Master of Applied Finance
When you’re studying business, you want to be where the action is.

Sydney Graduate School of Management (SGSM), the Postgraduate Business School of Western Sydney University, is located in the centre of Parramatta. As more businesses – from large multinationals to small and medium enterprises – choose to base their operations in Parramatta, the area is one of Sydney’s fastest growing business districts.

SGSM engages with these businesses to provide you with opportunities to gain the practical experience you need to take on executive finance roles with confidence.

Our location in the heart of the Greater Western Sydney region is close to affordable housing in surrounding suburbs, or you can live on campus at Parramatta. As the region’s transport hub, Parramatta is well-serviced by buses and trains, which also connect to the Sydney CBD.

Parramatta is a thriving multicultural community, with a major shopping centre and international dining options, ensuring your free time is as enjoyable as your time at uni.

With students coming from diverse cultural backgrounds, both local and international as well as a range of industries, you’ll benefit from fresh perspectives and insights into business and finance in Australia and internationally.

INTRODUCING THE MASTER OF APPLIED FINANCE

Become a leader in the fast-paced world of financial services with the SGSM Master of Applied Finance.

Over two years, this qualification will equip you with the technical knowledge you need to succeed in an increasingly sophisticated global financial environment, and provide opportunities for the practical application of these techniques.

By completing the SGSM Master of Applied Finance program, you will be ready to take on an executive role in the dynamic areas of finance, banking, funds management, property investment and corporate treasury.

With all units developed by professionals actively involved in the financial sector, the SGSM Master of Applied Finance features specialist knowledge units in areas such as derivatives, financial modelling, financial institution management, credit and lending decisions, and funds management and portfolio selection.

These units provide the comprehensive understanding of the financial environment, methodologies and instruments you need to be a key player in the banking and finance sector.

When you study at SGSM, you can be confident you’re receiving a top-quality business education – the school is currently in the process of obtaining accreditation from the international Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

CFA INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY RECOGNITION PROGRAM

The SGSM Master of Applied Finance has been accepted into the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute University Recognition Program. This status is granted to institutions whose degree program(s) incorporate at least 70% of the CFA Program Candidate Body of Knowledge (CBOK), which provide students with a solid grounding in the CBOK and positions them well to obtain the Chartered Financial Analyst® designation, which has become the most respected and recognised investment credential in the world.

Entry into the CFA Institute University Recognition Program signals to potential students, employers, and the marketplace that the SGSM Master of Applied Finance curriculum is closely tied to professional practice and is well-suited to preparing students to sit for the CFA examinations. SGSM is eligible to allocate three CFA Program Awareness Scholarships to Western Sydney University students each year.

SUCCESS STORY

Aspiring to a career in the finance sector, Alex Gao came to Australia from China to complete a Master of Accounting, before undertaking the Master of Applied Finance at Western Sydney University.

Having recently completed a four-month internship at State Street, Alex is now hopeful of landing a permanent position with the global financial services institution. Working in the operations divisions of the company, Alex felt his Masters degree prepared him well for the dynamic world of corporate finance. He also believes the interactive style of teaching at Western Sydney University also gave him the edge when it came to preparing for the workplace.

‘We were encouraged by our lecturers to participate, not to just sit there and listen – we could ask, we could discuss, and challenge what the teachers say. We benefited a lot from that because we learned actively and they encouraged us to think,’ he says.

Alex now hopes to take advantage of the opportunities that a role with the International Bank could bring, including rotations to other parts of the business.
The Contemporary Business Environment

The unit provides foundational knowledge that is needed to appreciate the role of the major functional areas of a business and the complexities involved in managing these in an uncertain and complex global setting. Emphasis is placed on the influence of the economic, sociocultural, economic, political, and technological environments on a business and the need for businesses to adopt a global perspective in formulating and implementing strategic interventions for enhancing competitiveness.

Financial Reports for Decision Making

This unit focuses on developing the ability to use accounting information, as extracted from financial reports, to assist with managerial decision making. Students will gain financial literacy through developing an understanding of the information contained in financial reports and applying this information to practical decisions. This unit emphasises the function of both financial and management accounting in measuring, processing and communicating information useful for decision making.

Applied Business Statistics

This unit introduces the basic statistical concepts and techniques for descriptive and inferential data analysis. It will aid and improve business decision-making, especially when faced with uncertain outcomes.

Economics (PG)

This unit presents a broad overview of economics to provide students with the tools to succeed in business, finance, government and other organisations. Students will reflect critically on microeconomics, macroeconomics, ethical, social, and environmental responsibility and the state of the global economy. In microeconomics, the emphasis is on the economics of large organisations; their behaviour, the different market structures within which they exist, their interaction with the State through regulation, taxation and public programs and their ethical responsibilities. Organisations also exist within a macro- and global economy subject to cycles, crisis and inequalities. Students will be given the tools to understand how cycles and crisis occur, the government policy which can be used to respond to them and the uneven development of different countries and cultural groups in the global economy.

Corporate Finance (PG)

As an introductory finance unit, Corporate Finance (PG) introduces students to the fundamental concepts of finance theory – the time value of money, risk and return, capital budgeting and capital structure – and to the tools of financial decision-making in the context of the Australian institutional environment. Students examine the investment, financing and dividend decisions of corporations and develop an understanding of the basic practices and financial management from the perspective of both large and small firms.

