Queen Mary
University of London

School of Economics and Finance

MSc Behavioural Finance

September 2025

School of Economics and Finance

Key academic staff

- Asen Ivanov (Programme Director) (a.ivanov@qmul.ac.uk)
- Alp Atakan (Head of the School)
- Daniela Tavesci (Director of Student Experience PGT)
- Thomai Filipelli (Dissertation Coordinator)

Support Staff

- James Kilvington (PGT Programme Manager)
- Oliver Grabowski (PGT Programme Officer)
- Kay Serroukh / Maha Anis (Student Support Officers)

All staff:
https://www.qmul.ac.uk/sef/people/

Regular Pathway

Induction	Semester A	Semester B	Semester C	
Mathematics (ungraded)	Behavioural Economics (15 credits)	Behavioural Finance (15 credits)	Dissertation (45 Credits)	or
Statistics (ungraded)	Valuation (15 credits)	Elective (15 credits)	or	Research Project (15 credits)
				plus
	Quantitative Methods in R (15 Credits)	Elective (15 credits)	Applied Project in Valuation (30 credits	Elective (15 credits)
			and	plus
	Asset Pricing, Trading, and Portfolio Construction (30 Credits)	Elective (15 credits)	Further Topics in Valuation (15 credits)	Elective (15 credits

MSc Behavioural Finance (CFA)

Induction	Semester A	Semester B	Semester C	
Mathematics (ungraded)	Behavioural Economics (15 credits)	Behavioural Finance (15 credits)	CFA training (15 credits)	CFA training (15 credits)
			plus	plus
Statistics (Ungraded)	Valuation (15 credits)	Elective (15 credits)	Dissertation (30 Credits)	Research Project (15 credits)
				plus
	Quantitative Methods in R (15 Credits)	Elective (15 credits)		Elective (15 credits)
	Asset Pricing, Trading, and Portfolio Construction (30 Credits)	Elective (15 credits)		

Electives (Semester B) - not guaranteed all will run

Financial Derivatives (ECOM026)
International Finance (ECOM035)
Advanced Asset Pricing (ECOM044)
Commercial and Investment Banking (ECOM049)
Risk Management for Banking (ECOM055)
Asset Management (ECOM057)
Bond Market Strategies (ECOM074)
Credit Rating (ECOM091)
Mergers and Acquisition (ECOM095)
Systematic Trading Strategies (ECOM123)
China and Global Financial Markets (ECOM137)
Real Estate Finance (ECOM138)
Cases in Corporate Finance (ECOM143)
Private Equity and Venture Capital (ECOM147)
Fintech (ECOM194)
Machine learning for Finance (ECOM198)
ESG Investing (ECOM208)
Financial Statement Analysis (ECOM211)
Blockchain Economics and Financial Market Innovation (ECOM215)
Large Language Models and Textual Analysis in Finance (ECOM217)
Applied Portfolio Construction (ECOM220)
Financial Data Analytics (MTH792P)

Electives (Semester B) - not guaranteed all will run

Financial Derivatives (ECOM026)**
International Finance (ECOM035)
Commercial and Investment Banking (ECOM049)
Risk Management for Banking (ECOM055)
Bond Market Strategies (ECOM074)
Mergers and Acquisition (ECOM095)**
Further Topics in Valuation (ECOM154)
Climate Finance (ECOM207)
R for Finance (ECOM209)
Evolution of Financial System and Financial Innovation (ECOM225)**

** These modules are compressed in Sem C and run over half the semester

PLEASE NOTE:

If you choose the Research project and Semester C modules and need to re-sit any of these, it is likely to mean that your graduation will be delayed by up to six months.

If you choose the Research project and Semester C modules, you will be able to reselect (i.e. change) in January.

If you selected the Dissertation, Applied Project in Valuation or the Research project you will be able to change this choice in January.

Extracurricular Activities for Professional Skills Development

- Queen Mary MSc Investment Fund (QUMMIF)
- AmplifyME Pathways
- Bloomberg Market Concepts Certificate
- Short modules
- Opportunity to conduct research for dissertation in finance industry
- qNomics

Visit SEF Postgraduate Professional Skills Development - 2025/26 QMPlus page

QUMMIF

Analysis of companies, industries, and asset classes

Work-relevant skills in investment, portfolio analysis, and trading

Teams compete against each other

Opportunities to network with fellow students, academics, and city professionals

Academics and city professionals act as mentors

AmplifyME Pathways Online Platform

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Live simulations

Practical tasks from careers in finance

Students from around the world interact

Three pathways

- Markets (trading and asset management)
- Banking (financial statements and company valuation)
- Quant (automating processes and trading strategies using Python)

Leaderboards

- top performers get fast-track job/internship opportunities with leading financial institutions

On-demand content

Learning content for each pathway

Careers advice

Short Modules

- Short, non-credit-bearing modules
- Run for a few weeks
- Focus on practical skills such as programming or working with trading software
- List:
  - Matlab
  - Applied Portfolio Management
  - Storytelling for Success in the Modern Workplace
  - C++ (to be confirmed)

Research for Dissertation in Finance Industry

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Opportunity to conduct research for dissertation at company in financial industry

Company will provide

- space at its offices,
- assistance (e.g., in the form of access to data), and
- mentoring

Slots are limited, and there may be a competitive selection process

qNomics

Students provide financial advice to local tech start-ups and entrepreneurs

Careers Support Services

- Interactive workshops with
  - professionals from financial industry
  - financial-careers consultants
  - alumni

- One-on-one appointments with careers consultants
  - practice interviews
  - help with CV and cover letter

- Psychometric testing

Teaching

<u>**Modules**</u>

Graded modules – those which are compulsory and your elective choices - are typically taught via a weekly lecture and the support class over 11 weeks. The grade for each module comes from the exam, generally worth 80% and an in-sessional assessment, worth the remaining 20% of the overall module mark.

