

# Master of Science in International Financial Management

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# The Master of Science in International Financial Management at a Glance

## Why choose our Master's programme?

Our MSc in International Financial Management is the gateway into the finance world of international companies. Our Master's programme offers an excellent education by preparing our graduates to excel in all areas relevant to becoming future CFOs. Our three majors, various electives, and the flexibility of semester time models, enable our students to tailor their studies to meet their individual needs.

## Benefits of the Programme

- Excellent preparation for an international career in financial management
- Majors and electives offer an individual specialisation
- Internationally accredited Master's programme
- High international exposure to prepare for the global marketplace
- Flexible programme with the ability to work and study at the same time
- Opportunity for a second degree with a partner university
- Our campus in Zug-Rotkreuz, Switzerland, in the heart of Europe

## Entry requirements

A bachelor's or similar university degree in Business Administration or any other related discipline of at least 180 ECTS, issued by a university or a university of applied sciences.

## Additional:

- Certificate of C1 English level in the Cambridge ESOL (IELTS 6.0 – 7.0) or equivalent, and/or English mother tongue.

- At least 27 ECTS in the field of Financial Management. In case of missing Finance credits, students can enrol in corresponding classes offered by Lucerne School of Business.

**Application deadline:** 30 June or 15 January

**Start of the programme:**  
Mid-September or mid-February

**Exchange semester abroad:**  
1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> semester possible (participation voluntary)

**Language of instruction:** English

**Tuition fee:** CHF 800 per semester

**Duration of the course:**  
3 semesters (full-time) up to  
6 semesters (part-time)

**Campus benefits and information:**  
[hslu.ch/campus-business](https://hslu.ch/campus-business)

**Protected title:**  
Master of Science in International Financial Management, Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts/FHZ

## Application form and information

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[hslu.ch/msc-ifm](https://hslu.ch/msc-ifm)

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Prof Dr Imke Keimer



Prof Dr Stefan Hunziker

# Your Career and Work Opportunities

## **Excellent preparation for an international career in financial management**

Today's global marketplace is mainly looking for auditors, accountants, financial managers, and future CFOs with two specific qualities: a comprehensive knowledge of financial management, and the ability to perform in an international environment. Our programme nurtures the vital professional skills of management accounting, financial accounting (IFRS), risk management, auditing, corporate finance, and decision-making, which allows our graduates to go on to work for international companies in Switzerland and abroad. Our Master's programme is an excellent starting point for students who want to succeed in the field of financial management.

We provide career planning to all our students. From the initial consultation to the actual job offer, the HSLU Career Service supports our students to launch a successful career.

## **High international exposure to prepare for the global marketplace**

Our curriculum offers internationally aligned content, and we maintain intercontinental partnerships to provide our students with a global experience. Our students work on multinational issues and collaborate with students from different countries and cultures around the world. We also offer the possibility of studying a semester abroad without delaying graduation. Students who are interested can choose to study at one of the Lucerne School of Business's partner universities or decide to organize their own semester abroad at a college of their choice.

## **Flexible programme with the ability to work and study at the same time**

Our programme's flexibility provides students with the opportunity to integrate their studies into their daily lives. This enables students to align their academic demands with their personal lives. Students may choose from different time models ranging from a full-time three semester programme to a part-time six semester programme. If needed, students also have the option to put their studies on hold or to change the time model.

## **Programme with high academic and practical relevance**

The aim of our Master's programme is to prepare our students for financial management positions and to become future CFOs of international companies. Thus, we provide our graduates with a practical, research-based, internationally aligned education in accounting, corporate finance, business analytics, performance management, and risk management. Elective modules such as Going Global, Business Planning and Know-how Transfer provide valuable insight to international companies and expose our students to practical challenges. Our faculty also includes practitioners who hold senior positions at well-known international companies in Switzerland and abroad.

# Your Modules

Of the 90 ECTS students accumulate during their studies, 75 ECTS are mandatory and provide in-depth knowledge in the areas of accounting, corporate finance, risk management, tax & law, and business analytics. For the remaining 15 ECTS, students can choose modules from a wide range of electives, transfer credits from a semester abroad, or make a practical transfer from their work experience or internship. We offer optional majors in the following disciplines:

- Major in Accounting
- Major in Corporate Finance
- Major in Performance Management

A small selection of modules is briefly introduced below.

## **Managing Financial Information and Decision-Making**

To support management decisions at all levels financial managers have to understand how to collect, retrieve and exploit data and convert it into relevant information. Therefore it is necessary to understand how information is used by individuals and groups to make decisions and to solve problems and then to the reactions of a dynamic environment to these decisions into account.

