

BA (Hons) Accounting & Finance

Programme Handbook

2017-2018

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Introduction

On behalf of the BA (Hons) Accounting & Finance programme team, I am delighted to welcome you to the University of Derby. We want this programme and your time at University to be enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding; and to prepare you for a satisfying career.

The BA (Hons) Accounting and Finance degree aims to equip you with an accounting and general business education which will better enable you to take up management positions within industry and commerce. Indeed, for many of you, it will equip you with the knowledge and skill to pursue a career in accounting with the ability to become qualified accountants. In order to achieve this aim we offer an accounting curriculum that is up to date, vocationally relevant, challenging and reflects the complex nature of the accounting and business environment. At the completion of the Accounting and Finance programme you will gain significant exemptions from a number of the professional accounting bodies.

We sincerely hope that you will find your time at Derby to be enriching and enjoyable. We are thoroughly committed to enabling you to achieve your full potential, both academically and personally. The programme team is here to help you to achieve this.

This handbook is intended to give you an introduction to the programme and will supplement the general University guidance you will receive. Information, advice and comments that are specific to the subject areas of accountancy and finance are contained in this handbook. We hope it contains the answers to most problems, but please let us know straight away if you need any further help or advice. We hope that you find the handbook helpful and that your time here at Derby proves fruitful and enjoyable.

The First Week and Beyond

You must attend your course from the very first day. The first week is extremely important for new students as it provides you with a valuable opportunity to orientate yourself and to make new friends. During this time, you will be given information required for successful study with Aventis and University of Derby, there will be lectures, presentations and activities to help introduce you to your degree course and to each other.

During the first day of class, you will be given a Course Syllabus for each of your core modules. There will be detail information about the module including the teaching schedule and assessment details. It is useful to look at the assessment details early on so that you can plan your work in advance.

When you get your course timetable, you will notice that the vast majority of your time will not be spent in class sessions. Please remember that this is a part time course and that you are expected to do your own independent learning outside of class contact hours. It is expected that you will spend between 35 and 40 hours per week on your study for each module, of which at least 50 per cent will be independent study. Obviously, how you manage your time and organise your independent learning outside of contact hours is up to you but do not be tempted to omit the independent study.

Text Books and Pre-Reading

Many students feel that they would like to get started on their reading before the semester begins. It is advised that, rather than getting the course text books, you do the following to help prepare for your course:

- Either continue, or get into the habit of, reading a serious newspaper and following news and current affairs programmes on the radio or television. You will find a number of your subjects easier if your general knowledge is sound.
- Take any opportunity to advance your computer abilities. You will need to be capable of word-processing your work and using spreadsheets.

Programme Structure

Programme title: BA (Hons) Accounting & Finance

Final award: Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting & Finance

Stage three of the programme is delivered as a top-up award by Aventis School of Management in Singapore. Students who complete that programme will graduate with the award of **Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Accounting & Finance**.

Students who do not achieve enough credits for an honours degree, but meet the requirements for this award will be awarded a **Bachelor of Arts in Accounting & Finance**

Programme Timetable

The top-up programme is designed to be taken over a nine months period. Typically Part-time students will take two years to complete the programme. The maximum period of registration on the programme is three years for full time students and seven years for part-time students.

The diagram below identifies the modules available to you. All students take four single modules and one double module. Modules identified as prescribed must be taken by all students on BA (Hons) Accounting & Finance.



Assessment Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes

Please see our website for full information: www.derby.ac.uk/academic-regulations

This programme operates within the Universities' Regulatory Framework and conforms with its regulations on assessment.

Please note you should be aware of the full academic "Rights, Responsibilities and Regulations" (3Rs) document which contains the academic regulations in full. These can be accessed at: <http://www.derby.ac.uk/qed/3rs/>

Now that you've enrolled for 2016/17 academic year, you'll need to be aware of this year's regulations. It is important that you understand what they are and what they might mean for you. For more detail take a look at www.derby.ac.uk/regs. Below are brief explanations of some of the assessment terms you need to be familiar with:

Assessment Component

Each 20 credit module will require you to undertake a series of assessments. The type of assessment is individual to each module and clear information about each assessment can be found at the module pages for each module you are studying.

Summary of Assessment deadlines

Each module consists of a Module Handbook and assignment details. Therefore staff should not be expected to supply information which have already made available.

