Birkbeck, University of London

Birkbeck is a world-class research and teaching institution, a vibrant centre of academic excellence and London’s only specialist provider of evening higher education. We encourage applications from students without traditional qualifications and we have a wide range of programmes to suit every entry level. Our academic reputation also attracts many full-time postgraduate students.

Recognised as a global elite university, Birkbeck is in the top 150 universities in the world in the *Times Higher Education* World Rankings 2011. Over 90 per cent of Birkbeck academics are research-active and many are renowned experts in their fields. In the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008), Birkbeck ranked in the top 25 per cent of UK multi-faculty institutions.

Birkbeck is recognised for providing the highest quality teaching, which is informed by our outstanding research excellence. This is proven by our number one position in the National Student Surveys*.

19,000 students study with us every year. They join a community that is as diverse and cosmopolitan as London’s population.

* National Student Surveys 2005–2011

School of Business, Economics and Informatics
Department of Computer Science and Information Systems

Computing for Financial Services

MSc

Malet Street, Bloomsbury
London WC1E 7HX
Tel 020 7631 6316
www.dcs.bbk.ac.uk

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Computing for Financial Services

Aims

The programme provides an intensive course in computing for graduates of other subjects, specifically tailored for individuals choosing a career in financial services. As well as gaining a broad knowledge of the subject, students acquire practical skills and have the opportunity to investigate certain areas of current research more deeply. For students who are new to the subject, it provides a foundation for a career in IT for finance; for those already working in IT, it provides an opportunity to broaden their knowledge and update their skills specifically for finance while obtaining a formal qualification.

Holders of the MSc will have demonstrated a systematic understanding and a critical awareness, much of it at the forefront of the discipline, a comprehensive and practical understanding of applicable techniques, the theory and practice of markets and portfolio management, the mathematical tools required in this context, originality in the application of knowledge, the ability to evaluate current research and methodologies, and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

Duration

Two years part-time.

Attendance

- Up to three evenings a week part-time, October–September.

Special features

A project must be completed, comprising the design, development and evaluation of a major piece of software in the target application domain. Most such projects will be co-supervised by an industrial host under arrangements made by the department.

Programme contents

Students complete the taught element of the programme by supplementing core subjects such as:

- Financial Markets
- Accounting and Financial Management
- Portfolio Management
- Introduction to Software Engineering: Tools and Environments
- Data and Knowledge Management
- Object-oriented design and programming
- Introduction to Software Development (with Java).

Additionally, students undertake an individual project as outlined above.

Entry requirements

The entry requirement is a 2nd class Bachelors degree in a subject other than computing, or equivalent qualifications. The programme can be followed part-time over 2 years, by students who work during the day. You must be an EU citizen or otherwise have the right to work full-time in the UK in order to enrol in a part-time course.