BEST VALUE PROGRAM WITH HIGHLY COMPETITIVE PROGRAM COSTS AND LIVING EXPENSES

The Masters of Science in Quantitative Finance at UNLV is an innovative, leading-edge and affordable 12-month degree program. Students will obtain strong knowledge of finance, advanced statistical and econometric skills to manipulate and analyze large financial datasets (e.g., CRSP, Compustat, Execucomp, Institutional Shareholder Services, Factset, Wharton Research Data Services) and exposure to the latest fintech applications.

Program Highlights

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) designated program which allows international students to work in the United States for 36 months after graduation, without being sponsored for a work visa by an employer, facilitating work experience for students in the United States.

- Courses taught by research active faculty with Ph.D. degrees from reputed universities who bring the most current subject knowledge into the classroom.

- Preparation for obtaining the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation, one of the highest distinctions in the investment management profession.

- Lee Business School is among the one percent of business colleges and schools worldwide which hold international dual accreditation in business and accounting by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), the premier accrediting body for business and management education.

Program Snapshot

Credits needed to complete program: 30
Core credits: 18
Elective credits: 12
Full-time option: 12-months with a fall semester start

Culminating Experience and Graduation Requirements: A capstone project is a required culminating experience for the MSQF program and should apply knowledge obtained from the coursework to a project involving significant data analysis using large financial datasets. The capstone project will be a group project of 4-5 students working on a company project or research project identified by faculty or the students. To graduate, a minimum of 30 credit hours of MSQF program coursework (excluding prerequisites) is required with an overall GPA of at least 3.00.

Class Availability: Courses will be offered primarily in the daytime and meet twice-a-week.
Core Course

- Econometrics I, Statistical Modeling (ECO 770)
- Investment Management (FIN 710)
- Advanced Corporate Finance (FIN 708)
- Corporate Finance Modeling (FINQ 761)
- Investments Modeling (FINQ 762)
- Capstone Project (FINQ 773)

Elective Courses

- Financial Statement Analysis and Valuation (FINQ 754)
- Special Topics in Corporate Finance (FINQ 757)
- Quantitative Investment Strategies (FINQ 763)
- Derivatives and Risk Management (FINQ 764)
- Fixed Income Securities (FINQ 765)
- Fintech (Financial Technology) (FINQ 766)
- CFA Level I Prep (FINQ 721)
- Finance Internship (FINQ 781)
- Finance Independent Study (FINQ 790)
- Econometrics II (ECO 772)

At most one elective from the following existing MBA courses:

- Applied Topics in Finance (FIN 709)
- Financial Markets and Institutions (FIN 712)
- Risk Management (FIN 740)
- International Financial Management (FIN 750)

The number of electives offered each year will depend on enrollment.

CORPORATE FINANCE MODELING (FINQ 761):

This course will teach how to use statistical software to analyze large financial databases to facilitate corporate financial decision making. Examples of statistical software include Excel, SAS, and Stata. Examples of financial databases include Compustat, Execucomp, and Factset. Advanced statistical and econometric methods will be covered, such as univariate analysis, regression methods, panel data analysis, statistical prediction, and Monte Carlo simulation.

INVESTMENTS MODELING (FINQ 762):

This course will provide a strong knowledge of econometric techniques and programming skills needed to manipulate large financial data sets. Widely used statistical factor models are developed to form tradable portfolios using firm-specific characteristics (e.g., market cap and momentum) and market information (e.g., interest rate and GDP growth). The objective is to provide master’s level instruction (both theory and application) for topics on asset pricing, market efficiency, and statistical estimation. This course builds a solid empirical foundation for implementing quantitative techniques of selecting equities commonly used by industry practitioners.

Select Course Descriptions

FINTECH (FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY) (FINQ 766):

This course will expose students to different fintech applications. Various topics on blockchain technology will be covered. Analysis of non-numerical data (textual analysis) will also be covered. Finally, students will be exposed to various machine learning techniques such as random forests, regression trees and LASSO and other predictive analytic techniques which are useful in applications where predictive performance is important.

