

MSc Finance

(Asset Management)

CKL40





The MSc Finance (Asset Management) is a one-year programme designed to prepare students for careers in the international investment, asset management, finance and banking industries.

Students in this programme focus on developing analytical and professional skills, culminating in an applied quantitative research project or industry placement.

The course has been designed in conjunction with the finance industry to ensure graduates have the skills sought by employers. You can expect to have excellent career prospects in investment management, banking, insurance, proprietary trading, wealth management and alternative investment.

The MSc Finance (Asset Management) is a member of the CFA<sup>®</sup> Institute University Affiliation Programme and is a CAIA<sup>®</sup> Association Academic Partner. These partnerships ensure that the programme content remains up to date with industry and relevant to the needs of employers.

Uniquely, this MSc Finance programme awards academic credit for students to study for CFA® and/or CAIA® professional examinations in conjunction with their MSc degree.

Faculty at are eligible to grant a number of scholarships each year to students on the programme who wish to sit the CFA<sup>®</sup>.



## UNIQUE ASPECTS

There are many reasons to choose this unique programme, including:

- A curriculum designed with industry and having a practical focus ensures graduates have the skills sought by employers.
- Students study towards the CFA®, CAIA®, QFA (or equivalent) exams while completing the programme and receive academic credits for taking career enhancing professional exams.
- Only programme in Ireland that utilises leading international financial industry professionals as lecturers.
- Students complete an applied finance project or an industry relevant placement as part of this programme.
- Strong emphasis on practical and professional skills, including interview techniques, presentation skills and applied finance projects.
- Faculty with significant industry experience.

### CAREER INFORMATION

This programme has been designed with industry to ensure it fulfils the needs of employers.

Upon completion of the MSc Finance (Asset Management), graduates can expect excellent career prospects in investment management, banking, insurance, proprietary trading, wealth management and alternative investment.





## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Students are required to complete ten modules, comprising of five core modules and five specialised modules, taught through formal lectures over the first two semesters. These are assessed by a blend of examination and continuous assessment. In parallel, they undertake two practice based modules, professional development and research skills, based on continuous assessment only.

In the final semester, students undertake an applied research project, based on a real investment industry problem or an industry placement relevant to the programme.

While completing this programme, students will study for CFA®, CAIA®, QFA, CISI or equivalent professional exam of their choice. Students take the appropriate examination in the final semester to complete their requirements.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this programme, students should be able to:

- Communicate and work effectively to a high professional standard
- Demonstrate advanced analytical and problem solving skills associated with effective practice
- Engage in advanced application of frameworks and techniques in organisational settings
- Demonstrate professional readiness for a career in the finance and investment industry
- Apply industry relevant research skills

Programme Code: CKL40 Duration: 1 year (Full-time) Teaching Mode: Classroom Qualification: MSc NFQ Level: Level 9

#### **PRACTICALITIES & ASSESSMENT**

#### Practicalities

Formal lectures take place from Monday to Thursday with a high level of attendance expected. Students are assessed on their contribution to these classes.

Many events are scheduled outside formal lecture times throughout the year (including Fridays). These are an integral part of the course which students are required to attend. The events include induction week, careers seminar and visiting speakers.

Outside formal lectures, students are expected to spend time working on assignments, case studies, projects and presentations. We provided a dedicated computer room to facilitate this.

The course is undertaken full-time over twelve months.

#### Assessment

To meet the development objectives of the programme, the MSc Finance (Asset Management) is assessed by a blend of formal examination and continuous assessment. Continuous assessment is in the form of class contribution, individual assignments, group case study analysis and presentations.

It is important that students learn to communicate effectively and contribute in class as lecturers keep a record of who asks (and answers) questions and allocate marks accordingly.

Students are divided into groups for projects and these are changed each semester. This allows students to get to know each other while getting experience of typical industry working structures. While some students may be concerned about group assessment, the ability to work with, and lead others is an essential skill for a successful career in finance and the group projects develop this skill in students.

# BRIGHT MOVERS

# WHAT OUR STUDENTS & GRADUATES SAY ABOUT US...

"The level of the programme, which has a clear quantitative focus, was very high.

Also I found the quality of the academic staff to be superb and the programme is very well designed to combine academic teaching with hands-on learning experiences.

The diversity of students is surprising – my classmates come from around the globe and it was a great opportunity to be able to network with such a diverse group.

I am very happy with my choice to pursue the MSc Finance (Asset Management) programme at UCC, and would highly recommend it."

ANUP DAS Emerge Capital Class of 2014/15

"The MSc Finance (Asset Management) programme, which allows students to complete Level 1 of the CFA or CAIA exams while studying toward their Masters, will give UCC graduates a real head start in the asset management industry."

CIARA CONNOLLY (CFA) Investment Analyst Davy, Dublin



#### Irish/EU Students and International Students

Applicants must normally have (or expect to have) a 2H1 degree (GPA 3.25 out of 4.0) in a degree (NFQ Level 8) or equivalent in:

 A business related programme (e.g. Commerce, Law, Business Studies, Economics, Accounting, Finance, Marketing, Information Systems etc.)

#### OR

 A programme with a significant quantitative element (e.g. Statistics Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Computing etc.)

Applicants who achieve a 2H2 degree but meet all other requirements and applicants from other degree disciplines with at least a 2H1 degree may be considered on a case by case basis.

#### English Language Requirement:

Applicants from non-native English-speaking countries will be required to undertake a recognised English language test.

Please see accepted tests and minimum requirements below.

IELTS: 6.5 With no individual section lower than 5.5

#### **TOEFL**: 90

With minimum scores as follows:

- Listening: 17 Reading: 18
- Speaking: 20 Writing: 17

#### Cambridge Proficiency Exam: Grade C Cambridge Advanced Exam: Grade B

**Pearson PTE**: Minimum Score of 63 With no section score below 59

#### APPLICATION PROCESS

Application for this programme is online at the Postgraduate Application Centre <u>www.pac.ie/ucc</u> (PAC Code: CKL40)

For more information on the Programme:



#### PROGRAMME DIRECTORS

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