<u>**Lecture teaching**</u>

The majority of your semester A teaching will have a **pre-recorded element on QMplus, and also a two-hour lecture held on campus**.
Exceptions to this format: (a) Asset Pricing, Trading, and Portfolio Construction this is a double module and there are two lectures per week, you'll need to attend BOTH; (b) Quantitative Techniques where the lectures are just on-line; (c) Behavioural Economics which has a three-hour lecture only.

<u>**Classes**</u>

You will be allocated to a weekly one-hour support class where you will have the opportunity to work through exercises with a Teaching Assistant. Students are advised not to miss the support classes: practice on these exercises is going to be crucial for the final exam.

Assessment

- Generally, your final assessments will be exams in person
- Late submissions may incur a penalty, potentially a mark of zero
- You are able to submit an extenuating circumstances claim if you have valid reasons for a late/missed submission
- Unless instructed otherwise, collusion is an assessment offence (i.e. you may not work with someone else on your answers, unless you have specifically been instructed that you may do so)
- Plagiarism – copying or pretending someone else's work is your own – is always an assessment offence

Assessment

Total Grade in a module - with exceptions

80% Final exams

20% In-sessional assessment (mid-term test, coursework, etc.)

If you fail a module, another opportunity to pass by taking a re-sit exam (but mark capped at 50)

Dissertation Topics

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Literature review

Suggested topics:

- bubbles (e.g., housing “bubble” in 1990s & 2000s)
- behavioural pension plan design

Empirical project

Typically, redoing data analysis from published paper using different data set. Suggested paper(s):

- DeBondt and Thaler 1985 “Does the stock market overreact” (and, possibly, DeBondt and Thaler 1987 “Further evidence on investor overreaction and stock market seasonality”)

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Award Rules

Awards and Progression Rules	
Classification	College Mark
Distinction	70.0+
Merit	60.0+
Pass	50.0+
Fail (no award)	0.0 – 49.9

Semester A Dates

https://www.qmul.ac.uk/about/calendar/

- **Pre-sessionals and Induction (2 weeks):** 15 September – 26 September 2025
- **Lectures start:** 29 September 2025
- **Module registration deadline:** 9th October 2025
- **Careers week:** 03 – 07 November 2025 (no teaching)
- **Semester ends:** 12 December 2025
- **Semester A Examination Period :** 08 January - 23 January 2026

Semester B Dates

https://www.qmul.ac.uk/about/calendar/

- **Lectures start:** 26 January 2026
- **Careers week:** 03 - 07 March 2026 (no teaching)
- **Semester ends:** 17 April 2026
- **Bank holidays:** 3 April and 6 April 2026 (no teaching)
- **Semester B Exam Period:** 07 May - 05 June 2026

Semester C Dates

https://www.qmul.ac.uk/about/calendar/

- **Lectures start:** 02 June 2026
- **Semester ends :** 01 August 2026
- **Exam Revision Study period:** 04 - 15 August 2026
- **Semester C Exam Period:** 18 - 30 August 2026
- **Semester C resit exam period:** 01 - 12 December 2026

Lectures may start before the end of the Semester B exams, we will try to ensure that you don’t have an exam in that first week

If you require Semester C re-sits this will affect your graduation date, and may affect your ability to gain a Graduate Visa, so please bear this in mind.

Late Summer Examination Period

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- Late Summer Re-sit Period/Dissertations
- LSR period: 3 August - 14 August 2026
- This is predominantly for re-sits from Semester A and Semester B, but also for first attempts (“first sits”), where a student has missed an exam during Sem A and/or Sem B due to valid Extenuating Circumstances.
- If you require a re-sit assessment for one or more Semester C modules, you will re-sit in December 2026 which would delay your graduation.
- Dissertation and Research Project Submission Deadline: August 2026
- Revising for an exam is not an accepted reason for delaying the submission of your Dissertation or the Research Project.

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Module Registration

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1. Go to: https://mysis.qmul.ac.uk

2. Log in using your college username and password

3. Choose the modules (compulsory and electives) as listed before (see also Student Handbook)

4. You need to make your choices now, but there will be an opportunity to make changes to your Semester B modules, if needed, at the start of Semester B.

5. Enter your diet. Once you have entered it, we will check and confirm your selection.

6. **Deadline to enter your selections: 4pm on 9th October 2026**

Useful Links

Students may come to use **Extenuating Circumstances** because they have missed a mid-term or a piece of course work.
https://www.qmul.ac.uk/student-experience/student-wellbeing-hub/extenuating-circumstances-a-guide-for-students/

The Academic Regulations are available online at http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk/policy_zone/index.html#academic_policies

The School of Economics and Finance Handbook is available online at: https://qmplus.qmul.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=26005

The Student Guide is available online at: http://www.arcs.qmul.ac.uk

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Thank you for choosing SEF

We wish you all an exciting, challenging and rewarding experience!