

Programme Description

Master in Finance

SAFIA-H24

Decision taken by	Head of Department, Thomas Winman
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Programme description is a supplement to the programme syllabus which is the legally binding document.

Ground data

Department	School of Business, Economics and IT
Section	Division of Real Estate, Economics and Society
Name of Programme, Swedish	Magister i finans
Name of Programme, English	Master in Finance
HE credits (number of credits)	60
Level (1st Cycle, 2nd Cycle)	2nd Cycle
Entry requirements, Swedish	Kandidatexamen om 180 hp med 90 hp i huvudområdet nationalekonomi med minst 7,5 hp i finans på nivå 31-60 samt 7,5 hp i ekonometri eller statistik, eller motsvarande. Alternativt en kandidatexamen om 180 hp med 90 hp i huvudområdet företagsekonomi, minst 7,5 hp i mikroekonomi och 7,5 hp i makroekonomi och minst 7,5 hp i finans på nivå 31-60 samt 7,5 hp i ekonometri eller statistik, eller motsvarande. Engelska 6 eller motsvarande.
Entry requirements, English	Bachelor's degree of 180 HE credits with 90 HE credits in the major subject field of Economics with at least 7,5 HE credits in Finance at intermediate level and 7.5 HE credits in Econometrics or Statistics, or equivalent. Alternatively, a bachelor's degree of 180 HE credits with 90 HE credits in the major subject field of Business Administration, with at least 7,5 HE credits in Micro economics and 7.5 HE credits in Macro economics and at least 7,5 HE credits in Finance at intermediate level and 7.5 HE credits in Econometrics or Statistics, or the equivalent. Verified knowledge of English corresponding to the course, English 6 in the Swedish Upper Secondary School or equivalent.
Main field of study, Swedish	Nationalekonomi
Main field of study, English	Economics
Degree, Swedish	Filosofie magisterexamen med inriktning mot finans
Degree, English	Degree of Master of Science (60 credits) with specialization in Finance

Rate of study (full-time, part-time)	Full-time
Type of instruction (on campus, distance teaching)	On campus
Language of instruction (Sw, Eng)	Eng

General programme information

This one-year programme offers the quantitative and theoretical tools required for a successful career as a financial analyst. You'll learn from highly qualified researchers, lecturers, professors, and representatives from business – from both Sweden and abroad. Your degree gives you expertise in the main areas of applied finance (corporate finance, pricing, risk management and financial institutions) and a solid foundation in economics, business, and industry – making you highly employable in the international job market. The program has a strong analytical focus and emphasizes the knowledge and skills needed in today's global financial environment. Carrying out research projects around these topics and disseminating their results to the surrounding society is an important way for University West to contribute to their overall mission of advancing knowledge and tackling real problems. By collaborating with industry partners and conducting research on topics such as investment management, risk management, corporate finance, and financial regulation, universities can develop new knowledge and expertise that can help the industry to make more informed financial decisions, manage risks more effectively, and achieve sustainable growth, which is one of the university's complete academic environments. Having completed the Master in Finance at University West, students are qualified for admission to doctoral studies in Sweden or PhD programmes abroad.

Programme contents, structure, and progression

The program's core courses equip participants with both an in-depth understanding and an up-to-date knowledge in key areas of finance. There is a clear progression in the program, and we keep updating the order of the courses to improve that. The structure of the program is

- [Financial Reporting and Analysis \(including ethical considerations for financial profession\), 7.5 credits](#)
- [Corporate Finance and Equity Valuation, 7.5 credits](#)
- [Fixed Income Fundamentals and Derivatives, 7.5 credits](#)
- [Portfolio Management and Alternative Investment, 7.5 credits](#)
- [International Finance, 7.5 credits](#)
- [Advanced Research Methods in Finance, 7.5 credits](#)
- [Degree Project in Finance, Master \(60 credits\), 15 credits](#)

The research basis for the programme

In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the need for a transition to more sustainable and equitable economic and financial systems. Our recent research focusing on the impact of climate-related financial risks and macroeconomic uncertainty on global competitiveness of the manufacturing industry in West Sweden. The following research questions will be answered in a series of research articles.