Financial Institutions and Markets (MAF)

This unit helps students to understand the role and nature of financial markets and institutions; develop computational skills for transactions in financial markets; understand the factors that determine share price, interest rates and exchange rates; and understand major derivative products and their use in financial markets. This subject contains financial institutions and markets and the transactions that take place in them.

International Finance

This unit provides a comprehensive analysis and coverage of contemporary international finance by describing the international financial system, institutions and market practices; international finance theorems and their application; Euromarkets; international borrowing, lending and capital sourcing; measurement of foreign exchange risk; managing foreign exchange exposure; foreign currency derivatives, international investment; and globalisation and the MNC.

Derivatives

This unit provides an introduction to the major classes of derivatives: forwards, futures, swaps and options. These are studied in detail with the objective of elucidating the ways in which these instruments can be used for the purposes of hedging, speculation and arbitrage. In addition to the analysis of derivative usage and market growth, considerable attention is given to the objective of gaining an understanding of the fundamentals of derivative pricing.

Financial Modelling

This unit is essential in preparing students for applied financial analysis and modelling applications used extensively in a number of postgraduate finance units. It familiarises students with the strengths and limitations of contemporary quantitative modelling techniques using multivariate statistical procedures and optimisation approaches. Students are also familiarised with relevant software.

Security Analysis and Portfolio Theory

This unit examines the valuation of assets, firms and securities. The focus is on the attempt by active investors to identify mispriced securities through projection of a firm’s future cash flows based on pro forma financial statements, translating those projections to values and dividing the firm value among the different security holders of the firm. Students develop their understanding of accounting, finance and economic concepts in this applied unit by building models of a firm and conducting analyses of the equity valuation.

Financial Institution Management

This unit provides participants with an overview of the types of financial institutions and the regulatory context within which they operate. Financial risk management and corporate responsibility serve as an underpinning framework to consider the complexity associated with managing contemporary financial institutions in an Australian and International context. A focus of the unit is to provide participants with an opportunity to use techniques to measure and manage financial risk.

Credit and Lending Decisions

Lending is one of the most important functions of any financial institution. If not managed properly, it can lead to credit quality problems, threatening the existence of the financial institution. This unit aims to provide an analysis of the various lending activities of financial institutions, emphasising the assessment of credit proposals and the management of credit risk.

Funds Management and Portfolio Selection

This unit provides an introduction to the theory, concepts, tools, techniques and applications of investment management, drawing on examples from the Australian financial system. The unit focuses on passive investment management and asset pricing for money market instruments, bonds and equity securities, and the use of different techniques for risk management.
Master of Applied Finance

**WHAT YOU’LL STUDY**
To be awarded the Master of Applied Finance, students must successfully complete 160 credit points, including four general foundation units, nine specialist knowledge units, one elective and a 20 credit point business internship or capstone project unit.

While an undergraduate degree in any field is a prerequisite, you don’t need to have studied finance to undertake this program, as our foundation units provide you with the necessary grounding in basic accounting and economic principles.

**GENERAL FOUNDATION UNITS**
- The Contemporary Business Environment
- Financial Reports for Decision Making
- Applied Business Statistics
- Economics (PG)

**SPECIALIST KNOWLEDGE UNITS**
- Corporate Finance (PG)
- Financial Institutions and Markets
- International Finance
- Derivatives
- Financial Modelling
- Security Analysis and Portfolio Theory
- Financial Institution Management
- Credit and Lending Decisions
- Funds Management and Portfolio Selection
- Elective
  - 10 credit points from PG Business units

**CAPSTONE UNITS**
- Business Project
  - This unit provides students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills gained in previous sessions to solve a real-world business problem. This would be an action-learning project with students working on a research topic that will enable them to use the proficiencies and expertise attained in the specialist units.
- Internship
  - The Internship is designed for students who want to gain industry experience and further their studies through a business internship. This Internship unit is based on a project style unit which requires students to undertake a research project in their chosen field while attending an industry based internship. These highly sought after internships will be filled on a competitive basis.

**SPECIALISATIONS**
- Funds Management
- Banking
- Treasury

**ADMISSIONS INFORMATION**

**Master of Applied Finance**
Students will complete 160 credit points, however, students who have an undergraduate degree and some business experience may be eligible for recognition of prior learning. Eighty credit points is the maximum recognition allowed. Interested students need to discuss their particular situation with the Sydney Graduate School of Management (SGSM) staff members.

**Academic Entry Requirements**
Applicants must have successfully completed an undergraduate degree or higher in any discipline.

**Duration**
Two years

**Intakes**
January, April, June, September

**Campus**
Parramatta City campus

**Fees**
$26,600

**HOW TO APPLY**

**International Students**
International students apply directly to Western Sydney University. For full details and application forms, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/international/admissions

**Further Information for International Students**
For more information about studying at Western Sydney University, including course information, English language requirements, intakes, tuition fees, assessment methods, accommodation options, financial obligations, and living in Australia, please visit westernsydney.edu.au/international or contact internationalstudy@westernsydney.edu.au

Western Sydney University reserves the right at all times to withdraw or vary courses listed within this publication.