Module mark

The weightings of each component are applied to the marks achieved in each component of assessment when calculating the overall module mark. If a student passes a module, by achieving an average mark of at least 40%, the credit is awarded. To pass a module the average of the marks for the assessment components must be at least 40% and at least a mark of 35% must be achieved in each assessment component. Where this has not been achieved, credits are not awarded and the referral regulations apply. It is not possible to retake a module that has been passed, unless there is allowance made by an external body associated with the programme, explicitly stated in the programme specification. To see how your work will be graded please view the undergraduate marking scale in the university assessment regulations.

Passing Module

A student passes a module, by achieving an average mark of at least 40%.

Failing modules

A module is failed if:

- i. The work submitted is not of a high enough standard to warrant an overall mark of at least 40% for the module.
- ii. Work has not been submitted for the module assessments. If a student fails to submit an assignment a mark of NS will be recorded.
- iii. The student has committed academic offences and a penalty of failing the module has been imposed.

If a student fails a module, the appropriate option from the following will apply:

Referral

A Referral is when a student does not pass an assessment component at the first attempt they may be offered the opportunity to submit further work to achieve a pass standard. If the referral work is of a pass standard, the work will be marked at 40%.

Deferral

A deferral is an approved extension to a deadline of an assessment. A deferred assessment will not have the grade capped at 40%. A deferral can occur in respect of illness, or other valid cause, is given only if you have submitted a formal written claim (EEC) and has provided acceptable evidence according to the regulations. If the EEC panel decides to uphold a claim one of the remedies is to offer the opportunity for the student to resubmit the work by a revised deadline. This is a deferral.

Deadlines for resubmission of work will usually be within the same academic year. In the case of examinations the student will normally be directed to take the assessment at the next available exam period. The full range of marks will be available provided the work is submitted in line with the approved deadline. If, following deferral, the assessment is not submitted by the stipulated date, the assessment is considered failed and the referral regulations apply.

Exceptional Extenuating Circumstances, AED & late submissions

Assessed Extended Deadline (AED)/ support plans

Students with disabilities or long term health issues are entitled to a Support Plan and if you feel you have a disability which affects your academic performance it is your responsibility to contact Student Advisory Service and discuss whether a support plan is appropriate. Please see [Assessed Extended Deadline \(AED\)](#) for more detail.

Exceptional Extenuating Circumstances (EEC)

The Exceptional Extenuating Circumstance (EEC) policy applies to situations where serious, unforeseen circumstances prevent the student from completing the assignment on time or to the normal standard. Please see [Exceptional Extenuating Circumstances \(EEC\)](#) for more detail.

All EEC claims will be considered by College/UDC panels, which will convene on a **monthly basis**. In clear-cut cases, where a quick response is required, decisions may be made through Chair's action.

Late Submission

Late Submission covers unexpected and severe disruption to study, where circumstances do not require the additional time allowed for by an EEC. Late submission is intended to address circumstances of a similar severity to those covered by an EEC, but a student can request a late submission for their current assessment.

A Request for late submission should be made to the relevant **Discipline Head** in the College (or Head of Joint Honours for joint honours students) who can authorise

an extension of up to a maximum of one week. The Subject Manager will expect to see compelling evidence that such an extension is appropriate.

Please see [Late Submission](#) for more detail.

Retaking Modules

If you have failed a module (mark below 40%) at the first attempt, including any referral opportunity, there is normally an entitlement to re-enrol for, and retake, the module in full once more. Retaking necessitates attendance and requires completion of all the assessments. Any assessment marks from the previous attempt at the module cannot be carried forward.

If you have failed the module, including the referral opportunity on the second attempt there is no automatic entitlement to a further attempt. The offer of a third attempt is at the discretion of the Assessment Board, and will only be made if there are compelling reasons to support that decision.

Students may only attempt a module in its entirety a maximum of three times, subject to additional requirements of relevant professional bodies, external agencies or UABEC. The maximum overall mark available for a retaken module is 40%.

Academic Offences

All assignment or examination work you submit **must** be your own. When students hand in work that is not their own, they are committing an academic offence because they are essentially stealing the work of others. We have a variety of means for detecting academic offences, so students **will** get caught and they could face failure of a module or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about plagiarism, collusion and other academic offenses, please see <http://www.derby.ac.uk/academicoffences/whatis>

To develop a greater knowledge of plagiarism, which is a particularly significant academic offence, see <http://www.derby.ac.uk/academicoffences/plagiarism>

Computer misuse that amounts to a criminal offence will entitle the University to terminate your registration with immediate effect, whether or not the act was committed using the University's facilities or equipment."

