

Programme changes - MSc Economics and Finance (January start)

At York each degree programme has its own, tailored set of distinctive learning outcomes. These won't change, no matter what your location or mode of delivery, and our academics are working hard to ensure your programmes and modules next year continue to inspire and motivate you.

Your health and safety is our number one priority and in light of the Covid-19 pandemic we have needed to make changes to some of your programmes of study for the coming academic year. This document summarises the changes that are planned.

Programme(s)	• MSc Economics and Finance (January 2021 start)
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Summary of Overall Plans

Because of current UK Government guidelines on social distancing, the University has decided that there will be no 'face-to-face' lectures in Autumn Term, and is assuming for planning purposes that this will remain the case for the whole academic year. Lecture material will instead be delivered online, through the University's vle ('virtual learning environment'), normally in the form of (specially) pre-recorded videos made available on the module's vle site.

Face-to-face contact will be maintained as far as possible for seminars, practicals, workshops etc. However social distancing here implies that face-to-face groups will generally have to be smaller than usual, and therefore more numerous than usual in each module. This in itself increases the demand, from all Departments, on teaching space. So some 'rationing' of face-to-face meetings is necessary.

In our MSc programmes, our core modules in Microeconomics and Econometrics are relatively intensive in seminars, practicals and workshops, and are taken by almost all of our students. Furthermore these are the modules that provide students with key 'core' skills and analytical techniques applicable across other modules on their programme.

So we are planning to keep as face-to-face, throughout Spring and Summer Terms, all seminars, practicals and workshops in these modules. Those relevant to MSc Economics and Finance are:

- ECO0002M *Advanced Microeconomics*
- ECO00047M *Econometrics 1&2*

All other modules in this programme will be delivered entirely online, typically using the vle's online-conferencing tools for any live ('synchronous') sessions.

Because of travel restrictions, self-isolation etc, some students may be unable to join us here at York, and will be participating only online. For those elements of a module that are face-to-face, our intention is to provide as near as possible equivalent online contact for these students. Those elements of a module that are online only will be accessible equally to all students.

Also because of social distancing, the University is planning for there to be no closed examinations in 2020-21. Some of your modules will still be assessed by exam, but 'open' (i.e. with access to course materials) and online. Some other assessments may be changed from exam to project or essay-type assessment. We are working to finalise the details of this.

Programme Structures

We have made some changes to the structure of the programme. This is so that, in the current circumstances, we can focus our preparation and delivery more effectively on the modules that are most important to students on this programme, while still offering a good selection of options.

For January starters in MSc Economics and Finance, the taught programme (prior to the dissertation) comprises 100 credits as follows.

core (compulsory) modules

- ECO00002M *Advanced Microeconomics* (20 credits)
- ECO00020M *Financial Markets* (10 credits)
- ECO00028M *Advanced Macroeconomics 2* (10 credits)
- ECO00040M *Theory of Finance* (20 credits) *
- ECO00047M *Econometrics 1&2* (20 credits)

option modules 20 credits from:

- ECO00007M *Continuous Time Finance* (10 credits)
- ECO00008M *Corporate Finance* (10 credits)
- ECO00014M *Emerging Market Macroeconomics* (10 credits)
- ECO00017M *Financial Engineering* (10 credits)
- ECO00021M *Financial Risk Management* (10 credits)
- ECO00032M *Investment and Portfolio Management* (10 credits)
- ECO00036M *Public Sector Economics* (10 credits) **
- ECO00041M *Time Series* (10 credits)
- ECO00042M *Topics in Financial Econometrics* (10 credits)
- ECO00055M *Design and Analysis of Mechanisms and Institutions* (10 credits) **
- ECO00056M *Fixed Income Securities* (10 credits) **
- ECO00076M *Money and Banking* (10 credits) **

* ECO00040M normally runs over two terms. In 2020-21 it will run in one term, which for January starters will be Spring Term.

** ECO00036M, ECO00055M, ECO00056M and ECO00076M will run in Spring Term simultaneously for September and January starters.

Please note also that the Department reserves the right to withdraw any option module with an enrolment of less than 10 students.