

Open University *of* Mauritius

B.Sc. (Hons) Financial Services (Top up)

1. Introduction

Importance and Relevance of the Course

The B.Sc. (Hons) Financial Services (Top Up) is one among the appealing courses which can be attained by students who want to make a career in the financial services sector. It refers to services provided by the finance industry which encompasses a broad range of organisations that deal with the management of money. Among these organisations are banks, insurance companies, investment funds, credit unions.

On this top-up programme, not only do you get a grounding in developing proficiency in the analytical techniques required for a wide variety of careers in financial services, but also, the knowledge and understanding required in this challenging yet highly rewarding field. You also get the chance to develop reflective practices and critical thinking - essential attributes for the effective finance manager equipped to handle change.

Aim of the Course

The aim of this program is to enable learners to acquire a skill set that will be invaluable for those looking forward to a rewarding career with great promotional prospects in the financial sector. On completing the programme, graduates should have a good understanding of the financial operations and environment, their place in the economy, and of the structure and behaviour of financial institutions in the market. Graduates should also be capable of understanding and applying of a wide variety of analytical techniques for finance and ability to understand some of the models and mathematical techniques used in financial markets.

2. Entry Requirements

Candidates must hold a Diploma (NQF Level 6) in Management and Financial services or any related field. Learners must submit all relevant documents. Application for exemption will not be entertained

3. Mode of Learning

This Course is offered on the Blended Open Distance Learning mode.

4. Programme Duration

BSc (Hons) Financial Services Top Up	Minimum Duration	Maximum Duration
Blended Open Distance Learning	3 semesters/ 1 ½ year	3 Years

5. Minimum Credits Required for the Awards

Total: 45 credits

Each credit in the University's system is equivalent to a minimum of 20 hours of study including all learning activities (i.e. reading and comprehending the print material, listening to audio, watching video, attending tutorials/counselling sessions, writing assignment responses and preparation for the examinations). Thus, a 3 credit course involves a minimum of 60 hours of study.

6. Assessment

Each module carries 100 marks and will be assessed as follows (unless otherwise specified):

Assessment will be based on a written examination and the duration of the exams will depend on the number of credits. The written examination would account for 50% of the final module grade and a minimum of 2 continuous assessments (which can be class test, presentation, assignment, VIVA or any other forms) would account for 50% of the final module grade. For a learner to pass a module, an overall total of 40% for combined continuous assessments and written examination components would be required without minimum thresholds within the individual continuous assessment and written examination.

Written examinations for all modules, whether taught in semester 1 or in semester 2 or both, will be carried out at the end of each semester (unless otherwise stated).

The dissertation carries 100 marks and should be submitted in line with the OU guidelines for dissertation submission for undergraduate programmes.

7. Grading

Percentage Range	Description	Grade	Grade Point
$70\% \leq x \leq 100\%$	Excellent	A	5
$60\% \leq x < 70\%$	Very Good	B	4
$50\% \leq x < 60\%$	Good	C	3
$40\% \leq x < 50\%$	Satisfactory	D	2
$0\% \leq x < 40\%$	ungraded	U	0

8. Award

BSc (Hons) Financial Services (Top up)

1 st Class with Honours	CPA \geq 70
2 nd Class 1 st Division with Honours	60 \leq CPA < 70
2 nd Class 2 nd Division with Honours	50 \leq CPA < 60
3 rd Class	45 \leq CPA < 50
Pass	40 \leq CPA < 45
No Award	CPA < 40

If CPA < 40 for two consecutive semesters, learners will have to repeat the entire academic year and then take the modules again as and when offered. However, when repeating the year, learners may opt not to take those modules for which

Grade C or above have been obtained. Learners are allowed to repeat a maximum of two times throughout the entire duration of the course. No award is made if CPA < 40.

