Accounting & Finance – Undergraduate degrees

Frequently Asked Questions

What will I study in first year?

You will study a set curriculum of Level 1 subjects consisting of Financial Accounting, Management Accounting, Finance, Economics, The Accounting Profession and Management studies. If you are taking the Language degree, you will also undertake a Language course.

1. I don’t have any prior accounting knowledge, is that a problem?
   No it will not be a problem as we will start you off with the basic fundamentals of accounting and its associated elements when you start the degree. We believe that this is a good starting point towards progressing across the years and eventually to the professional levels after graduation.

2. What is accreditation?
   The programme is recognised by all the main professional accounting bodies through accreditation status. Success in this degree can afford significant exemptions for an accredited degree from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS), the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales (ICAEW), the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA).

3. I need some help in choosing my curriculum, who can I consult about this?
   You will be assigned an advisor of studies from first year to when you graduate. We believe that this support system is important in providing a source of advice regarding your academic progress.

4. I like Languages, will I be able to include that in my BAcc programme?
   We offer students interested in Languages an option to complete a BAcc with Languages degree which will incorporate the language of their choice (e.g. French, Spanish, German etc) within their four years of study in Accounting and Finance. As part of their third year curriculum, students will be required to study abroad at an affiliated university in their chosen language.
5. I like Economics, will I be able to include that in my BAcc programme?
We offer students a choice of completing a BAcc with Joint Honours in Economics which includes a four year curriculum incorporating both Economics and Accounting & Finance. However if you are not interested in pursuing a full Joint degree, you will undertake Economics in first year.

6. What are the differences between the BAcc degree programmes, e.g. BAcc Single Honours, BAcc with Finance, BAcc with International Accounting, BAcc with Languages and BAcc Joint Honours with Economics?
We offer various variants of the BAcc which we believe will allow students the option to specialise in a subject area of their choice. Except for the Languages variant, students will normally be able to specialise within their selected area of study from year 2 of their degrees.

Students are required to choose a set of compulsory courses as required by each of the variant degrees e.g. a specialism in Finance will require students to select a number of compulsory Finance courses on offer. However, if you do not wish to specialise in a specific area of Accounting & Finance, the BAcc with Single Honours will give you a greater selection in customising your third and fourth year curriculum. In addition, the degree programmes are flexible and you may be able to change your specialism as you progress through the years. Your advisor of studies will be able to advise you on your choice of degree variants and course selections accordingly.

7. Can I study abroad as part of the programme? When will I travel? Where can I go?
We encourage students to take up this opportunity within the programme. Please note that students on the Language degree are required to study abroad for a full year. Students will normally travel out in their third year of studies. There are a number of destinations available, e.g. past students have been to France, Spain, Canada, United States, Australia and Hong Kong. For further information, please refer to [http://www.gla.ac.uk/international/abroadexchange/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/international/abroadexchange/)

8. If I choose to go on the Study Abroad programme as part of the BAcc, will I have to take an extra year to complete the degree?
No, as the study abroad year will form the third year of your studies within the programme. A BAcc Exchange and Erasmus advisor will be able to advise accordingly before you take up the opportunity.

9. **In the current economic climate, what are the chances of getting a job?**
   The good news is that, on average, about 90% of our graduates have entered study, training and work upon graduation and most within 6 months of graduating. Of the remaining 10% of graduates, the majority are currently travelling and not actively looking for work. This high rate of graduate employment is due to our close relationships with accounting firms and other business related organisations. To further enhance these relationships, we often use accounting firms to help run our tutorials.

Apart from the University's careers service and employability office, the subject group is constantly providing information about job opportunities from summer placements to training contracts for students at various stages of their studies. In addition, Accounting & Finance arrange workshops on the recruitment process, where employers come along and offer help and advice on how to succeed. Many students have taken up these opportunities and have successfully secured a job.

10. **After completing the degree, what will I need to do to become a fully qualified Chartered Accountant?**
    You will need to first obtain a CA training contract either before or after you complete the degree. You will be required to undertake a number of professional examinations whilst you gain experience as a trainee. Due to our accreditation status, and subject to how well you perform in your degree, you are potentially able to obtain the maximum amount of exemptions from some of these exams. The professional bodies will be able to advise you accordingly on this.

11. **What types of jobs can I apply for with a BAcc degree? Do I have to become a Chartered Accountant with the BAcc?**
    The BAcc is a dynamic business degree that opens many doors in your future. Choosing Accounting & Finance does NOT mean you automatically need to become an accountant. Some examples of destinations include Investment Banking, Securities Trading, Retail Banking, Actuaries, etc. Our recent graduates have been employed by the Big 4 and other accountancy firms, and companies such as Morgan Stanley, Deutsche Bank, MacDonald Hotels, Aggreko PLC, etc.
12. Where can I get more information?

You can obtain information about Accounting & Finance and the Business School from our website, [http://www.gla.ac.uk/subjects/accountingfinance/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/subjects/accountingfinance/) and specific information regarding our BAcc programmes from [http://www.gla.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/accountancy/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/accountancy/). Alternatively, if you have any queries regarding the degrees, you can either contact Recruitment and International Office (RIO) at [student.recruitment@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:student.recruitment@glasgow.ac.uk) or the Business School at [business-school@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:business-school@glasgow.ac.uk)