

Programme Specification

MSc Professional Accounting

<i>School:</i>	York Business School
<i>Subject area:</i>	Business Management
<i>Entry from academic year:</i>	2024-25
<i>in the month(s) of:</i>	September
<i>Awarding institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Teaching institution:</i>	York St John University
<i>Delivery location:</i>	York St John University
<i>Programme/s accredited by:</i>	Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)
<i>Exit awards:</i>	Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Accounting Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Accounting MSc Accounting and International Business
<i>UCAS code / GTTR / other:</i>	Not applicable
<i>Joint Honours combinations:</i>	Not applicable
<i>QAA subject benchmark statement(s):</i>	Subject Benchmark Statement for Business Management (June 2015) Master's degree characteristics (September 2015)
<i>Mode/s of study:</i>	Non-standard period of study as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full-time for 18 months• Part-time for 3 years
<i>Language of study:</i>	English
<i>Paired with foundation year</i>	No
<i>Study abroad opportunities:</i>	No
<i>Placement year opportunity:</i>	No

Introduction and special features

The York Business School MSc Professional Accounting course allows you to gain a master's degree whilst at the same time preparing for the final four Strategic Professional examination papers of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). You'll learn to operate effectively within the global marketplace, enabling you to pursue a career in accounting or to further your knowledge of accounting standards and procedures.

This programme covers strategic financial issues that are important for accountants. You will gain an understanding of key issues and applied methodologies relating to management accounting, financial accounting and corporate finance. Alongside your master's qualification, you will be prepared to sit the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) final four Strategic Professional examination papers.

The programme provides you with an opportunity to develop an in-depth understanding of the theory and practice of accounting as well as the critical thinking skills so valued by employers. This is an ideal programme to choose if you are looking to pursue a career in accountancy. You will be exposed to the latest contemporary research in accounting to develop your critical thinking skills and develop and apply knowledge. Much of the learning is developed through the establishment of collaborative learning communities of programme participants and tutors and you will become part of that community of learning

here at York St John University. Your understanding is developed around the key skills, processes and practices of accounting. Solutions to real-world business problems are suggested, discussed and analysed within the learning community with the full support of tutors and fellow learners.

The York Business School MSc Professional Accounting brings together relevant contemporary academic theory and research with practical understanding of activities within organisations. This will be developed by enabling you to share knowledge, relate this to theories developed from relevant research, and learning by practical application. Through the development of an integrated and critically aware understanding of management in the context of contemporary accounting issues, the programme involves you in a demanding process of personal and professional development.

Special features of the programme include:

- Alongside your master's qualification, you will be prepared to sit the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) final four Strategic Professional examination papers
- Enables you to develop a sound understanding of the skills necessary to undertake a professional accounting role in any organisation
- Reflects the aspirations in the development of responsible and ethical leaders
- Emphasises on the combination of theoretical rigour and practical experience
- Assessment methods used to mirror organisational based activities
- Participation in active and supportive forums drawing on practical expertise
- Excellent personal and academic support throughout the programme

Admissions criteria

You must meet the University's general entry criteria for [postgraduate](#) study. In addition, you must have:

- A Bachelor's degree or equivalent, achieved at Class 2:2 or above, from an approved university or institution
- or
- Current or recent work experience (within the last two years) appropriate to enable you to contribute to the programme
- and
- Completion of ACCA applied knowledge and applied skills papers
- A pass in the Ethics and Professional Skills module

If your first language is not English, you need to take an IELTS test or an equivalent qualification accepted by the University (see <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/international/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/>).

If you do not have traditional qualifications, you may be eligible for entry on the basis of [Recognition of prior learning \(RPL\)](#). We also consider applications for entry with advanced standing.

Programme aim(s)

The overall aim of the programme is to develop your critical understanding and self-awareness of the issues relating to accounting. You will be supported as you:

- Develop critical awareness and understanding of business generally and professional accounting practices and procedures
- Develop the ability to connect theory with practice in creative and innovative ways and reflect upon the learning involved as well as the outcomes
- Develop critical awareness and understanding of the role of accountants within the context of business sustainability, corporate social responsibility and ethics, helping you undertake effective roles in business organisations as responsible and ethical accountants
- Develop and enhance life-long learning skills and personal development in order to work with self-direction and originality

Programme learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of the programme students will be able to:

