

**The London Institute  
of Banking & Finance**

# Postgraduate Certificate in FinTech



The London Institute of Banking & Finance is a registered charity, incorporated by Royal Charter.

## Programme Specification

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

UCAS Code	Award	Programme Title	Expected Duration	Mode of Study
N/A	Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)	Postgraduate Certificate in FinTech	1 year 6 months	Part-time Full-time

<b>Credit Count</b>	<b>60 credits with minimum of 40 at Level 7</b>
<b>Awarding Institution</b>	The London Institute of Banking & Finance
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	The London Institute of Banking & Finance
<b>Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points</b>	<p><b>External:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QAA UK Quality Code, including:</li> <li>• QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Masters degrees in Business and Management (2015) <sup>1</sup></li> <li>• QAA Level 7 descriptors in the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland <sup>2</sup></li> <li>• QAA Masters degree characteristics <sup>3</sup></li> <li>• QAA Higher Education Credit Framework for England <sup>4</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Internal:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The London Institute of Banking &amp; Finance Code of Practice <sup>5</sup></li> <li>• The London Institute of Banking &amp; Finance General and Academic Regulations for Students <sup>6</sup></li> </ul> <p>In addition, research with the financial services sector has been undertaken to ensure that the learning outcomes of the programme address identified skill and knowledge gaps.</p>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements> [Accessed: August 2020]

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/qualifications-and-credit-frameworks> [Accessed: August 2020]

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement8019abbe03dc611ba4caff140043ed24.pdf?sfvrsn=86c5ca81\\_12](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/master's-degree-characteristics-statement8019abbe03dc611ba4caff140043ed24.pdf?sfvrsn=86c5ca81_12) [Accessed: August 2020]

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/qualifications-and-credit-frameworks> [Accessed: August 2020]

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.libf.ac.uk/about-us/policies-regulations-and-code-of-practice> [Accessed: 3rd August 2020]

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.libf.ac.uk/about-us/policies-regulations-and-code-of-practice> [Accessed: 3rd August 2020]

## 2. PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

### Programme Background

The Postgraduate Certificate in FinTech draws upon the many years of experience held by The London Institute of Banking & Finance in educating professionals in banking as well as our unrivalled understanding of the financial services industry, supported by a strong group of academics with first-hand knowledge and industry experience, as well as industry experts, founders and practitioners.

The London Institute of Banking & Finance has made employability a cornerstone of all our programmes and is focused on producing graduates that have the critical combination of knowledge, practical skills and understanding that can be applied in the professional world. The Postgraduate Certificate in FinTech crucially reflects what employers tell us they are looking for from employees in this sector.

The Postgraduate Certificate in FinTech offers specialised modules which expose you to state of the art theories and empirical applications in not only in FinTech but banking and finance more broadly, using real life cases and examples. The programme allows you to develop both theoretical and applied perspectives as well as a range of specialist skills which you will be able to apply to any organisation in the financial services industry. The programme provides you with knowledge and a practical understanding, from a FinTech perspective of banking and finance landscape and the international and regulatory environments in which organisations operate. The programme encourages critical analysis and evaluation of complex situations involving strategic, financial, technical, and risk management decisions of firms and financial institutions using appropriate techniques. The modules facilitate student engagement and interaction both in class and outside, notably via forums.

### Programme Aims

The Postgraduate Certificate in FinTech aims to:

1. Enable you to develop a broad and comprehensive knowledge and understanding of a number of core areas of FinTech, in particular the verticals of alternative finance, payments and remittances, block chain and DLT (distributed ledger technology), digital currencies and the technology that underpins them.
2. Provide you with opportunities to investigate and analyse a range of issues relating to the financial services industry and its environment, both local and global, from a FinTech perspective, to engage in practitioner debate, and to critique theory in the light of practice (and vice versa).
3. Develop your ability to work at the frontiers of knowledge and understanding of FinTech and to apply this knowledge and understanding systematically and creatively to new, complex, and unpredictable circumstances in order to improve the practice of banking and finance.
4. Provide you with the opportunity to evaluate the impact of FinTech from an organizational, regulatory and risk management perspective.
5. Give you insights into and understanding of the local/global relationships and interactions in banking and finance as they relate to FinTech.
6. Support your understanding of and reflections on ethical and good governance issues within banking and finance, with particular reference to ensuring entity and systematic sustainability, and the range of possible means to manage and account for them.
7. Enhance your suitability for senior management roles within banking and finance.