SPECIAL TOPICS IN CORPORATE FINANCE (FINQ 757):

The course focuses on selected topics in corporate finance including mergers & acquisitions, other corporate restructuring, corporate governance, and executive compensation. Classical studies, as well as recent developments in these areas are reviewed. Students will be exposed to both theory and empirical research that can help them develop their capstone projects.

DERIVATIVES AND RISK MANAGEMENT (FINQ 764):

This course discusses the pricing of financial derivatives, such as options, futures and swaps and provides tools required to develop financially engineered products and solutions. The course will also cover real-world case studies to illustrate practical application of financial derivatives to solve complex risk management problems faced by corporations.

QUANTITATIVE INVESTMENT STRATEGIES (FINQ 763):

This course introduces quantitative investment strategies used by active traders such as hedge funds and provides a methodology to analyze them. Through case studies and a portfolio management project, students will also learn to use real data to back-test or evaluate several of the most successful trading strategies used by active investment managers. The course also covers issues related to performance measurement, transaction costs, risk management, and portfolio construction.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANALYSIS AND VALUATION (FINQ 754):

This course develops a strong understanding of how to interpret financial statements using real company data. It examines how cash flows provide a vital link between the income statement and balance sheet, and how to use financial ratios to compare financials across firms as well as the performance of a firm over time. Major items on the assets and liabilities side of the balance sheet and how different accounting methods impact other financial statements will be studied. Topics on valuation of stocks will also be covered.
Applicant Requirements

Satisfactory GMAT or GRE scores is required. Preference is given to applicants with GMAT scores above 550 (or the GRE equivalent). Successful applicants need to have earned a B grade (or equivalent) in introductory finance (FIN 301 or equivalent), introductory financial accounting (ACC 201 or equivalent), introductory microeconomics (ECO 102 or equivalent), two statistics course (ECON 261 and ECON 262/441 or equivalent), and two calculus courses (MATH 181 and MATH 182 or equivalent). The calculus prerequisite can also be fulfilled by earning a B grade or higher in ECON 440 (or equivalent). For course descriptions visit catalog.unlv.edu.

Given the required prerequisite courses and quantitative and analytical nature of the program, students with undergraduate degrees in Accounting, Economics, Finance and Information Systems are encouraged to apply. Students with undergraduate degrees in Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics are also suitable applicants on successful completion of prerequisite courses. The program is targeted at full time students. However, part-time students can enroll in the program with a longer time frame for completion. Students must complete the prerequisite courses the summer prior to starting the program.

Potential Career Opportunities

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER GRADUATION?

Graduates with quantitative finance degrees, often work in various analyst roles in hedge funds, mutual funds, private equity, risk management, trading, investment management, investment banking, commercial banking, corporate finance, insurance and regulatory positions.

This program will prepare students interested in pursuing doctoral studies in finance.

The finance department at UNLV engages with reputed prospective employers to facilitate internship and placement opportunities for students. Networking opportunities through various speaker and student events are a part of student life on campus. The LEE Career and Professional Development Center and UNLV Office of International Students and Scholars office provides advising to students seeking employment opportunities. Based on reported data from other U.S. MS Finance programs, salaries of graduates obtaining employment in the U.S., often exceed $65,000 per year, on average.

Tuition and Fees

ESTIMATED PROGRAM TUITION AND FEES FOR 30 CREDITS OF MSQF COURSEWORK:

- Nevada Residents: $17,467.50
- Out-of-State U.S. Residents: $31,939.50
- International Residents: $32,229.50

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL EXPENSES:

- Other UNLV Related Fees: $1,000 per year
- Health Insurance (full time students): $2,450 per year (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Rent, Utilities, Food: $12,000 per year
- Travel and Miscellaneous Personal Expenses: $3,000 per year

Program Deadlines

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR FALL ADMISSION

Regular Deadline: June 1 (domestic applicants)
May 1 (International applicants)
Priority Deadline 1: February 1
Priority Deadline 2: March 1

Applicants are encouraged to apply and submit their GMAT/GRE scores by the priority deadlines. The earlier you apply, the greater chance of being accepted. Students who need to complete prerequisite courses in the Summer should apply early.

