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BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - FINANCE

YOUR START TO A CAREER IN THE FINANCE SECTOR

Master of Science

Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences
University of Cologne



UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

The Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences

The **University of Cologne** is one of the oldest and most prestigious European universities. It has produced several Nobel and Leibniz Prize winners and is part of the only economic cluster of excellence in Germany. Founded in 1388, the University of Cologne is a leader in many disciplines and a member of many international networks.

The **Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences** (also known as "WiSo Faculty") is part of the University of Cologne and has over a century of experience in educating new generations of business professionals, economists, social analysts and political experts. As one of Germany's largest educational institutions, the WiSo Faculty regularly ranks among the top providers of management and business education.

As a student of the WiSo Faculty, you benefit from a teaching approach based on theory and methods in combination with research and applications.

The traditional diversity of subjects, top-level research, practical relevance and internationality allow the WiSo-Faculty to stand up to national and international comparison and to achieve top positions in international research rankings. Through its interdisciplinary research approach, the Faculty's seminars and institutes make a major contribution to the excellent research at the University of Cologne.

The education provided at our Faculty has benefited from many years of experience in working with companies and visiting lecturers from different professional fields. Several faculty members are professionals and managers who bring important industry experience to the programmes, resulting in sector-specific, up-to-date programme content for our students. True to our motto "Today's ideas. Tomorrow's impact.", this ensures that our interdisciplinary programme reflects the real world and ideally combines practice and theory, while also promoting knowledge sharing.

Financial and capital markets have fundamentally changed the situation of economic and political action on an international level. It will only be possible to meet the global challenge of society through a change in attitudes and organisations. To achieve this, however, the underlying global interrelationships must be investigated, understood, and considered by decision makers.

In addition, the issue of risk measurement and control in the banking and insurance sector has increasingly come to the forefront – owing to more stringent supervisory regulations. By pursuing a degree through this programme at the WiSo Faculty, you will acquire expertise on capital market instruments and their use in asset management as well as methods of internal business financing – the ideal basis to take your leading role as an expert in finance.



"In today's world, every business organisation must be proficient in finance and risk management techniques. Therefore, a thorough and up-to-date understanding of corporate finance, asset management, banking and insurance is indispensable for facing the current challenges in a global market economy."

Dieter Hess, Professor and Academic Director Master Business Administration - Finance

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE WISO-FACULTY

Studies at the WiSo Faculty of Cologne University help to establish an excellent basis for your further professional and personal career paths. With nearly 9,000 students and a host of departments and academic staff, the WiSo Faculty is one of the largest and most prestigious schools of management, economics and social sciences in Europe.

- ▶ **8,735** national and international students
- ▶ **149** partner universities worldwide*
- ▶ **97** professors
- ▶ **200** research and teaching assistants
- ▶ more than **100** years in experience

Enrolling in a programme at the WiSo Faculty will give you everything you need to take the next step in furthering your career. One of Germany's largest educational institutions, the Faculty regularly ranks among the top providers of management and business education. The following is an overview of current rankings:



SCM Journal List Ranking ranks the University of Cologne on the 1st place in Germany.



Sociology is ranked #1 in Germany in the Academic Ranking of World Universities.



According to WirtschaftsWoche research ranking 2019, the University of Cologne is one of the most research-intensive German speaking universities. It ranks 2nd place within Germany in business administration.



AIS Information Systems Ranking is ranked 2nd in Germany.



CEMS Master's in Management programme is ranked 3rd in Germany in the Financial Times Ranking "Masters in Management 2020"



According to INOMICS (Career Guide for Economists) the school's Cologne Graduate School in Management Economics and Social Sciences is the best place to do a PhD.

State of facts and figures: February 2021

* The WiSo Faculty maintains excellent partnerships with over 140 leading institutions of higher education across the world on different levels of study, enabling its students to spend time abroad within a range of study and exchange programmes. Students can choose from an attractive range of partner universities, depending on their chosen path of study.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - FINANCE (M.SC.)

Key Facts



Degree:
Master of Science



Duration:
4 Semesters



Language:
English



Credits:
120 ECTS



Content:
Gain in-depth knowledge of financial markets, asset management, banking, corporate finance, and insurance.