Outcomes of Assessment

| % mark | Mark Descriptors | Class |
|---------|---|---------------|
| 70-100% | Excellent Outstanding; high to very high standard; a high level of critical analysis and evaluation, incisive original thinking; commendable originality; exceptionally well researched; high quality presentation; exceptional clarity of ideas; excellent coherence and logic. Trivial or very minor errors. | First |
| 60-69% | Very good A very good standard; a very good level of critical analysis and evaluation; significant originality; well researched; a very good standard of presentation; pleasing clarity of ideas; thoughtful and effective presentation; very good sense of coherence and logic; minor errors only. | Second Div 1 |
| 50-59% | Good A good standard; a fairly good level of critical analysis and evaluation; some evidence of original thinking or originality; quite well researched; a good standard of presentation; ideas generally clear and coherent, some evidence of misunderstandings; some deficiencies in presentation. | Second Div 2 |
| 40-49% | Satisfactory A sound standard of work; a fair level of critical analysis and evaluation; little evidence of original thinking or originality; adequately researched; a sound standard of presentation; ideas fairly clear and coherent, some significant misunderstandings and errors; some weakness in style or presentation but satisfactory overall. | Third |
| 35-39% | Unsatisfactory Overall marginally unsatisfactory; some sound aspects but some of the following weaknesses are evident; inadequate critical analysis and evaluation; little evidence of originality; not well researched; standard of presentation unacceptable; ideas unclear and incoherent; some significant errors and misunderstandings. Marginal fail. | Marginal Fail |
| 1-34% | Very poor Well below the pass standard; a poor critical analysis and evaluation; no evidence of originality; poorly researched; standard of presentation totally unacceptable; ideas confused and incoherent, some serious misunderstandings and errors. A clear fail well short of the pass standard. At the bottom of the range the work demonstrates nothing of merit. | Fail |
| NS | Non-submission No work has been submitted. | |
| Z | Academic offence notation Applies to proven instances of academic offence. | |

Student Responsibilities

Understanding what is expected

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that (s)he understands the assessment criteria and learning outcomes against which their work will be marked. Continual engagement with the delivery of the module is important to enable a student to gain this understanding, and to fulfil their responsibility to the learning experience of fellow students.

Academic offences

Students must understand what constitutes an academic offence, including plagiarism, collusion, breach of examination room regulations, and ensure that they do not commit such offences in their studies and assessments.

Policy for Late Entry to Classes by Students

While anyone may occasionally suffer some problem that results in them being late for a class, it is clear that some students are persistent offenders in this respect. This behaviour is perceived both by students and staff as most disruptive, discourteous and not to be condoned.

Classification of Awards

Degree Classification

| Classification | Threshold mark | Borderline range |
|-------------------------|--|------------------|
| First Class | 70% | 68-69.99% |
| Second class division 1 | 60% | 58-59.99% |
| Second class division 2 | 50% | 48-49.99% |
| Third class | Achievement of credit requirements for honours | |

Progression Standards: Recommendations and Requirements

The University reserves the right to restrict or redirect the studies, or terminate the registration, of any student whose performance gives cause for serious concern, as demonstrated by repeated or wholesale failure.

Electronic Submission Guide (for all modules)

Assessment Submission Guide

All students will be required to submit assignments electronically. You'll find an electronic assignment submission area in Course Resources in UDo.

This document gives **general advice** to you as students on how to use this feature. There may be some programmes and modules where this feature is used slightly differently. Your lecturers will inform and advise you if this is the case.

Further guidelines on using the electronic submission system can be found on: www.derby.ac.uk/esub

Below are general notes for all students for electronic submission:

Deadlines

- Your tutor will set assignment deadlines for all online submissions and clearly communicate these to you. We do however advise you to submit drafts prior to the deadline as part of managing your workload and to take advantage of the opportunity to modify your work prior to your final submission in the light of the plagiarism checking function.
- The electronic submission area will continue to accept work after the due date – please note the date and time of submission will be recorded to identify late submissions.

Format and File Details

- Your assignment must be submitted as **one single file**. Don't split your assignment, bibliography or appendix items into separate documents.
- Your tutor will clearly set out the format requirements. File name submitted must be in the following format:

<Full name as per NRIC>_<Student ID>_<Module Code>_<Assignment>

For example: OngAhBeeEsther_123456789_6HR500_CW1

- Your submitted file must be **less than 10 MB** in size. You'll find advice on www.derby.ac.uk/esub/ on some easy ways to reduce file sizes.
- Assignments may be in **MS Word, WordPerfect, PostScript, PDF, HTML, RTF** or **plain text** format.
- If you have hand written work such as calculations or sketches, these can be scanned and incorporated in a PDF for submission. You'll find advice on www.derby.ac.uk/esub/ on where and how to scan. You'll need to ensure that documents containing scans have as well at least 20 words of typed text.