To apply, visit https://www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/futurestudents
Application Fee:
$95 for international applicants
$60 for domestic applicants

Scholarships

All scholarship deadlines are dates prior to the fall semester you intend to start the program.

GRADUATE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Deadline: Dec. 1
For more information and to apply visit www.unlv.edu/graduatecollege/scholarships

NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

Deadline: March 1
Several scholarships are available each year
For more information and to apply visit www.unlv.edu/finaid

MERIT-BASED GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

Deadline: March 1
3-4 assistantships chosen each year
For more information contact John Puthenpurackal at john.puthenpurackal@unlv.edu
Meet the Faculty

All courses required for the Master of Science in Qualitative Finance degree are taught by research-active faculty with Ph.D. degrees from reputed universities who bring the most current subject knowledge into the classroom. For more details about the faculty, visit www.unlv.edu/finance/directory.

Saeyoung Chang; Ph.D. Finance, Ohio State University; M.B.A, Indiana University
Robert Chatfield; Ph.D. Economics, M.S. Economics, Purdue University
Jianxin Daniel Chi; Ph.D. Finance, Texas A&M University; M.B.A, Idaho State University
Seungmook Choi; Ph.D. Economics, M.A. Mathematics, University of Texas - Austin
Melvin Jameson; Ph.D. Economics, M.A. Statistics, University of California – Berkeley
Dale Scott Lee; Ph.D. Finance, University of Oregon; B.S, University of Utah
Ankur Pareek; Ph.D. Finance, Yale University; M.S. Risk Management, London School of Economics
Percy Poon; Ph.D. Finance, Louisiana State University; M.B.A, Texas State University
John Putheenpurackal; Ph.D. Finance, Texas A&M University; M.B.A, Indian Institute of Management – A
Michael Sullivan; Ph.D. Finance, Florida State University; M.B.A, University of Florida
Paul Thistle; Ph.D. Economics, M.S. Economics, Texas A&M University
Andrew Jianzhong Zhang; Ph.D. Finance, University of Arizona; M.B.A, University of Louisiana

About Lee Business School

Established in 1967 as the College of Business, the now Lee Business School is one of the largest schools at UNLV with approximately 3,500 undergraduate students, 500 graduate students, and 100 faculty and staff. The school offers ten undergraduate majors, 14 minors and seven graduate degree (MBA, Executive MBA, MS in Accounting, MS in Data Analytics and Applied Economics, MA in Applied Economics, MS in Management Information Systems and MS in Quantitative Finance) programs. In addition to its scholastic endeavors, Lee Business School is home to three centers that bring together faculty and students with business and industry. These include the Troesh Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Center for Business and Economic Research (CBER), and Lied Institute for Real Estate Studies. With more than 20,000 graduates, the Lee Business School Alumni Chapter is one of the largest alumni chapters on campus.

About University of Nevada, Las Vegas

UNLV is a doctoral-degree-granting institution of approximately 30,000 students and more than 3,000 faculty and staff that is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a research university with high research activity. UNLV offers a broad range of respected academic programs and is on a path to join the top tier of national public research universities. The university is committed to recruiting and retaining top students and faculty, educating the region’s diversifying population and workforce, driving economic activity through increased research and community partnerships, and creating an academic health center for Southern Nevada that includes the launch of a new School of Medicine. UNLV is located on a 332-acre main campus and two satellite campuses in Southern Nevada.

UNLV is located in the vibrant city of Las Vegas, a city that boasts one of the most connected airports in the world, most prestigious conventions, headquarters of leading hospitality, entertainment and gaming companies, world-class hotels, dining and entertainment, beautiful parks, miles of jogging and bike trails, numerous hiking and rock climbing opportunities, and year-round sunshine.

CONTACT US

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