1. How Do Climate-Related Risks and Opportunities Affect Portfolio Allocation and Asset pricing?
2. How macroeconomic uncertainty affects business performance and how to counteract it: An Empirical analysis of the manufacturing sector in Sweden.
3. How climate-related risks are considered and influence decisions at different levels.

Thus, our research helps to identify and develop new solutions and technologies and strategies that can support the transition to a more sustainable economy within which we arranged a "landmark global conference" in sustainable finance in Marstrand in June 2022.

The labour market, collaboration, and work-integrated learning¹

CAREER

The programme provides a scientific foundation that you can directly apply in professional roles such as insurance broker, realtor and financial advisor. After completing the Master in Finance (MSc) you'll be qualified to work in a variety of sectors and branches:

- Private sector. Industrial and financial firms, Banks, Wealth and asset managing companies such as mutual/pension/hedge funds, National and international companies.
- Government agencies. Ministry of Finance, The Central Bank, Tax Authority, Social Insurance Agency, Central Bureau of Statistics.
- International bodies. EU, UN, IMF, OECD, and World Bank.
- Local government, trade and workers' organisations and the media.
- Running your own analytical firm or being an economic journalist

We collaborate with many national and international companies and organization including:

- The international accreditation organization Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute,
- CFA Society Sweden.
- Many companies included in our Newley constructed Industry council (Branchrådet) and Network.

Work Integrated Learning (WIL)

The Master program in Finance is WIL certified in 2022. The program provides students with opportunities to put knowledge and skills into practice through non-placement learning activities such as work-related research projects, case studies, competitions, event studies, and analyses carried out in collaboration with companies and organizations. Syllabus revisions that serve as linking theory and practice are carried out continuously by the teachers and the head of the program.

¹ Work-integrated learning is a pedagogical practice in which students' learning takes place through the integration of theoretical and practical knowledge and experience, derived from an educational context within the framework of both higher education as a work environment and civil society.

Specifically, the program encompasses three specific elements that integrate theories to practice.

WIL activities at the program level

1. The Adaption of Body of Knowledge (CBOK) through the entire program. Bridging the gap between theory and practice is at the heart of the program's curriculum, to that end, the structure and content of the courses of the master's program are based on the Candidate Body of Knowledge (CBOK) which define the curriculum used by Chartered Financial Analyst Institute (CFA) for accreditation and professional certification of financial analysts.
2. Our Annual Participation in a Global Research Competition. We annually participate in a Global Research Competition organized by CFA Society Sweden. Students compete with students from other universities based on their analytical, valuation, report writing, and presentation skills. This allows them to have an accurate experience as they undertake the role of a research analyst. Our team of students won the bronze medal in company valuation 2022.
3. Establishment of the Companies Council (Branschråd). To integrate theory and practice, we have started the process to establish a Business- Research Council in finance. The aim is to identify and understand companies-based challenges and opportunities and integrate them into scientific research questions for the program to engage in. the council consists of several companies and organizations from West Sweden
4. Establishment of a Network for collaboration around the region's global competitiveness (NSGK). The network consists of CEOs for the 23 large companies from West Sweden.

Sustainable development

In the last few years, we have worked to incorporate concepts of sustainability into different courses in the program, and we are currently focusing on expanding the sustainability strand in all courses in the program. Examples of the courses fostering sustainability include International Finance and Degree Project in Finance. Integrating ESG into the course curriculum has become increasingly important as we see an increasing number of master's theses on sustainability. For example, the following dissertations were successfully defended in 2021. We have also organized a global

conference in sustainable finance " in Marstrand in June 2022. The plan is to run this conference on yearly basis.

Internationalisation

In this program, the teacher-to-student ratio is higher than at most comparable programmes at other universities, and your proactive participation is a part of the programme. Additionally, all your courses have an international focus. This is enriched by students and staff coming from all over the world with diverse cultural backgrounds. Completely taught in English, your programme gives you an enriching linguistic and cultural experience and prepares you for a challenging and stimulating career in an increasingly globalised world.

Other information

We are working on developing the industry council and networking that will provide students with invaluable opportunities to develop their skills, gain real-world experience and build connections that can help them succeed in their chosen career paths. The industry council and network are expected to provide students with the opportunity to network with professionals in their field of interest. This can help them build connections and gain insight into the industry they are pursuing, leading to potential internships, job offers, and career opportunities.