Submitting

- **Remember: assignment submission is a two-step process.**
 1. First you select your file and click **UPLOAD**.
 2. Then, after viewing the basic preview of your assignment, you must click **SUBMIT**. Your assignment is not submitted until you have done so and email confirmation received.
- **Preview your assignment:** on clicking UPLOAD a preview of your assignment will be displayed. This is a text-only preview and will not show footnotes, illustrations and formatting, so don't worry if it looks like basic text. Its purpose is to allow you to check the correct file has been selected for upload and that it hasn't been corrupted during the submission process. The preview is purely an indication for you; the tutor will receive the fully formatted version for marking.
- **It is your responsibility to check the work you've submitted is the correct piece of work and it's not corrupted** – the work you submit will be the work that is marked; you'll be asked to acknowledge this as part of the submission process.
- **Confirmation of successful submission** will be provided by an automatic email delivered to your student email address. This is your proof of submission - do not delete this email. **If you don't receive this receipt**, go into Course Resources and look for and at your submitted file. If you cannot see any submitted file, your submission may not have been successful and you should attempt to resubmit. Advice on the confirmation process, how to view your submitted work and what to do if your submission is still not accepted, can be found at www.derby.ac.uk/esub/.

Resubmitting Assignments before the deadline

- **Before the assignments deadline** has passed submitted assignments are considered draft and can be resubmitted/overwritten repeatedly. To resubmit work click the resubmit button from the assignment submission screen. We recommend you submit early to take advantage of the plagiarism detection tool and then amend and resubmit if you can further enhance and improve your work. You don't need to resubmit if you're happy with your first submission, your draft version will become your actual submission.
- **After the assignment deadline** assignments cannot be resubmitted.
- If all attempts to submit your assignment via Course Resources fail, in the first instance visit www.derby.ac.uk/esub for advice and guidance.

What happens if the Submission System is down

- If the system is down, we'll be aware of this and communicate widely to you via UDo and www.derby.ac.uk/esub
- You'll receive notification the system is down and be asked to stop submitting work.
- Once the system is back online you'll be advised to start submitting and an appropriate extension will be given.
- If you've not received official notification that the system is down and you experience problems you must contact an [IT helpdesk](#) to seek support in the first instance.

Difficulties

1. If you're having difficulties accessing Course Resources, your course, or your assignment screen, go to www.derby.ac.uk/esub or one of the IT helpdesks situated in the library. During peak submission points there will be submission clinics on all sites staffed by fellow students who will be able to help you.
1. If you have a condition that would make it difficult to submit online, please contact your Module Leader to seek additional student support.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICE

Singapore Student Support Centre

| Name | Email |
|--|--|
| Aventis Student Service Executive: Jiahui | studentservices@aventisglobal.edu.sg |

Communication and being Green

We are committed to reducing its carbon footprint and unnecessary printing. Therefore, all communications you receive from us will be by email or online. You will have access to University of Derby platform for information about your course and modules and get your module results.

You can access them both on and off campus.

Email

We will email you with any important information about your timetable and module. It is your responsibility to make sure you read what we send you and make sure your mailbox does not get full (you will not be able to send/receive mail if it is full).

Academic Staff

It is always a good idea to raise any module based questions with the teaching staff during class time. Academic staff also has office hours when you can arrange to meet them. It is normally best to email academics for appointments.

What If Things Go Wrong?

Personal problems: If you have personal problems or concerns you should speak to your course administrator.

Module specific academic problems: If you are having problems with an individual module, you should first approach the module leader or lecturer. If your concern cannot be resolved, then you should approach your Student Service Officer.

General academic queries: If you have general queries about your course or the regulations, you should speak to your course tutor or Student Service Officer.

Administrative problems: If you experience problems of an administrative nature (e.g. timetable clashes, illness, etc), you should inform your Student Service Officer.

Withdrawal/interruption: If you wish to withdraw from the university or temporarily suspend your studies, you must notify your Student Service Officer in writing as soon as possible. Interruption, without formally notifying us, may result in the year being considered as an attempt at the modules.

If you have any problems that are affecting your ability to study, please seek help or advise early – the earlier we know about any problems the better chance we have to help you.