## **Financial Environment in International Markets**

Financial Environment in International Markets takes place in a global environment. Graduates need to be able to act in this environment professionally and with confidence, upholding the goals and values

of their company. An important part of this confidence is a familiarity with international regulations, expectations but also opportunities, and the ability to adapt to local circumstances and to manage the resulting complexity.

## **International Financial Reporting and Analysis**

An important function of Financial Management is meeting financial reporting standards. A comprehensive knowledge of the future predominant regulatory framework – the IFRS – is therefore a given, but needs to be enhanced with the ability to understand local GAAP requirements and to integrate such information into a consolidated report.

## **Management Control and Performance Management**

Establishing Management Control and Performance Management systems in international and decentralized organizations is the key management support function of Financial Management. An integrated perspective on planning and control comprises financial performance but also ecological and social dimensions and their interdependencies.

## **Business Analytics**

Business Analytics introduces quantitative methods for analyzing business data and developing databased insights for strategic decision-making. Graduates learn about statistical concepts and analytical approaches that are becoming crucial for enterprises of all types and sizes as data availability increases (Big Data).

# Programme Overview

1st Semester

**Module 1: 9 Credits**  
Managing Financial  
Information and Decision

**Module 2: 9 Credits**  
Financial Environment in  
International Markets –  
Tax, Law and Finance

**Modul 9: 3 Credits**  
Personal Skills in  
Financial Management

2nd Semester

Semester at partner  
university

Electives Modules (selection):

- Agile Finance
- Leadership and Ethics
- Management Accounting  
and Control
- Financial Accounting  
and Analysis

- Going Global
- Business Planning
- Current Issues in  
International Finance
- Advanced Corporate  
Finance
- Research Design

3rd Semester

**Modul 5: 3 Credits**  
International Financial  
Reporting Standards

**Module 6: 6 Credits**  
Enterprise Risk  
Management and  
Audit

**Modul 7: 6 Credits**  
Corporate Performance  
Management

4th Semester

Semester at partner university  
International internship  
Elective Modules  
Know-how transfer

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**Modul 3: 6 Credits**  
Business Analytics

**Modul 4: 3 Credits**  
System Dynamics and  
Corporate Modelling

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**30 Credits**

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**Modul 10: 9 Credits**  
Applied Research  
Project

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**Up to 30 Credits**  
might incl.  
Credits for prerequisite courses

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**Modul 8: 3 Credits**  
Consolidated Financial  
Statements and  
Financial Analysis

**Module 11: 15 Credits**  
Master's Thesis

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**30 Credits**

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**15 Credits**  
Up to 15  
additional Credits

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# The importance of this degree in the working field



“The University has a strong focus on applied sciences and this was one of the main points that attracted me to study there. For example the Corporate Finance classes have given me knowledge which I currently use almost on a daily basis.”

**Ana-Maria Wall (Romania)**  
Graduated 2015



“The Msc IFM provided an ample opportunity for me to develop my skills & competencies to thrive professionally as well as personally.”

**Maheshika Pereira (Sri Lanka)**  
Graduated 2017



“The key reason why I chose the IFM was mostly the high extend of flexibility given by the programme. In contrast to other Master’s, the MSc IFM provides different time models and, most importantly, enables to tailor-make the semester schedule to your personal needs.”

**Claudia Jetschgo (Austria)**  
Graduated 2017



“Thanks to the MSc IFM, I got to know many new international friends with different viewpoints, broadening my own horizon. Also, the internationality of the programme taught me to think networked and out of the box, which ultimately helped me greatly in my career development.”

**Marcel Greimel (Switzerland)**  
Graduated 2019



“Having a full-time finance position, the flexible time model of the MSc IFM programme enabled me to keep my role and is the main reason why I chose this programme. Being taught in English was an additional benefit, which compliments the international orientation of the programme as well.”

**Jonathan Brandt (Switzerland)**  
Graduated 2021



“The MSc IFM programme equipped me with the skills and competencies needed in an international setting to comfortably study and research the current trends of our agile world.”

**Mustafa Gezera (Egypt)**  
Graduated 2021

# Lucerne School of Business

The Lucerne School of Business is part of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts and Central Switzerland's centre of excellence for advanced management education. With its teaching, research and consultancy services, the School of Business actively and effectively contributes to the development of a knowledge society. It trains specialist and executive staff and assists organizations and institutions in finding answers to current and future challenges in business and economics.

The School's degree programmes include a Bachelor's course in Business Administration with eight specializations, a Bachelor's course in International Business Administration with three specializations, and five

consecutive Master's programs. Finally yet importantly, the institution is the largest provider of post-graduate and further education programs of all Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences.

The Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts maintains close links to other universities and partners from industry and government. The School's four institutes are centres of excellence with a national and international reputation.

## Lucerne School of Business

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