8. Enhance your ability to become autonomous and self-directed learner, able to manage your own professional development throughout your working life.

#### Programme Summary

The Postgraduate Certificate in FinTech is targeted at individuals either in senior management roles within the financial services industry, or those aspiring to such roles. You may already be employed within the financial services sector at the time of entry to the course or wishing to enter the industry. The emphasis of the programme is on helping you to develop a broader and more reflective understanding of issues related to the practice of FinTech in banking and finance.

The modules are intended to provide you with the key analytical and underpinning knowledge frameworks, which provide a firm base for FinTech disciplines relevant to the financial services industry.

This programme supports the development of your employability attributes and behaviours throughout its duration. The employability attributes comprise: Problem solving, Communication Skills (Listening Skills, Non-Verbal & Verbal), Team Working, Digital literacy, Analysis & Decision making, Numeracy, Negotiating, Relationship Building, Commercial Awareness, Creativity, Leadership & Influencing, Cultural Awareness, Cross-disciplinary abilities, and Managing diverse & agile teams. The behaviours comprise: Ethical motivation, Professionalism, Growth mindset, Resilience, Emotional Intelligence, and Empathy.

### **3. INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME**

This programme has been developed in accordance with the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Masters degrees in Business and Management (BM) (2015).

On successful completion of this programme, you will be expected to:

- LO1.** Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of core areas of, and originality in the use of concepts and theories about, banking, finance and FinTech. *BM 3.8*
- LO2.** Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of current academic and practice-based debate on issues in FinTech. *BM 3.8*
- LO3.** Demonstrate a critical understanding of the interrelationships between FinTech and the business, and regulatory environment, and the role of technology and risk management, at both a local and global level. *BM 3.8*
- LO4.** Demonstrate a critical understanding of the role of banking and finance from a FinTech perspective in the wider socio-economic environment. *BM 3.8*
- LO5.** Critically evaluate and reflect on ethical and governance issues in banking and finance, and develop and recommend approaches to manage these issues for the benefit of both customers and the financial services sector. *BM 3.8*
- LO6.** Critically analyse and evaluate banking strategies in a global context and from a FinTech perspective. *BM 3.8*
- LO7.** Critically analyse, evaluate, and employ subject-specific theories and tools, empirical evidence and concepts relating to banking, finance, risk and FinTech generally, and how these apply in a practical work environment. *BM 3.8*
- LO8.** Identify, analyse and critically interpret industry, academic articles and financial data, and examine the relationship between theory and empirical testing. *BM 3.8*

#### 4. THE STRUCTURE OF THE PROGRAMME

The structure of the programme is set out below (all 20-credit, compulsory modules):

Module Name
7FAF FinTech Foundations & Alternative Finance
7FDB Digital Banking
7FBC Blockchain, Electronic & Digital Currencies

#### 5. TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

The learning and teaching strategy of The London Institute of Banking & Finance is designed to ensure that you are encouraged to integrate theory with practice, and challenge each, in line with the organisation's ethos. You are expected to undertake a considerable amount of independent study: reading, industry-related research, and personal reflection. Scheduled classes, webinars and online discussion forums support your developing abilities to critique and challenge models, theoretical frameworks, and any work-based exposure you may have had, via debate, discussion, research and reports, with your lecturer and fellow students. The mix of classroom-based input and discussion and personal research, together with the opportunity to experience workplace practice, accommodate different approaches to learning, and foster a variety of academic skills.

There are two modes of study:

##### Full-Time Study

The full-time mode is delivered face-to-face, including lectures, seminars and small group work, with access to online tools to provide a comprehensive and flexible learning and teaching resource package, supporting your developing abilities to critique and challenge received wisdom, both academic and practice-based. You are further supported by a range of both printed and online texts, journals, databases, case studies, and activities.

##### Part-Time Study

The part-time mode is offered as follows:

1. Through a mix of online distance learning supported by a range of both printed and online texts, journals, databases, case studies and synchronous and asynchronous online activities, discussions and tutorials; and face-to-face learning including lectures, seminars, and small group work.
2. Through online distance learning supported by a range of both printed and online texts, journals, databases, case studies and synchronous and asynchronous online activities, discussions, and tutorials.

