



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

MSc Forensic Accounting

Quality Assurance, Academic Standards and Quality and Partnerships

Department of Student and Academic Administration

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course specification for *MSc Forensic Accounting*

Course Title	MSc Forensic Accounting		
Final Award	MSc		
Exit Awards	PG cert, PGDip		
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	P2401FTC	P2041PTC	
Mode of study	Full Time	Part Time	DL
Mode of delivery	Campus		
Normal length of course	1 Year	30 Months	
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	From September 2020 intake onwards		
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth		
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth		
Faculty	Faculty of Business and Law		
School/Department/Subject Group	Accounting Economics and Finance		
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	Faculty of Business and Law		
Course webpage including entry criteria	Forensic Accounting		
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	None		
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 7		

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

There is an increasing demand globally for the specialist knowledge and skills relating to the practice of forensic accounting, defined as “...the application of accounting principles, theories, and disciplines to facts or hypotheses at issue in a legal dispute, and encompasses every branch of accounting knowledge.” (Technical Working Group for Education in Fraud and Forensic Accounting USA, 2007).

The MSc Forensic accounting aims to provide a progressive, challenging and stimulating framework of study and to equip students to work as professionals in the field of forensic accounting. Through advanced scholarship and application of professional forensic accounting tools, models, techniques, and knowledge, graduates will gain the necessary comprehensive skills in this specialist expert area. The programme covers the core areas of forensic accounting: dispute and litigation support, expert witnessing, fraud examination, and regulatory investigations. It also covers business valuation, assessment of economic damages, proceeds of crime, and fraud.

More generally the programme aims to:

- Provide learning relevant to the development of a fulfilling professional career.
- Provide an accredited qualification which will enhance graduates’ career development and professional advancement.
- Develop a range of key professional and personal skills through the provision of a wide number of opportunities in the study programme
- Accommodate the diversity of student backgrounds and variety of intended professional focus within a flexible programme of study.
- Develop a critical, questioning, evaluative approach in the assessment of financial data.
- Develop investigatory and research skills of a professional nature.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding:

Postgraduates will have a systematic knowledge and critical awareness of the discipline/area of Forensic Accounting. In order to show this they will be able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	Assess, synthesise, and evaluate the relevant professional and theoretical material in the areas of forensic accounting, litigation advisory services, fraud, and criminology.	Lectures Seminars Group work Class discussions	Essays Reports Exams Presentations
A2	Explain the theoretical and practical models and techniques which are applied in the practice of forensic accounting.	Lectures Seminars Group work Class discussions	Essays Reports Exams Presentations

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills:

Postgraduates will be developed critical thinkers. In order to show this they will be able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Identify, define, and explore forensic accounting concepts using logical and creative approaches.	Lectures Seminars Group work Class discussions	Essays Reports Exams Presentations
B2	Analyse and critically evaluate evidence in the field of forensic accounting and financial crime from a range of sources and demonstrate how it may be applied in practice.	Lectures Seminars Group work Class discussions	Essays Reports Exams Presentations

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills:

Postgraduates will have an entrepreneurial mind-set that allows them to apply their knowledge to solve real life problems in their field, working independently and with originality. In order to show this they will be able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Reach conclusions clearly supported by their analysis of forensic accounting information.	Lectures Seminars Group work Class discussions	Essays Reports Exams Presentations
C2	Assess, evaluate, and synthesise evidence concerning forensic accounting information.	Lectures Seminars Group work Class discussions	Essays Reports Exams Presentations

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills:

Postgraduates will be effective communicators. Postgraduates will have a critical awareness of ethical and sustainability issues, including aspects of economic, environmental, and social responsibility in a global context. In order to show this they will be able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Communicate their conclusions on complex issues, using a range of media which include the use of information technology, so that they can be clearly understood by others.	Lectures Seminars Group work Class discussions Bloomberg lab	Essays Reports Exams Presentations Expert testimony
D2	Critically discuss the impact of international perspectives in a piece of written work.	Lectures Seminars Group work Class discussions	Essays Reports Exams Presentations
D3	Identify ethical issues and evaluate appropriate ways to resolve these.	Lectures Seminars Group work Class discussions	Essays Reports Exams Presentations
D4	Approach the solution of ethical, corporate, and social responsibility issues with originality of thinking.	Lectures Seminars Group work Class discussions	Essays Reports Exams Presentations

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Vision 2030 and Strategy 2025](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#) [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: **ACFE**
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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