International:
1 Semester Abroad

This programme provides you with:

- a deep insight into financial institutions, asset management, company valuation, empirical finance and other finance-related topics.
- an analytical approach that allows you to gather a deep understanding of respective theories and concepts.
- a strong focus on application of methods in financial institutions.
- a high degree of individuality and flexibility that helps you to realise your potential during your studies.

With regard to the referred multi- and interdisciplinarity we offer a broad range of topics across and within our different finance departments. Therefore, you will be able to either gain a broad knowledge of different finance-related fields or can dig deep into specific fields.

This programme is right for you if you:

- have successfully completed a bachelor's degree or equivalent in management, business administration or economics – preferably with a focus in finance.
- bring basic financial and statistical knowledge as well as analytical and mathematical skills.
- are interested in obtaining a general understanding of finance activities, analytical and critical thinking, problem-solving and bring writing and language skills with you.
- are internationally focused as well as open minded, have wide range of interests, and are eager to learn new things.
- understand to use your independent working abilities.
- are ready to take the next step in your career in a leading finance-related position in the corporate world.



"This programme is exactly what I have been looking for, because I don't need to choose between a strong analytical focus and real-world applicability. It provides me with a deep understanding for the theoretical concepts and a toolkit to work in a broad range of jobs in the finance sector."

Ella,
Student of Master Business Administration Finance at the WiSo Faculty



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Preparing you for future challenges

This programme is characterised by its strong balance of theoretical rigor and practical relevance. Both aspects are critical. We build on a strong research reputation, which consistently excels in various competitive research ratings. We regularly publish in the leading academic finance journals globally and present our work at leading conferences. Moreover, since most of the research is empirical in nature, the collaboration with organisations is natural to the department's members. The university's affiliated institutes with strong practical orientations foster a continuous exchange between the academic and business worlds. Within this programme we focus on financial institutions and market participants, evaluate risk with financial and actuarial concepts, and investigate leasing as well as asset management models. This combination is extremely helpful for gaining personalised competences for your future job in the financial sector or for pursuing an academic career.