9. Programme Plan

BSc (Hons) Financial Services Top Up					
Module Code	Module Name	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Credit
OUs028111	Financial Statement Analysis	√			3
OUs028112	Corporate Governance and Ethics	√			3
OUs028113	Mauritian Taxation	√			3
OUs028114	Corporate Financial Management	√			3
OUs028121	International Taxation		√		3
OUs028122	Employment Relations		√		3
OUs028123	Economic Environment		√		3
OUs028124	Research Methods		√		3
OUs028125	Public Relations		√		3
OUs028131	International Financial Environment			√	4
OUs028132	Financial Derivatives			√	4
OUs028133	Legal Aspects of Finance			√	4
OUs028134	Dissertation			√	6

10. Course Content

FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANALYSIS [OUs028111]

Module Objective: To provide learners with the theoretical background and practical skills for financial statement analysis. In particular, the module will enhance learners' skills to analyse corporate financial statement information and use this information in performance evaluations and investment decisions.

Unit 1: Accounting for Subsidiary Undertakings and Associates

Unit 2: Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

Unit 3: Foreign Currency Translation and Transactions

Unit 4: Accounting for Foreign Undertakings

Unit 5: Segmental Reporting

Unit 6: Ratios and Financial Analysis

Unit 7: Earnings Management

Unit 8: Valuation and Forecasting.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS [OUs028112]

Module Objective: To introduce issues of ethical conduct and the application of principles of corporate governance.

- Unit 1: Origins of ethics
- Unit 2: Philosophies of ethical principles in business
- Unit 3: Stakeholder and stockholder theory
- Unit 4: Social responsibility of business
- Unit 5: Objectives of Corporate Governance
- Unit 6: The Report on Corporate Governance for Mauritius

MAURITIAN TAXATION [OUbs028113]

Module Objective: To provide learners with an overview of the administration and current practices of Mauritian Tax.

- Unit 1: Administration of Mauritian Tax
- Unit 2: Taxation of Individuals
- Unit 3: Capital allowances
- Unit 4: Corporation tax
- Unit 5: Partnerships
- Unit 6: Value Added Tax

CORPORATE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT [OUbs028114]

Module Objective: To develop in learners the knowledge and competence to take efficient and pertinent decisions in the Financial Management area. Also, it will help learners to cultivate the ability to appraise and decisively assess the principle concepts and techniques used in Financial Management.

- Unit 1: Appraisal of investment decisions
- Unit 2: Risk, return and diversification including Portfolio Theory
- Unit 3: Market models; CAPM, APT
- Unit 4: Capital structure of a firm: does it matter?
- Unit 5: Dividend policy: does it matter?
- Unit 6: Treasury and risk Management
- Unit 7: Acquisition and Mergers
- Unit 8: The overseas investment decision and its implications
- Unit 9: Analysis of financial statements and valuation techniques

INTERNATIONAL TAXATION [OUbs028121]

Module objective: To provide an insight to international double taxation as well as issues related to residence determination of companies.

- Unit 1: Global tax implications for individuals and entities
- Unit 2: Double tax agreements
- Unit 3: Anti-avoidance mechanisms employed by government
- Unit 4: Different business and financing structures and foreign enterprise
- Unit 5: Tax treaties
- Unit 6: International tax planning

EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS [OUbs028122]

Module Objective: To present an in-depth overview to Employee and Labour Relations. Employee and Labour Relations is the functional area of Human Resource Management whose primary focus is to develop and maintain effective working relationships with employees. At a minimum, it is the task of managers and HR professionals to have the knowledge and ability to adhere to organizational policy and state labour law. However, to be competitive, managers and HR professionals must strive to advance beyond the minimum standards and focus on the development and retention of their employees as well.

