2019

MASTER OF APPLIED FINANCE

VICTORIA BUSINESS SCHOOL
ŌRAUARIKI
Victoria University of Wellington has been awarded five stars overall in the QS global university ratings. In addition, the University received five stars in each of the eight categories.
MASTER OF APPLIED FINANCE

We aim for our graduates to hit the ground running—and to know which end to run to! The Master of Applied Finance programme features an instrumental approach in which you’ll learn by doing. This is combined with a sound conceptual base so you understand why you are doing something.

Other features of the programme:

■ Computer skills and financial modelling are an integral part of the programme.

■ The programme has been designed and developed in consultation with accrediting professional bodies.

■ Lecturers are drawn from the industry as well as academia.

■ Support and networking among participants is a strong part of the programme.

■ Courses host guest speakers from the financial industry, and participants will meet the authoritative, the influential, and the trendsetting.

■ The programme’s location is in the heart of Wellington, the centre of New Zealand’s deregulated financial markets and home of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand and the Treasury.
CAREERS
This programme is for you if you work, or hope to do so, as any of the following:

- board director
- corporate and bank treasury staff: dealer, back office, risk manager
- corporate banker
- corporate financial planner
- financial communication or data specialist
- fund manager, investment adviser
- government or local body financial controller
- industry regulator
- investment banker
- management consultant, lawyer or accountant
- stockbroker, commodity or futures broker.

QUALIFICATIONS
- Postgraduate Certificate in Financial Markets Analysis
- Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Analysis
- Postgraduate Diploma in Treasury Management
- Master of Applied Finance

These qualifications have a common theme: they are concerned with the principles, practice, and operations of financial markets, and the management of corporate, government, and financial institutions in their interface with the markets. They also have a common objective: to equip participants with the conceptual understanding and the operational skills to survive and prosper in the international world of deregulated and volatile financial markets.

ACCREDITATION
The programme is designed to satisfy educational requirements for membership of the following professional finance bodies:

- Finance and Treasury Association (FTA)
- Financial Services Institute of Australasia (FINSIA)
- Institute of Finance Professionals New Zealand (INFINZ)

Further concordances are being developed with other international societies.

TEACHING STYLE
Master of Applied Finance (MAF) courses are taught using either a weekly lecture or modular lecture format.

In the modular lecture format:

- Personal contact hours are concentrated in two sessions per course instead of weekly lectures. These sessions constitute the two modules, and each module extends over approximately two and a half days or equivalent. Full attendance at both modules is compulsory.
- The duration of each course is about four to five months.
- Modules for different courses run concurrently to avoid disruption to your professional responsibilities and to minimise transportation costs. Teaching modules can fall on either weekdays or weekends and occasionally run on public holidays.
- Reading, assignments and, in some cases, tutorials, are done before modules in your own time, and contact can be made with the course lecturer by email.
- Modules include a selection of the following features—visiting speakers, group discussions, formal lectures, computer lab sessions, workshops, simulations, tests, and even a social life, if you so choose.

Overall, approximately 50 percent of the courses are taught using the modular format.
ADMISSION CRITERIA

Admission criteria for the postgraduate certificate, postgraduate diplomas and the MAF are formally laid down in the statutes in the University Calendar. All are postgraduate qualifications, which means that most candidates will already have a university degree (though there are some exceptions). Previous study in economics, finance, accounting, or mathematics is generally helpful. Also, students with engineering and/or computer science backgrounds tend to be successful in the programme.

Applicants for the MAF are usually required to have relevant professional experience. In some cases, we will advise or require a candidate to enrol initially for the Postgraduate Certificate in Financial Markets Analysis or Postgraduate Certificate in Financial Analysis, with a view to transferring to the Master’s degree at a later date.

Personal qualities are also important. A capacity for independent thought is highly valued, and we encourage healthy scepticism about the world and the way it runs.

Although finance is a quantitative subject, you should not feel discouraged about the rustiness of your mathematical skills. We can suggest carefully managed catch-up work in the early stages that will help ensure you gain the most value from your study. However, you should be aware that you are going to acquire computational and quantitative skills and, if you feel completely paralysed by the thought, this programme may not be for you. If you have not studied mathematics and statistics at undergraduate level (100 level or above) we will normally require you to enrol in such courses in preparation. If this is likely to apply to you, we suggest getting in touch as soon as possible to discuss this.

You must have the time available for the programme you have chosen, and you must feel a sense of commitment to complete your course of study—that can, at times, be quite demanding.

DURATION

Most of our students study part time. Their demanding professional lives mean that they find it difficult to tackle more than one or two courses at a time. Courses take, on average, 12 to 14 hours’ study per week. For the Master’s degree, there is a minimum completion time of 12 to 16 months, and a maximum of six years. For each of the two postgraduate diplomas, the minimum is two trimesters (eight months) and the maximum is four years. For the postgraduate certificate, the minimum completion time is one trimester and the maximum is two years.

Courses generally run in a cycle of 12 to 24 months, depending on the topic. The foundation courses are generally taught in the first trimester of each year.
TEACHING STAFF
Our staff represent a diverse human resources portfolio. Some are highly active in research, some in the affairs of professional societies, others in consulting or in their own professional careers. We view their diversity as a strength that has enabled us to construct a unique programme.

In the latest external Performance-Based Research Fund quality education report, Victoria University was rated number one in New Zealand for research quality. Because our teaching staff are enthusiastic and passionate researchers, you should be open to, and interested in, learning about recent research and trends in finance.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE
- Postgraduate Certificate in Financial Markets Analysis (three courses)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Financial Analysis (six courses)
- Postgraduate Diploma in Treasury Management (six courses)
- Master of Applied Finance (nine courses)

For all qualifications, students have a degree of flexibility when it comes to their course choice, and programmes can be tailored towards a student’s interests or career plans.