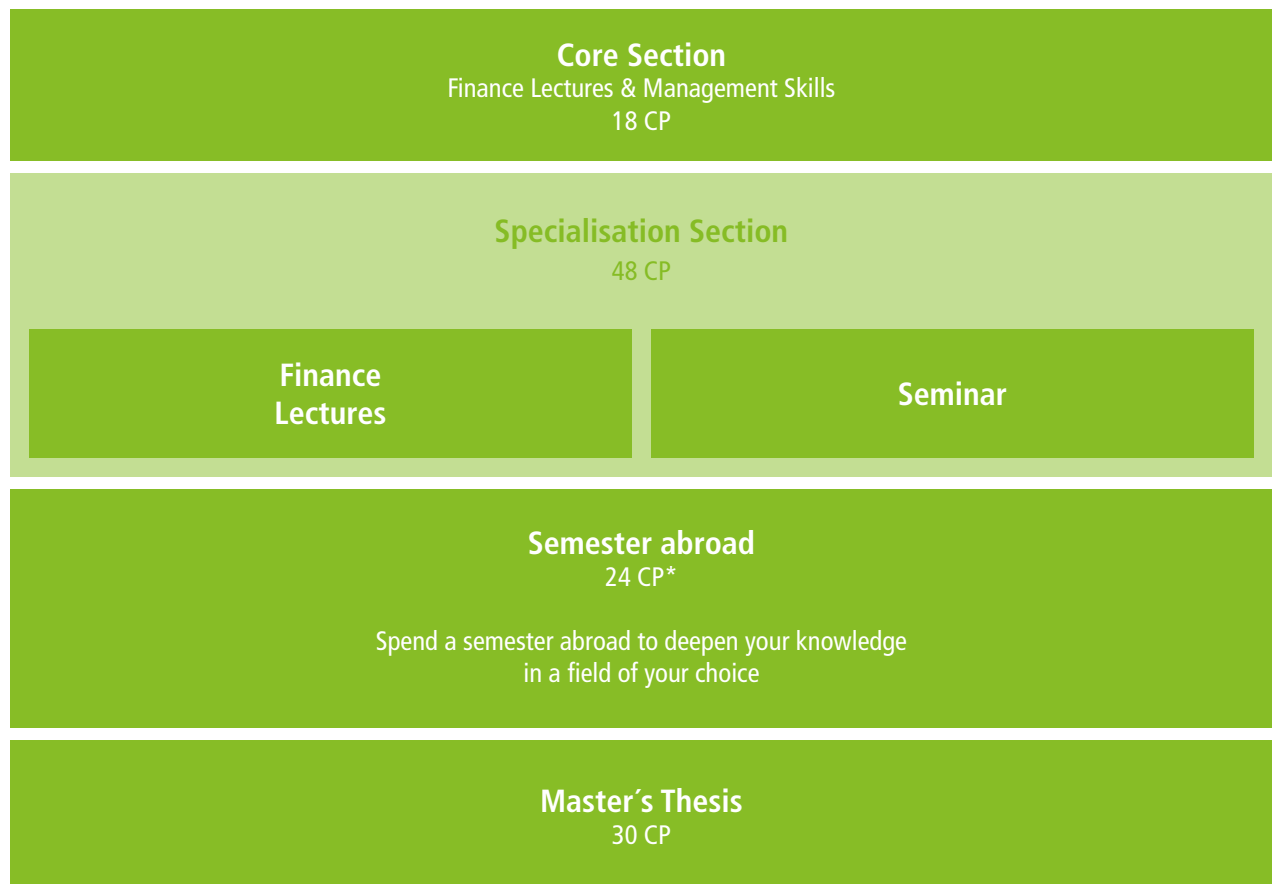
Business Simulation Game

Unique teaching methods combine research and practical elements, e.g. case studies in cooperation with companies. In small groups you conduct empirical studies and equity reports and apply theories and concepts in exercise sessions. As a highlight of the curriculum, you work on current managerial topics in a business simulation game. The goal is to apply scientific theories and methods to the issues at hand and, based on this, derive concrete recommendations. It includes conceptual and application-oriented elements, which include student presentations, case studies, discussions and guest speakers from the field.

Link to the practical world

One strong feature of the programme is the practical contact you, as a student, will receive. Guest lecturers and practice seminars establish and promote the direct exchange between companies and students. A large number of company contacts at both the institute and faculty levels enable you to immediately enter the business world.

CURRICULUM



* In case you are not able to complete your semester abroad, you can choose 1 area in the Supplementary Section

From basic knowledge to your personal expert know-how

- Your first semester of this programme deals with finance fundamentals and covers a broad range of courses, such as financial markets, asset management, banking, corporate finance and insurance.
- After completing your finance fundamentals in the 2nd semester, you will start with selected courses e.g., economics or statistics and choose your seminar.
- The programme is designed to include a **semester abroad** during your third or fourth semester. We will be happy to advise you on the options available to you and give you organisational support before, during and after your international experience. In case you are not able to complete your semester abroad, you have the possibility of choosing a minor specialisation in your Supplementary Section from a wide range of WiSo Faculty courses.
- With the **master's thesis** for the successful completion of your studies, you underline the knowledge and skills you have acquired throughout the programme and are ready to continue your career as an expert in your field.

INTERNATIONAL

English-taught programme

The majority of this master programme is internationally oriented. Many courses deal with topics from the field of international management, and a lot of the case studies focus on globalised companies. Students come from different countries and cultural backgrounds, further fostering internationalisation. Hence, studies occur in an environment that is international and intercultural.

Semester abroad

We strongly encourage you to take advantage of all available opportunities to gain your own international experience. Our cooperation agreements with an extensive number of excellent partner universities worldwide, including Erasmus agreements with a broad range of European universities, provide you with attractive options for spending your semester abroad. Students wishing to organise their semester abroad themselves can do so as a freemover. In addition to a semester abroad, you can enrich your studies by taking part in one of our short programmes such as WiSo@NYC or a summer school abroad, or complete an internship abroad with financial support offered by Erasmus.

Broad international network

With its balanced theoretical and practical approach, the internationally focused master's programme prepares you for a career in international work environments and enables you to work for internationalised companies.

In addition to this, the WiSo Faculty has a strong alumni network of former students working in all business segments across the globe.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Skills acquired in the M.Sc. finance programme get you ready for future line and staff positions with respect to a broad set of finance and management related tasks. Potential employers range from start-ups and small/medium sized companies to large and global corporations.

