

Programme change proposals - MSc Financial Engineering

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 proposed.

Programme(s)	MSc Financial Engineering
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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.

This programme is delivered jointly by the Mathematics and Economics Departments.

In Mathematics, there will be regular (normally every two weeks) face-to-face sessions in most modules, the exceptions being where there are either pedagogical reasons for not having face-to-face contact (such as computer practicals, where social distancing removes any practical benefit of them) or for staffing issues (such as when the lecturer is shielding). Each module will have an online weekly office hour, giving you additional access to your lecturer.

In Economics, it is planned to maintain the normal schedule of face-to-face meetings in the core module *Econometrics 1&2* (ECO00047M), comprising weekly practical sessions, and also seminars (three meetings in Autumn term, and four meetings in Spring Term). This is an important module that provides key 'core' skills and analytical techniques applicable across other modules. All other Economics modules 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 details of this.

Programme Structures

There are two minor structural changes planned for this programme in 2020-21, each involving a specific module.

- *Econometric Methods for Research* (ECO00044M) will not be available as an alternative to *Econometrics 1&2* (ECO00047M)
- *Fixed Income Securities* (ECO00056M), an option module for this programme, will run in Spring Term instead of Autumn Term as normally scheduled.