Courses – September 2017 entry
MSc Accounting

Course structure
All taught course units are 15 credits

Semester 1

- **Corporate Financial Reporting**
  **Javed Saddiqi**
  This course is concerned with the relationship between theories, methods and regulation in the field of external financial reporting, which encompasses both financial accounting and auditing. Reference is made to a variety of theoretical perspectives on accounting problems, ranging from economics to critical theory. The preparation of financial statements is viewed in a broad context including their validation through audit, the supply of information to markets and the politics of the interests involved in the financial reporting process.

- **Quantitative Research Methods in Accounting**
  **Cheng Zeng**
  This module aims to introduce statistical and quantitative techniques in accounting, integrated with theory and empirical evidence. It gives an overview of selected approaches to market-based accounting research, including an insight into cutting-edge academic publications. It also provides you with the necessary background required for other accounting and finance courses, and is of particular benefit to the students who wish to undertake quantitative work in their dissertation.

Plus, two elective units from:

- **Assurance and Credible Corporate Reporting**
  **Stuart Turley**
  The primary focus of this unit is on the nature of the financial statement auditor’s role in enhancing the confidence of users of those statements about the quality of the information they contain as a basis for making decisions. The course is based mainly on academic research and is designed to engage students in advanced debates on major issues in auditing theory and practice. The course also looks at the development of assurance for other areas of corporate reporting, such as on sustainability reports. Relevant real-life case studies are used on financial statements auditing and analysis of quantitative and qualitative research findings with a view to gain better understanding of topical issues surrounding the auditing profession.

- **International Accounting Practice and Regulation**
  **Anna Samsonova-Taddei**
  The purpose of this course is to increase your understanding of the social, political, economic and cultural factors that may lead to diversity of national accounting systems throughout the world and the problems that this diversity may cause for both companies; users of corporate annual reports and financial markets. This course will
increase your understanding of how the global international financial community has responded to this challenge through the International Accounting Standards Board and International Financial Reporting Standards. The course will increase your understanding of the spread of international financial reporting standards in Europe; China and America in particular. The course will also provide the opportunity to increase your understanding of some key international financial accounting and reporting topics.

- **Issues in Critical Accounting Research**
  The module provides a critical review and analysis of mainstream accounting with a view to understanding how the critical agenda came about, how it evolved into a well-established field of research, what the remaining issues are and what opportunities and challenges the future presents. Contemporary issues regarding the role, nature and future development of accounting and regulation are discussed throughout the course. You are encouraged to develop your own original thinking and apply it to such topics.

**Semester 2**

- **Advanced Management Accounting**
  **Sue Llewelyn/Chunlei Yang**
  This course examines the approaches of, and perspectives on, management accounting with a special emphasis on its key practices. The course provides a critical review and analysis of these practices with a view to understanding how they link with contemporary changes in organisations and society, how they can be used to the strategic advantage of the firm, and their impact on individual and group behaviour.

- **Qualitative Research Methods**
  **Jodie Moll / Christos Begkos**
  The course exposes, and explores, the variety of research methodologies and research methods adopted in financial and management accounting research. In so doing, particular emphasis will be placed on comparing and contrasting positivistic and interpretive approaches and on the differences between (and/or potential convergence of) mainstream North American accounting research and European accounting research. Moreover, in respect of the latter, special attention will be directed at recent developments research methodologies. In addition, a number of “Real Life” issues will discussed, and also research ethics.

Plus, two elective units from:

- **Accounting and Society**
  **Ken McPhail**
  This course provides students with the opportunity to explore the role of accounting in society. The course will be split into three discrete sections. Section one will explore how accounting is related to key contemporary and historical social issues. Section two will develop ways to think about accounting in society. This section will draw heavily on seminal accounting research that has developed frameworks for thinking about the function of accounting in society. The final section will explore the relationship between accounting and contemporary societal change. The course will provide students with some of the key skills to enable them to understand important areas in the future evolution of accountings role in society.
• **Corporate Governance in an Accounting Context**
  
  **Javed Saddiqui**

  This course is concerned with the relationship between theories, methods and regulation in the area of corporate governance. The importance of corporate governance became more exposed at the beginning of the twenty-first century as a series of corporate meltdowns from managerial fraud, misconduct, and negligence led to significant loss of shareholder wealth. This course provides students with advanced understanding of how a company is directed and controlled and, in particular, with the role of the management and the need to ensure that there is an effective framework for accountability of directors to owners. Also, the course provides a discussion regarding recent developments in the corporate governance regulatory agenda.

• **Elements of Market-Based Accounting Research**
  
  **Edward Lee**

  The module examines the relationship between accounting information and capital markets. Following major financial reporting scandals and the financial crisis, there is renewed recognition of the importance of capital markets to the growth and development of the wider economy. Accounting information influences the underlying efficiency and confidence of capital markets through the crucial roles it play in security valuation and corporate governance. As such, evidence and theories associated with market based accounting research contribute to important debates and decisions among academics, practitioners, and policy makers.

  Examples of issues covered include:
  - Do financial statements contain useful information for security valuation and selection?
  - What determines the behaviour of financial analysts and the usefulness of their forecasts and research?
  - How do corporate accounting policy choices affect managerial accountability and capital acquisition?
  - Can changes in disclosure regulations and accounting standards enhance corporate transparency?
  - How do the institutional environment and reforms affect the relationship between accounting information and capital markets in leading emerging economies like China?

• **Financial Statement Analysis**
  
  **Edward Lee / Colin Zeng**

  The aim of this course is to understand the role which publicly available accounting information play in security analysis. The course is divided into two parts. Part 1 aims to increase students’ knowledge of the theory and practice of financial statement analysis and to place it in its broad business, accounting and financial context. Part 2 focuses on valuation and emphasises the recent developments in academia and practice. It also introduces research evidence on cross-sectional stock return regularities relating to accounting numbers.

  **Summer research period**
  
  **Research dissertation (60 credits)**

  The dissertation gives you the opportunity to apply what you have learned in the taught part of the course. It normally consists of a piece of empirical work, involving qualitative research methods or traditional statistical methods.
Examples of recent accounting and finance dissertation project topics include:

- Financial reporting regulation
- Audit practice and professionalisation
- Management control systems in organisations
- Field-based qualitative research on management accounting innovation and change
- Performance reporting by UK listed firms under IFRS
- Audit markets in emerging economies
- The effect of corporate governance (board and audit committee characteristics) on audit quality

If you have any queries about the course, please contact the admissions office, by telephone on +44 (0)161 306 1339 or by email to pg.ambs@manchester.ac.uk

Note: this document is prepared in advance of the academic year to which it relates, and some modules and tutors may change before the course begins in September 2017.