

POSTGRADUATE



Master of Finance

Accelerate your finance career

Key information about the MFinC:

- 12 month duration
- Seven taught papers
- Either an applied or research project
- Applicants normally require a B+ average (at 300 level) in an appropriate degree
- Applicants with relevant practical experience may also be considered if the B+ average is not met.

The MFinC is a coursework masters degree designed to offer you a number of pathways depending on your academic background and career aspirations.

The primary pathway is for strong graduates of quantitatively-literate degrees such as mathematics, physics, engineering, economics and finance to study for a MFinC enabling them to follow careers in the finance industry and as financial specialists in non-finance corporations.

As a graduate of the MFinC you will have sound financial research skills, equipping you to understand the latest global financial trends. You will also have mastery of the statistical, computing and mathematical techniques required to conduct analysis of financial instruments and markets.

0800 80 80 98 | otago.ac.nz | txt 866 | university@otago.ac.nz



Master of Finance (MFinC)

The MFinC is a highly specialized, postgraduate degree if you have previous financial or mathematical experience and want to accelerate your career in finance.

The MFinC consists of seven taught papers and either an applied or research project, which will equip you to be either:

- a) Professional practitioner in the field of Finance
- or
- b) Academic researcher in the discipline of Finance

Teaching style and methods

You will be taught using a mixture of lectures and in-class discussions, seminars, lab class work, tutorials, group work, and using SAS, datasets and other tools.

While completing the MFinC you may be assessed in a variety of ways such as by lab assignments, essays, case studies, literature reviews, individual or group presentations, or midterm/final exams.

Background required

In order to enrol in the MFinC you would normally require a B+ average (in your final year papers) in an appropriate quantitatively-literate undergraduate degree such as mathematics, physics, engineering, economics and finance.

In considering your undergraduate qualification, regard will be given to the detail of the course of study followed to gain the qualification, as well as your performance in the programme.

If your undergraduate degree is not from the University of Otago you will need to provide a verified copy of your academic transcript.

Degree structure

You must complete seven of the following*:

FINC 402	Advanced Corporate Finance
FINC 403	Studies in Capital Markets
FINC 405	Mathematical Finance
FINC 406	Advanced Empirical Finance
FINC 410	Advanced International Financial Management
FINC 411	Financial Risk Management
FINC 420	Energy and Carbon Finance
FINC 425	Governance Issues in Finance
ACFI 459	Advanced Research Methods
BSNS 401	The Environment of Business and Economics

Plus one of the following projects:

BSNS 501	Applied Project Help solve a problem for an actual business
or	
BSNS 580	Research Project An academically focused project completed with staff guidance

Both BSNS 501 or BSNS 580 prepare you for careers listed on this information sheet.

There may be students for whom the MFinC is not an appropriate goal. In such cases, six of the 400-level courses listed above will be considered to qualify for a Postgraduate Diploma in Finance.

*Every paper may not be offered in a given year

Career opportunities

As a graduate of the MFinC you have a wide range of potential career opportunities, including: commercial banking; investment banking; funds management; insurance; brokerage; regulation; government; corporate treasury; financial advising; trading; and, corporate finance.

There are a wide range of roles you may find yourself working in such as personal financial advisors, financial managers, financial analysts, financial services sales agents, insurance underwriters, credit risk management analysts and mergers and acquisitions analysts.

Salaries normally start above NZ\$50,000 and can be significantly higher in certain positions and across different employers. Many graduates can expect to work overseas.

PROFILE

James Butchers BCom, MFinC
Analyst – Goldman Sachs, Auckland

After completing his three-year Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in finance, James Butchers had the opportunity to be a Summer Analyst with international banking firm Goldman Sachs. At the end of that four-month experience he was awarded a coursework masters scholarship.

James returned to the University of Otago for an additional 12 months to undertake his Master of Finance (MFinC). On completion of this qualification, he returned to Goldman Sachs in a full-time role as an Analyst, based in the Auckland office.

The two are connected, as James says a four-year degree is a standard requirement for such positions and investment banking is where his passion lies.

James, who hails from Wellington, was one of two New Zealand and 30 Australian Goldman Sachs graduates, having been selected from a pool of more than 2,000 applicants.

"It was a great experience and a steep learning curve," James says, as he is now part of the 16-person New Zealand team.

James describes investment banking as similar to being a realtor, but for companies. "It's buying, selling, raising finance, IPO's and mergers and acquisitions."

James chose Otago for his study because of its reputation for academic excellence and for the social focus.

"I think what I learnt at Otago was to adapt fast and learn quickly, and I've found employers value the soft skills you get there."

He also found a strong sense of camaraderie among Otago graduates, with several already working in the Goldman Sachs office.

For his MFinC, James completed a three-month research project rather than the applied project option offered, as he'd wanted to keep open the possibility of further study at PhD level.

James' research focused on agency conflicts and the marginal value of capital expenditure with respect to Australian listed companies.

Although the PhD pathway is still an option, James is most likely to take the opportunities that come with working for a global firm, and the possibility of travel. The world awaits.



For questions about
Master of Finance
otago.ac.nz/accountancyfinance

