS)

How will you learn?

Learning methods

Students join the MSc FinTech and Business Analytics programme from many different backgrounds, and this rich cultural heritage enables an exciting atmosphere of mutual support, where students learn about how FinTech is developing in a variety of communities. The programme provides students with the opportunity to collaborate with peers of diverse backgrounds and to contribute to society in a meaningful way. As the success of our students is central to everything that we do on the programme, we foster a collaborative environment where diversity is celebrated and inclusivity promoted so that everyone is encouraged to draw on their unique experiences when approaching class discussions, assessments and group work. Given the truly global nature of the financial technology ecosystem, the programme equips our students with the skills, practical insights and knowledge necessary for critical engagement with what is taking place in the industry, as well as the ability to analyse industry developments in a manner that reflects diverse perspectives and experiences. The MSc FinTech and Business Analytics team continues to actively work on decolonising our curriculum and we seek to include diverse voices, perspectives, and viewpoints in the programme materials and curricula. For example, the prominent role that the “Global South” has played in the development of innovative products and as early adopters of financial technology is emphasised, particularly in the context of the role that this can play in the future sustainable development of these markets and the global economy.

In summary, the University of Westminster and the MSc FinTech and Business Analytics programme seek to provide a safe and inclusive environment for all, so that everyone feels valued and contributes to our course, and throughout the program we embed diversity and inclusion in all that we do. We also seek to provide career enhancement opportunities that allow our community of students to flourish well beyond graduation into the world of work. The mentorship programme and support available to students, particularly those from underrepresented groups, increases their chances of success in their studies and future careers. We are committed to creating course materials and assessments that are accessible to all students, regardless of their learning style or ability and as such we work closely with the disability team to ensure that our course is structured in a way that is truly inclusive, with activities that cater for a range of learning styles and needs. We ensure that our assessments and teaching formats are adapted to accommodate our diverse student body.

To achieve this. students on the MSc FinTech with Business Analytics degree will engage in a dynamic and multifaceted

learning process to enhance their theoretical knowledge and practical skills in financial technology.

In addition to the standard coverage of key theoretical concepts, lectures also incorporate practical demonstrations of these, ensuring that students fully appreciate the practical implications of these concepts. For example, lectures for the Financial Markets and Institutions module are delivered in the Financial Markets Suite, thereby enabling the lecturer to demonstrate, in real time, how the market behaves and link this directly to the theoretical concepts in the lecture. Additionally, lectures for the Data Science and Machine Learning module are held in computer labs, enabling students to see the practical operation of the code and concepts covered.

These lectures are complemented by seminars, where specific practical examples are implemented and then debated, allowing students to apply the knowledge gained in lectures for themselves. These stimulate a greater understanding of the topics and an appreciation of the practical challenges in implementing some of the techniques learnt in class. Seminars also provide students with formative feedback on their individual understanding and support in areas they may struggle with. Working in smaller groups in seminars also reinforces learning through detailed discussions, problem-solving, and personalised tutor interactions.

Students will regularly engage in exercises that require the use of advanced computer software and financial technologies to analyse real-world capital market scenarios. These exercises help students develop essential market research skills and familiarity with the tools used in the industry. The Financial Markets Suite (FMS) sessions will enable students to practice market research and analysis in a simulated trading environment, enhancing their practical understanding of market dynamics.

Students are encouraged to engage in self-directed study through extensive reading and exploration of course materials, including textbooks and peer-reviewed journals, fostering a habit of lifelong learning vital in the ever-evolving field of FinTech. Additionally, each student will undertake a FinTech project that promotes independent learning and encourages the exploration of innovative solutions and contributions to sustainable development in academia and industry.

Students will develop their written and oral communication skills through a range of different types of assessments. They will learn to articulate complex financial and technological ideas effectively in written reports, oral presentations and audio podcasts, preparing them for professional environments where clear communication is key. The programme aims to educate students on contributing to the sustainable development agenda. In addition to taught modules, students will be encouraged to pursue projects potentially leading to responsible innovation and practice advancement.

Teaching methods

The FinTech programme utilises a blend of interactive and innovative teaching methods designed to engage students and prepare them for real-world challenges within the field of financial technology. Lectures provide foundational knowledge, introducing key concepts and theories in FinTech, which are then explored through practical exercises and case studies during seminars. This approach ensures that theoretical learning is consistently reinforced with practical application.