Unit 1: Pluralist and Marxist traditions in industrial relations

Unit 2: Theories of the employment relationship

Unit 3: Diversity and conflict resolution

Unit 4: Dynamics of work and employment restructuring

Unit 5: Employee and labour Relations

Unit 6: Legal Regulation of the Employment Relationship

ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT [Oubs028123]

Module Objective: To provide a fundamental theoretical knowledge of basic economic issues. On the whole, microeconomic issues and the macroeconomic environment are considered. The module provides learners with an understanding on the fundamental economic problems related to scarcity and unlimited wants. Also, issues related to consumption and production is considered. In addition, the module will help learners to understand the issues underlying market failures and their implications in terms of social costs to third parties. The pricing and output decisions under different market structures are also discussed. Moreover, the module provides learners with an understanding of the macroeconomic environment as well as international trade issues

Unit 1: Basic Concepts in Economics

Unit 2: Theory of Demand

Unit 3: Production and Costs

Unit 4: Market Failures: External Costs and Benefits

Unit 5: Market Structures: Perfect Competition, Monopoly, Monopolistic Competition and Oligopoly

Unit 6: The Macroeconomic environment

Unit 7: International Trade

RESEARCH METHODS [OUbs028124]

Module Objective: This module will provide the key elements of a research project and the key concepts related to research design and carry out business research studies for dissertation in a consistent and scientific manner.

Unit 1: Primary and secondary research;

Unit 2: Quantitative research designs;

Unit 3: Survey design and administration issues;

Unit 4: Qualitative research;

Unit 5: Sampling processes;

Unit 6: Questionnaire design;

Unit 7: Information collection process;

Unit 8: Data analysis of primary and secondary data/survey

Unit 9: Regression analysis using secondary data

PUBLIC RELATIONS [OUbs028125]

Module Objective: This module will create awareness among students of the significance of PR in social and business contexts. They will learn about elements of the corporate image and identity and acquire knowledge of how public relations work in harmony with associated disciplines of marketing and advertising.

Unit 1: The Evolution of PR

Unit 2: PR & its Role in Organizations

Unit 3: Publics of PR

Unit 4: PR and Image

Unit 5: Relations between PR and Marketing and Advertising

Unit 6: PR Tools

Unit 7: Theories of Public Relations

Unit 8: Personality Traits of a PR Practitioner

Unit 9: PR in the Digital Age (Websites, Twitter, Facebook and other Social Media)

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT [OUbs028211]

Module Objective: To discuss the changes in the international financial environment following the financial globalization and financial crisis. The innovations in the financial environment would also be highlighted. References would be made to the policies implemented in developed and developing countries.

Unit 1: International regulatory framework

Unit 2: Financial development and policy

Unit 3: Financial globalization.

Unit 4: Monetary union

Unit 5: International capital markets

Unit 6: Foreign Direct Investment

Unit 7: Financing in the Short-Term and in the Long-Term

Unit 8: International financial institutions

Unit 9: International Trade Finance

Unit 10: Political economy of finance

FINANCIAL DERIVATIVES [OUbs028212]

Module Objective: To provide learners with a theoretical framework of the different types of derivatives as well as issues relating to their pricing and risks.

Unit 1: Market risks, FOREX, interest and price risks,

Unit 2: Types of derivatives

Unit 3: Forwards and its pricing

Unit 4: Futures, marking to market

Unit 5: The option pricing models

Unit 6: Swaps (Currency and interest rate)

Unit 7: Value-at-Risk

Unit 8: Credit derivatives instruments

LEGAL ASPECTS OF FINANCE [OUbs028213]

Module Objective: Learners should be able to identify and discuss on the various national financial regulations and understand the legal problems arising from the financial regulation.

Unit 1: Functions of law in a financial system;
Unit 2: History of Mauritian financial system;
Unit 3: The regulatory framework for Mauritius;
Unit 4: Insurance;
Unit 5: Banking law;
Unit 6: Global business;
Unit 7: Securities market;
Unit 8: Money laundering;
Unit 9: Bills of exchange.

DISSERTATION [OUbs028214]

The research project will allow the learner to examine thoroughly an area or a problem related to businesses. The project will draw upon significant concepts and techniques introduced during the taught part of the course and will look for to merge the theory and practice of management and financial services through the achievement of a considerable and related in-depth piece of work. The review of the final year project will be based on the compliance of a report, which should be in the range of 10,000–12,000 words.