You will leave the University of Cologne successfully prepared for a career in the finance sector—within enterprises, banks, insurance companies and other financial service providers, e.g. investment or leasing companies.

Exemplary job opportunities are:

- Management Consultant
- Financial Analyst
- Investment Banker
- Risk Manager
- Financial Auditor
- Treasury Management
- Asset and Wealth Manager
- Trainee Programmes
- Consulting
- Academic Research
- Start-ups

For all those who are interested in academic finance research after finishing their master studies, the finance area provides students who have competitive master scores with the possibility for admittance into a postgraduate programme (Ph.D.). At the same time, the MSc. degree is an excellent base for applying for graduate degree programmes at other national and international universities.

"During my studies I was able to deal with the risk management of financial institutions on a scientific basis and to work extensively with extensive data and analysis methods. To this day, I especially appreciate the friendships and the professional contacts I made."

Dr. Eugen Töws, Financial Economist at Deutsche Bundesbank and Alumnus of the Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences, University of Cologne



COLOGNE

an open minded and science-centred city!

Cologne is located within a metropolitan area of about 13 million people in the heart of Germany's economy which makes it easy for students and faculty to collaborate with great companies. It is one of Germany's most attractive locations and offers a vibrant student life.

With around 100,000 students and a lively start-up culture, Cologne is the economic and scientific centre of the Rhineland region. In addition to 17 universities and business schools, the area is also home to numerous internationally renowned research institutions as ESA European Space Agency or Gesis – Leibniz Institute for Social Sciences, with knowledge transfer to industry and society playing a key role. Successful transfer structures include the university's Excellence Start-Up Center GATEWAY start-up service, the start-up network cologne e.V. and the Digital Hub Cologne.

Cologne is also proud of its reputation as a vibrant and tolerant city and at the same time being both multicultural – with 18% non-German residents – and strong in its local identity. Karneval, Cologne's famous carnival season every February, and the popular local beer "Kölsch", brewed exclusively in Cologne, are only two examples of the vivid cultivation of the city's traditions.

- ▶ Over **1 million** inhabitants in the city of Cologne
- ▶ **13 million** inhabitants in the metropolitan area of Cologne
- ▶ More than **100,000** students in Cologne
- ▶ Over **one third** of Cologne's total area is covered by public parks, sports grounds and nature areas
- ▶ **1** famous Gothic cathedral, the "Kölner Dom"
- ▶ **Unlimited** opportunities to fall in love with the city

Latest issue official Cologne Facts & Figures 2017





INFORMATION

Application information and requirements

Application process and deadline:

- Applicants with a German bachelor degree apply via the WiSo Faculty's master application portal
- Applicants with a non-German bachelor degree apply via the WiSo Faculty's master application portal and additionally via uni-assist
- Application deadline is **June 15th**

Requirements and selection procedure:

A Bachelor degree or equivalent (worth at least 180 ECTS credits) in Business Administration or Economics, strong proficiency in quantitative methods and an overall grade point average of at least 2.7 (German grade). Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- At least 78 ECTS credits in the field of Business Administration and Economics
 - of this at least 48 ECTS credits in Business Administration
 - of this at least 18 ECTS credits in Economics
- At least 15 ECTS credits in Statistics and/or Mathematics
- English language skills level B2 CEFR

The successful completion of an admission test (TM-WiSo/ GMAT) is highly recommended.

The Admissions Board will communicate its decision by the end of July. Enrolment usually takes place in August.

Detailed information and contact

We are happy to support you in your ambitions: for students the WiSo Student Service Point offers not only advice on studying but also support on all aspects of career choice, career planning and the application process:

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WiSo Student Service Point
Phone: +49 (0) 221/470-8818
wiso-studentservice.uni-koeln.de





"Being one of the largest Faculties of Business, Economics, and Social Sciences worldwide, we bring together excellent researchers, students, alumni, and organisations in a friendly and stimulating environment to jointly address today's challenges. Our Faculty is part of an outstanding network of universities. Furthermore, we have a truly international campus, that attracts many international students and partners. All this leads to a great reputation in teaching and research, which is reflected in our excellent rankings."

Prof. Ulrich W. Thonemann, PhD
Dean



Today's ideas.
Tomorrow's impact.

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