Students will be expected to engage with the virtual learning environment (Blackboard) where the materials and resources that will be used for the module are uploaded. Reading lists are provided but these represent a skeleton for the exploration of the subject and students are expected to go beyond the reading list and seek out other materials, such as reading academic articles, financial newspapers, and subject-specific periodicals. Students will also have guided workshop sessions in the FMS, where they will learn through the use of market-based technology and databases. Students will also be involved in various engagement activities with industry and guest lectures play a pivotal role in bridging the gap between academic study and the real-world landscape. The MSc FinTech with Business Analytics degree incorporates guest lectures and seminars led by industry professionals and thought leaders in the sector. These sessions are designed to provide students with first-hand insights into cutting-edge technologies, emerging market trends, and the day-to-day challenges and strategies of FinTech companies.

The programme also builds on this industry engagement for employability and fosters strong industry connections that facilitate not only guest lectures but also opportunities for mentorship, internships, and live project collaborations. These interactions enable students to apply their theoretical knowledge in practical settings, enhancing their learning and providing them with a competitive edge in the job market. Through these partnerships, students gain exposure to the professional environment and develop networks that can be crucial for their future careers.

Given the diverse nature of the students on the MSc FinTech and Business Analytics and also ensure that that the teaching meet the needs of these students, the curriculum delivery is designed in a way to ensure that the specific needs of each student, as indicated in the respective RAFs as well as highlighted by the students themselves, are met, with materials being provided in a number of different formats via Blackboard. Lectures and relevant sessions on assessments are provided in recorded form as well as live in relevant contact sessions to ensure that students who are unable to attend these sessions due to extenuating personal circumstances can still engage with the materials. Every

student has a personal tutor who will support their learning and help them deal with challenges throughout their time on the programme of study. Finally, relevant reading lists are constructed so as to ensure that a diverse and fully representative range of views on topics is provided.

Assessment methods

The course offers a variety of assessment methods which have been designed to link with the learning outcomes, where the assessments across the various modules in this programme are strategically designed to collectively meet the learning outcomes outlined for the programme. Each module contributes to a comprehensive assessment strategy that ensures students achieve the intended educational objectives of the course.

Each module handbook provided to students contains the proposed assessment package for the module. Assessment methods are the most appropriate for each module. Assessment methods are constantly reviewed through course monitoring procedures to ensure that they meet the ever-evolving landscape. The assessment criteria are clearly set out in each module handbook. In addition, you will be provided with a full brief for each assessment on the module Blackboard site, and the brief will be discussed in class with an opportunity to ask questions.

Throughout the different modules, a variety of assessment methods are used, such as, but not exclusively, writing newspaper articles, poster presentations, business pitches, podcasts and case studies. Full details of the assessment and assessment criteria are given in the documentation for each module. When the module begins, students can access a downloadable copy of the documentation from Blackboard. Please see the individual module leader for any questions about this information.

Students will have numerous opportunities to obtain formative feedback on their work prior to having to submit their assessments. This could be in the form of the feedback on the exercises completed during seminars , via academic support hours where students will be able to get individual support on any areas that they may be struggling with or discuss questions that they might have regarding the assessments, or through their ability to obtain feedback on drafts of their work, either during seminars or during formal sessions where students may have the opportunity to show and discuss initial drafts to the respective module team. Students will also be able to utilise the summative feedback provided on their previous assessments to identify and address any weaknesses in their work and thereby improve any future assessments.

In alignment with the University of Westminster's Education Strategy, the course team has ensured that these assessments are authentic. As such, we have worked with employers and past graduates to ensure that the assessments requires students to use the same combinations of knowledge, skills, and attitudes that they need to apply in the criterion situation in professional life. Through these assessments, we therefore ensure that students are able to demonstrate the real-world skills and knowledge required for them to successfully obtain employment upon graduation. As such, assessments are usually based on ensuring that the graduates can demonstrate the following attributes:

Graduate Attribute	**Evident in Course Outcomes**
Critical and creative thinker	CLO01, CLO02, CLO03, CLO04, CLO05, CLO06, CLO07, CLO08, CLO09, CLO10
Literate and effective communicator	CLO01, CLO02, CLO03, CLO05, CLO07, CLO08, CLO09, CLO10
Entrepreneurial	CLO04, CLO05
Global in outlook and engaged in communities	CLO07, CLO09
Socially, ethically and environmentally aware	CLO02, CLO07, CLO09

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Postgraduate students study 180 credits per year. Additional free text information on the choices may also be included, for example where students must choose one of two modules.. Course structures can be subject to change each academic year following feedback from a variety of sources.

