Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London							
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**							
3	**Programme Title(s)**	MSc Computing for the Financial Services							
4	**Programme Code(s)**	**TMSCOMFS**							
5	***UCAS code (if applicable)***	N/A							
6	**Home Department**	**Department of Computer Science and Information Systems**							
7	**Exit Award(s)**	MSc Computing for the Financial Services PGDip informatics							
8	**Duration of Study** (number of years)	2							
9	**Mode of Study**	FT		PT	**X**	DL			
10	**Level of Award (FHEQ)**	Level: 7							

11	***Other teaching depts or institution (or not applicable)***	N/A
12	***Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable)*** *(include URL to PSRB)*	N/A
13	***QAA Benchmark Group (or not applicable)***	

14	***Programme Rationale & Aims***
	The programme provides an intensive course for graduates of computer science and related subjects such as electrical engineering, specifically tailored for individuals choosing a career in financial services. As well as gaining a broad knowledge of the subject, students acquire practical skills and have the opportunity to investigate certain areas of current research more deeply. For students who are new to the subject, it provides a foundation for a career in IT for finance; for those already working in IT, it provides an opportunity to broaden their knowledge and update their skills specifically for finance while obtaining a formal qualification. Holders of the MSc will have demonstrated a systematic understanding and a critical awareness, much of it at the forefront of the discipline, a comprehensive and practical understanding of applicable techniques, the theory and practice of markets and portfolio management, the mathematical tools required in this context, originality in the application of knowledge, the ability to evaluate current research and methodologies, and the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development. This is a part-time programme only and may be taken as evenings only or by day-release. Holders of the MSc may obtain automatic exemption from certain parts (Certificate/Diploma and Diploma Project) of the membership exams for the British Computer Society. A project must be completed, comprising the design, development and evaluation of a major piece of software in the target application domain. Projects may be co-supervised by an industrial host under arrangements made by the department.

15	**Entry Criteria**
	A 2nd class honours degree from a British university, or equivalent, in Computer Science. Joint honours computing graduates or graduates in related engineering and science disciplines may

	also be eligible, provided they have covered a substantial amount of programming, or have equivalent professional experience in the IT industry.

16	**Learning Outcomes**
	On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to: 1. Demonstrate an advanced level of understanding and ability to make decisions about a wide range of recently emerged information technologies. (SS) 2. Demonstrate an advanced level of understanding of computers, computing, software development, and how to design and implement software systems. (SS) 3. Demonstrate an advanced level of understanding of approaches to the integration of recently emerged information technologies with modern organisations or markets. (SS) 4. Demonstrate an advanced level of understanding of the management and ability to make decisions about the application of information technologies in the financial services sector. (SS) 5. Identify appropriate technical and socio-technical solutions for financial services. (I) 6. Evaluate technologies and their uses and effect in financial services systems. (I) 7. Select appropriate methods of investigation of problems of research or development in financial services contexts. (P) 8. Work and learn independently. (PS) 9. Work and learn collaboratively. (PS) 10. Plan work and work to deadlines. (PS) 11. Plan, implement and report on an implementation-based dissertation or a research project. (P)

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**
	Formal lectures are the principal teaching method, but these frequently incorporate practical sessions, for example in programming, and also group exercises carried out in class. There is a large element of practical coursework, which the students carry out in their own time; some of these coursework assignments are carried out in groups. Each student also undertakes an individual project of their own devising (which includes background research) and is supervised by a member of staff. The project provides an opportunity for students to investigate an aspect of the subject that particularly interests them and to build a larger and more complex system than they encounter in the assignments.

18	**Programme Description**

	The programme is modular. It is taught in either 8 half modules (15 credits each). The marking scheme for each module is on a scale from 0 to 100, with a pass corresponding to a mark of at least 50%. A Student may be awarded credit for up to two failed 15 credit modules provided the mark achieved is at least 40% in each, First year part-time students: the modules taken in the first year will be examined in May/June of that year. Normally at three to five modules will be taken in the first year of study. Students must normally pass at least two of these modules in order to proceed to the second year of study. Second year part-time students: the modules taken in the second year will be examined in May/June of that year. Students must pass at least six of their eight modules; obtain an average mark of at least 50% over the eight modules, and a mark of at least 40% in any failed module, in order to proceed with the programme of study. The project report will be submitted in late September of the second year. Attendance: Lectures, tutorials and laboratory sessions are monitored and any absence by a student will be followed up. Resit policy: Students who fail to meet one of the criteria for the award of the MSc may be allowed to resit a failed project or any failed module. A student who fails the project or any module at the first attempt is allowed just one more attempt to pass the failed project or module, normally in the following year. Students who have exhausted their opportunities for resits or project re-takes may ask the Examination Board to consider the award of a PgD in Informatics provided they have passed at least six of their eight modules; obtained an average mark of at least 50% over the eight modules, and a mark of at least 40% in any failed module. Late Submission of Assessment: Follows college' CAS regulations.

19	**Programme Structure**			
Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status**
6	BUEM068S6	Financial Markets	30	Core
7	MOMN083H7	Accounting and Financial Management	15	Core
Year 2				
7	BUEM052H7	Mathematics of Financial Derivatives	15	Optional
7	COIY028D7	MSc Advanced Computing Technologies Project	60	Compulsory
Options than can be taken in either Year 1 or 2				
7	COIY025H7	Advances in Data Management	15	Optional
7	COIY029H7	Component-based Software Development	15	Optional
7	COIY065H7	Intelligent Technologies	15	Optional
7	COIY026H7	Data Warehousing and Data Mining	15	Optional
7	COIY064H7	Information Retrieval and Organisation	15	Optional
7	COIY062H7	Software Design and Programming	15	Optional
7	COIY027H7	Fundamentals of Concurrent Systems	15	Optional
7	NEW	Software Engineering in Practice	15	Optional

Other options available at Level 7 form the departmental provision available by approval of the programme director.

20	**Regulations**
	• ***Admissions*** This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Admissions%20Policy.pdf/view • ***If the programme has additional information re: Admissions please state here: (or not applicable)*** • ***Credit Transfer*** Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/AccreditedPriorLearning.pdf • ***Programme Regulations*** This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/casregs.pdf • ***Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)***

21	**Student Support and Guidance**
	All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities

22	**Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards**
	The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input. For more information please see the Quality Enhancement and Validation website www.bbk.ac.uk/qev

23	**Programme Director**	Professor George Roussos
24	**Start Date** ***(term/year)***	October 2010
25	**Date approved by TQEC**	Spring 2010
26	**Date approved by Academic Board**	Summer 2010
27	**Date(s) updated/amended**	October 2014