Certificate students are required to complete any three courses from the MAF schedule. Certificate students tend to have very specific objectives tied to the qualification. For example, a lawyer working in a finance area might enrol to gain exposure to financial concepts.

Diploma and MAF students are required to complete both Global Capital Markets and Corporate Finance courses, which are both taught in Trimester 1 each year. In addition, Diploma and MAF students are required to complete four or seven additional courses respectively.

If you are initially accepted into either the Certificate or Diploma programmes, you can apply to transfer to the Master’s degree at a later stage. Both your performance in the programme and your professional work experience will be taken into account when assessing your application.

Go to our website for further information regarding programme structure and course advice.

www.victoria.ac.nz/maf
COURSES

PART 1 COURSES
Diploma and MAF students are required to complete Part 1 courses. Each course has a value of 20 points.

MMAF 510 GLOBAL CAPITAL MARKETS
A review of the institutional details and the application of finance theory to global financial markets. Asset classes, financial instruments, security trading, and financial institutions. Risk, return, portfolio capital allocation, and the capital asset pricing model. Bond pricing, interest rates, term structure, and bond portfolios. Risk management using future markets and swaps. (Trimester 1)

MMAF 502 CORPORATE FINANCE
An in-depth review of the interface between corporate finance and the markets, from the vantage point of the corporate treasurer. Firm and project valuations through cash flow analysis, discounting in various forms, the cost of capital, the process of setting risk premiums, and risk analysis. Implications of long-term financing decisions to the cost of capital. Valuation of projects through real-options analysis. (Trimester 1)

PART 2 COURSES
Each course has a points value of 20 (with the exception of MMAF 550, which is 40 points).

MMAF 511 INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE FINANCE

MMAF 512 TREASURY MANAGEMENT
The financing and management of the organisation from the perspective of the Treasury function. Financing growth through internal cash flow, long-term debt, leasing, equity, convertible debt, and trade finance. Optimal management of cash, inventory, and credit policies. Management and strategies relative to multinational taxes and capital budgeting. (Trimester 2)

MMAF 513 TREASURY OPERATIONS
The application of the theories of financial intermediation to bank treasury operations. The institutional and regulatory aspects of financial institutions. Topics covered: financial intermediation theory, regulatory bank capital, risk management, stress testing, liquidity management, stakeholder engagement, bank strategy, and bank governance. (Trimester 3)

MMAF 514 DERIVATIVES
Forwards and futures, options, synthetics, exotics and associated products. Pricing from the first principles and from no arbitrage methodology. Use in portfolio hedging and in open position taking. Contexts covered include equity, fixed interest, and commodity and foreign exchange. Trading conventions and techniques. (Trimester 2)

MMAF 515 FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS MANAGEMENT
The application of the theories of financial intermediation to financial institutions management. On- and off-balance-sheet banking, syndicated lending, securitisation, contingent claims, project finance, and treasury management. Risk management of assets, liabilities, and liquidity. (Trimester 1)

MMAF 516 PORTFOLIO DESIGN AND INVESTMENT
Advanced topics in investments and asset pricing. Extends the capital asset pricing model and introduces the arbitrage pricing theory model. Explores the use of asset pricing to evaluate fund performance, and the use of portfolio theory for active tactical investment decisions. (Trimester 2)

MMAF 524 FINANCIAL ECONOMETRICS
An operational course on financial econometrics that reviews some of the existing literature and investigates some current research areas. The course applies the theory of allowing participants to work through a number of questions with a range of financial data sets. (Trimester 2)
MMAF 525 FINANCIAL MODELLING
Develop spreadsheet models using Microsoft Excel to tackle finance questions such as risk analysis via simulation and bootstrapping, portfolio analysis, efficient frontier estimation, value at risk, equity and interest rate modelling, and bond credit-risk models. Using the Python programming language, extend and scale these models. (Trimester 1)

MMAF 531 SPECIAL TOPIC: EARLY STAGE FINANCING
An in-depth review of the financing of early stage companies from the vantage point of both the entrepreneur and the financier (e.g. venture capitalist or angel investor). Operational financial management including pro-forma financial statements, cash-to-cash cycles, and working capital needs. Evaluate early-stage investments using multiple investment criteria. Financing methods such as multiple rounds, convertible notes, and hybrids. (Trimester 1)

MMAF 534 SPECIAL TOPIC: INSTITUTIONAL INVESTMENT
An in-depth review of the main strategies used by hedge funds and proprietary traders. Topics include institutional issues, trading mechanisms, market liquidity, risk management, performance management, and trading strategy appraisal. (Trimester 1)

MMAF 537 SPECIAL TOPIC: MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS
An integrated approach to mergers and acquisitions, business alliances, and corporate restructuring. Topics covered include the market for corporate control; legal and regulatory considerations; the planning, implementation, and integration processes; merger valuation; deal structure; alternative exit and restructuring activities; and cross-border mergers. (Trimester 2)

OTHER OPTIONS THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE
- MMAF 527 Special Topic: Derivative Securities
- MMAF 528 Special Topic: Current Topics in Corporate Finance
- MMAF 529 Special Topic: Portfolio Theory
- MMAF 532 Special Topic: Advanced Econometrics B
- MMAF 535 Special Topic: Corporate Governance
- MMAF 550 Research Paper (40 points)
For administrative or academic enquiries, contact:

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