Modules

Level 7

Students are required to study all the core modules on the programme and one option module in order to obtain the 180 credits required for the MSc qualification.

Module Code	Module Title	Status	UK credit	ECTS
7FNCE042W	Blockchain Technologies and Cryptocurrencies	Core	20	10
7FNCE062W	Business Intelligence and Analytics in Finance	Core	20	10
7FNCE054W	Capstone Project	Core	40	20
7FNCE060W	Data Science and Machine Learning	Core	20	10
7FNCE063W	Ethics and Professional Standards	Core	20	10
7FNCE011W	Financial Markets and Institutions	Core	20	10
7FNCE061W	FinTech Innovation	Core	20	10
7FNCE031W	Banking Technology	Option	20	10
7FNCE064W	Risk Management for FinTech	Option	20	10
7FNCE065W	Sustainability in Finance with ESG	Option	20	10

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year. In addition, timetabling and limited spaces may mean you cannot register for your first choice of option modules.

Professional body accreditation or other external references

None

Course management

This MSc FinTech with Business Analytics sits within the School of Finance and Accounting, which is part of Westminster Business School. The following people oversee various aspects of the management of this degree programme:

- The Head of College for Westminster Business School holds responsibility for all courses offered by Westminster Business School and for the overall quality and delivery of the educational processes.
- The Head of School for the School of Finance and Accounting holds responsibility for the courses that fall within the School of Finance and Accounting.
- The Course Leader for the MSc FinTech with Business Analytics as responsibility for the academic integrity of the programme. This includes the everyday management of the course, development of the curriculum, and ensuring the delivery in terms of quality control and equivalence of experience for course participants.

Academic regulations

The current Handbook of Academic Regulations is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations.

Course specific regulations apply to some courses.

Academic Support

Upon arrival, an induction programme will introduce you to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which you will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, additional support available and to your Campus Registry. You will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Each course has a course leader or Director of Studies. All students enrolled on a full-time course and part time students registered for more than 60 credits a year have a personal tutor, who provides advice and guidance on academic matters. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students. Further information on Blackboard can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/studies/your-student-journey/when-you-arrive/blackboard

The Academic Learning Development Centre supports students in developing the skills required for higher education. As well as online resources in Blackboard, students have the opportunity to attend Study Skills workshops and one to one appointments. Further information on the Academic Learning Development Centre can be found at westminster.ac.uk/academic-learning-development.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at that site. Students1 can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught in their College. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

Support Services

The University of Westminster Student and Academic Services department provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers, specialist advice for international students and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. Further information on the advice available to students can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/student-advice

The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support students during their time at the University. Further information on UWSU can be found at https://www.westminster.ac.uk/students-union

How do we ensure the quality of our courses and continuous improvement?

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel. University Panels normally include internal peers from the University, academic(s) from another university. a representative from industry and a Student Advisor.

The course is also monitored each year by the College to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the evidence of student surveys, student progression and achievement and reports from external examiners, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course and make changes where necessary.

A Course revalidation takes place periodically to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers. Students meet with revalidation panels to provide feedback on their experiences. Student feedback from previous years is also part of the evidence used to assess how the course has been running.

How do we act on student feedback?

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways.

- Through student engagement activities at Course/Module level, students have the opportunity to express their voice in the running of their course. Course representatives are elected to expressly represent the views of their peers. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course representatives.
- There are also School Representatives appointed jointly by the University and the Students' Union who meet with senior School staff to discuss wider issues affecting student experience across the School. Student representatives are also represented on key College and University committees.;
- All students are invited to complete a questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced.
- Final year Undergraduate students will be asked to complete the National Student Survey which helps to inform the national university league tables.

This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate, if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification is supplemented by the Course Handbook, Module proforma and Module Handbooks provided to students.