Level 7

- 7.1 Critically reflect and evaluate management, leadership and team working skills and take a proactive, independent and self-reflective role in working and developing professional relationships with others
- 7.2 Formulate a critical awareness of current issues in accounting informed by contemporary research and practice
- 7.3 Design, conduct, analyse and disseminate an extended independent piece of research or business-related project from inception to completion
- 7.4 Apply fundamental leadership and ethical and professional principles to business situations and adopt a whole organisation approach to managing financial problems and creating value for a range of entities
- 7.5 Evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of various governance and reporting frameworks to internal and external stakeholders and the wider society
- 7.6 Advise on strategic business performance evaluation and on recognising corporate vulnerability in the context of an uncertain business environment
- 7.7 Use strategic planning, control and decision-making models to plan, monitor and report on organisational performance whilst recognising vulnerability in an uncertain environment
- 7.8 Identify and evaluate the design features of effective performance management information and monitoring systems and recognise the impact of developments in technology on financial and management control systems

Programme structure

Code	Level	Term	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
MBA7001M	7	1	Advanced Performance Management	15	C	X
MBB7001M	7	1	Researching Contemporary Business Issues	15	C	X
MBB7002M	7	1	Perspectives on Sustainable Business	15	C	X
MBA7002M	7	2	Advanced Financial Management	15	C	X
MBI7003M	7	2	Global Business Issues	15	C	X
MBA7003M	7	3	Strategic Business Reporting	30	C	X
MBA7004M	7	4	Strategic Business Leader	30	C	X
MBA7005M	7	2-4	Professional Accounting Dissertation	45	C	NC

Learning, teaching and assessment

A key part of the philosophy of the programme is that by bringing together relevant academic theory and practical experience, you can enhance your deep understanding of these elements, and develop yourself as an individual and as a leader.

Modules are delivered utilising a range of teaching, learning and assessment strategies with our partners including lectures and seminars. Each module has a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) where you and other master's level students will be encouraged to be involved with online debate and collaborative approaches to learning.

Support with study skills will be available for you from the start of the programme and will continue throughout your studies.

All modules are assessed through a programme of work undertaken whilst studying for the award. A range of assessment tools are used including presentations, critical essays, reflective journals and case study work. Each module tutor will provide opportunities for formative assessment feedback to inform your work prior to submission.

You will receive detailed feedback on assessment to help you develop and continuously improve your performance whilst on the programme. Advice will be provided in relation to development, further areas for research and guidance on how to enhance your subject knowledge.

You will receive the opportunity for study support including academic writing and research skills to enhance employability and career development in the field of business management.

Progression and graduation requirements

The University's [general regulations for](#) postgraduate awards apply to this programme.

Any modules that must be passed for progression or award are indicated in the Programme Structure section as non-compensatable.

In addition, the following programme-specific regulations apply in respect of progression and graduation:

- For those students who have passed and completed 105 credits at the end of Term 3, but decide to no longer pursue the accreditation, they would be eligible to progress onto the **MSc Accounting and International Business** award. Students would need to complete a change of programme form if they wished to pursue this option. On transferring to this award, students would complete *MBI7002M Contemporary Theories in International Business* and *MBI7001M International Trade and Business*.

Code	Level	Term	Title	Credits	Module status	
					compulsory or optional to take C or O	non-compensatable or compensatable NC or X
MBA7001M	7	1	Advanced Performance Management	15	C	X
MBB7001M	7	1	Researching Contemporary Business Issues	15	C	X
MBB7002M	7	1	Perspectives on Sustainable Business	15	C	X
MBA7002M	7	2	Advanced Financial Management	15	C	X
MBB7007M	7	2	Global Business Issues	15	C	X
MBA7003M	7	3	Strategic Business Reporting	30	C	X
MBI7002M	7	4	Contemporary Theories in International Business	15	C	X
MBI7001M	7	4	International Trade and Business	15	C	X

MBA7005M	7	2-4	Professional Accounting Dissertation	45	C	NC
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Internal and external reference points

This programme specification was formulated with reference to:

- [University mission and values](#)
- [University 2026 Strategy](#)
- [QAA subject benchmark statements](#)
- [Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- York St John University General Regulations for Postgraduate Awards
- QAA Master's degree characteristics (September 2015)
- Principles for Responsible Management Education (Prime): Inspirational Guide for the Implementation of Prime.
- Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

Date written / revised: June 2019

Programme originally approved: June 2019