##### Mode of Delivery

- On-campus: Learning and teaching via face-to-face lectures, seminars and tutorials at our premises, supported by access to the Virtual Learning Environment and your own independent study.
- Online distance learning: Learning and teaching centred on the Virtual Learning Environment and your own independent study, with both synchronous and asynchronous support from your module lecturer.
- Flexible learning: Study via a blend of learning including on-campus, online distance learning, and face-to-face workshops offered at various locations.
- Collaborative arrangement: Some or all aspects of your module are delivered by a collaborative partner.

### Learning Resources

You will have access to a range of resources, including:

- Lecturer
- Virtual Learning Environment
- KnowledgeBank, our online library
- Readings

## **6. ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK STRATEGY**

### Assessment

Progression and Assessment regulations are as set out in The London Institute of Banking & Finance's General and Academic Regulations for Students. Students should also familiarise themselves with The London Institute of Banking & Finance's Code of Practice for Quality Assurance and the Student Charter.

Assessment strategies follow The London Institute of Banking & Finance's Code of Practice for Quality Assurance, Chapter 7: Assessment.

Assessment consists of both formative and summative approaches. The tools used vary across the programme and may include a mix of examination, assignments, in-class assessment, case-study reports, presentations, debates, peer assessment, portfolios, group work, and individual research.

Details of procedures and deadlines for submission of assessed assignments, penalties applied for late submission and the procedure for requesting an extension to an assignment submission deadline are all published in the Programme Handbook.

### Feedback

You will receive feedback during the module, which will include individual and group feedback, as well as a mark for all summative assessments. You will also receive feedforward.

## **7. CREDIT AND AWARD**

The Postgraduate Certificate in FinTech is made up of 60 credits. 1 credit approximates to 10 student effort hours, and the total course thus requires an average of 600 hours effort. On successful completion of the full programme, students will be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in FinTech.

Grades for the Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Finance are awarded in accordance with The London Institute of Banking & Finance's General and Academic Regulations for Students. Students should be aware of the regulations governing the award of credit and the arrangements for compensation and the capping of marks. Students should also be aware of the regulations relating to the resitting of assessment components. This information is contained within sections 7, 8 and 9 of The London Institute of Banking & Finance's General and Academic Regulations for Students. Students may also be able to take individual modules of the course as a part of executive education programmes.

The Postgraduate Certificate in FinTech degree is awarded with Pass, Merit, and Distinction.

The time limit for completion is in accordance with The London Institute of Banking & Finance's General and Academic Regulations for Students.

## 8. CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION

- I. Normally a 2.1 Honours degree (or equivalent) from a recognised institution; OR
  - II. The London Institute of Banking & Finance Chartered Associateship (through the 'qualification' route);
- AND
- III. Demonstration of relevant professional experience. Applicants should either be currently working in, or have experience of working in, the financial services sector. Note: This criterion applies to candidates for the part-time programme only.

Candidates not possessing requirements i or ii above (for example, holders of a 2.2 Honours degree with relevant financial sector experience or holders of Chartered Associateship status gained via the professional experience (non-qualification) route) may be considered if they can demonstrate their ability to achieve at this level and contribute to the debates, discussions and work of the learning set. In this case, applicants will be interviewed and/ or be required to submit a piece of written work in addition to their application to enable and assessment to be made of their suitability for the programme.

Applicants for whom English is not their first language would be expected to demonstrate their competence through achieving an IELTS score of 7.0 or above with no element below 6.5 (or equivalent).

## 9. GRADUATE DESTINATIONS

Graduates on this course are likely to pursue careers in a number of areas in the financial services industry including commercial & corporate banking, retail banking, investment banking, asset management, treasury, and consultancy.

## 10. CURRICULUM MAP OF MODULES AGAINST INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME

Module Title and Code		Learning Outcomes							
Code	Module title	LO1	LO2	LO3	LO4	LO5	LO6	LO7	LO8
7FAF	FinTech Foundations & Alternative Finance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7FDB	Digital Banking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7FBC	Blockchain, Electronic & Digital Currencies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