



Handbook for Master of Commerce in Financial Technology (CCA01)

With an accompanying Appendix

Division of Finance

School of Economics and Finance (SEF)

**Faculty of Commerce, Law, and Management University of
the Witwatersrand Johannesburg**

2026

*Although care has been taken in compiling this handbook, unintentional errors or updates may occur.
The SEF reserves the right to correct or amend any information at any time without any prior notice.*

Programme Code: CCA01 NQF Exit Level: 9 NQF Credits: 180

Please read the M. Com Financial Technology handout carefully. Thereafter, sign Appendix 1 and submit it to the Postgraduate Administration Officer in the School of Economics and Finance no later than the first week of classes. Failure to do so within one week of joining the program will be deemed as having reviewed it.

Application Requirements and Deadlines

Please refer to the programme website for latest updates and requirements:

<https://www.wits.ac.za/course-finder/postgraduate/clm/mcom-financial-technology/>

Student intake in 2026: 20

Credit Coursework Requirements

All applicants for the Masters' Program are assessed by the School's Postgraduate Committee. Applicants are expected to have achieved an average of at least 65% for Honours in Finance. Foreign applicants should note that they must have their prior degrees assessed by the South African Qualifications Authority before making application to the school. Since the Masters in Financial Technology follows the Honours in Finance (Preferably), most of the students are selected from the Wits Honours program and similar programs. Because of the specialized knowledge gained at undergraduate and Honours levels, it is unlikely that anyone who has not gone through these programs, will pass the Masters' degree.

Option 1: M. Com in Financial Technology by 100% Research – degree code CRA00**

Length of Degree: Minimum of 1 academic year (full time) or two years (part time)

Format: The candidate must present a supervised Masters' dissertation (40,000-60,000 words) on a topic *previously* approved by the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) of the faculty who submit it to Senate for final approval.

Getting Approval: Before commencing work on the dissertation, the candidate must do two things:

1. Decide on a research problem to be investigated and a topic followed by finding a supervisor (normally a qualified senior member of staff).
2. The candidate is then required to present a proposal (not more than 25 pages) to the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) of the faculty in accordance with guidelines published by the faculty. The GSC only meets approximately four times a year. The candidate must therefore liaise with the supervisor and the post-graduate administration officer on a date to present and defend the proposal. The proposal must be handed in two weeks before this date.

The Dissertation: The Master's dissertation must be exactly that: a research work that shows the candidate's *mastery* of a certain area. The M. Com in Financial Technology will normally include an empirical research project, preceded by a comprehensive literature review. University and Faculty rules and guidelines apply.

*** please note that the M. Com degree in Financial Technology by 100% research will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances and must make a substantial contribution to the body of knowledge. Approval must be obtained from the Head of Division and the Head of School.*

Option 2: The M. Com in Financial Technology By 50% Coursework And 50% Research - degree code: CCA01

Structure of Program:

The Coursework Masters' program is structured as a one-year full-time program or a two-year part-time program. The Coursework Masters in Finance programme comprises a research report (20,000-25,000 words) together with a total of 6 courses, namely 4 compulsory and 2 electives as shown below. A student will be required to pass the research report plus six courses (15 credits each) from the list below:

COURSES:	COURSE DESCRIPTION	CREDITS
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Compulsory courses:

FINE7021A	Business Finance Research Report	90
FINE7077A	Fintech - Compulsory	15
FINE7078A	Big Data Analytics and Machine Learning - Compulsory	15
FINE7079A	Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies - Compulsory	15
FINE7080A	Quantitative Research Techniques - Compulsory	15

In addition, a candidate shall be required to pass any two elective courses from the list below:

FINE7072A	Portfolio Management	15
FINE7073A	Advanced Theory of Corporate Finance	15
FINE7074A	Advanced Theory of Investment	15
FINE7075A	Advanced Theory of Derivatives	15
FINE7076A	Advanced Financial Risk Management	15

Prerequisites:

- **FINE7080A** should serve as a prerequisite for **FINE7078**. This sequencing would ensure that students have the necessary foundational skills before engaging with the more advanced analytical content.

Note: Subject to the approval of the Head of the Finance Division and the Head of School, any other course at master's level from within the University may be taken, provided the candidate meet the minimum requirements of such course and that such course fit in with the Master of Financial Technology Programme. It is advisable to be in contact with Mr Molefe Rampa (Course administrator).

COURSE DETAILS:

Please refer to the individual course syllabus, provided by the respective lecturers, for detailed course content, marking schemes, and other necessary details.

Compulsory

FINE7021A	Prof. Yudhvir Seetharam (Allocation of supervisors)
FINE7077A	Prof. Moinak Maiti
FINE7078A	Prof. Daniel Page & Prof. Yudhvir Seetharam

FINE7079A Prof. Moinak Maiti
FINE7079A Prof. Daniel Page & Prof. Yudhvir Seetharam

Electives

FINE7072A Dr. Delane Naidu
FINE7073A Prof Chimwemwe Chipeta
FINE7074A Mr James Britten
FINE7075A Mr James Britten
FINE7076A Prof Gary van Vuuren

Please Note: Lecturers are subject to change based on their availability. It is advisable to be in contact with Mr Molefe Rampa (Course administrator).

FINE7021A Business Finance Research Report (90 credits), i.e., 50% of the degree

Candidates will be required to successfully complete a research report that is weighted 50% (90 credits) of the program. A minimum of 50% is required to pass.

The Research Report is expected to be completed alongside the coursework. The research proposal for the Research Report must be submitted for approval by the School's Postgraduate Committee and academic staff by 30th September 2026. Therefore, work on the research proposal should commence in the first semester and be completed during the July vacation. The completed Research Report (20,000-25,000 words) must be submitted at least three months before the end of the period of registration to allow sufficient time for internal and external examination.

- The research proposal will carry a 10% weight towards the final research report marks
- The research report assessment will include an oral component to assess for academic integrity.

In addition, a student will be required to pass six courses (15 credits each) as mentioned in the course descriptions above.

Minimum Requirements: Masters in Financial Technology Courses

To pass any coursework component, a candidate shall:

1. Attend, perform the work of the class and present himself/herself for examination or present such work as may be required by the syllabus of the course or as determined by the Senate in his or her case.
2. Be required to pass (50% or more) *every* course, as laid down in the syllabus, at the first attempt. The rules dictate that the Senate may in a case considered by it as *exceptional*, permit a candidate who is doing the coursework component of the degree and failed *one* course with an overall mark of 45% and such course is the last outstanding to qualify for the degree, to present himself/herself for a supplementary examination on one occasion only, or to repeat such course the next time it is offered. If the candidate again fails the course, his/her registration will be cancelled. This supplementary exam will only be written at the end of the final year of study i.e., at the end of year 1 for fulltime students and at the end of year 2 for part time students. Also, there is no supplementary arrangement for the research component of the degree. As a rule, there is no provision for supplementary examinations at Masters' level. Please note that the Finance division of SEF will only support a supplementary exam in *exceptional* circumstances. The granting of supplementary exams will be in line with the School of Economics and Finance (SEF) latest higher degrees standing orders.

To obtain the degree a candidate must get a minimum of 50% for the research paper which constitute 50% of the degree.

Missed Exam/Assessment/task/others

Absence from any examinations (including final) *or* failure to submit essay/assignment/task/other on the due date *or* absence from the final examination will result in an outcome of Failed Absent (FABS) on the statement of academic record unless granted a deferred assessment.

A deferred exam/assignment/task/others application (*course applicable to be enquired with the lecturer*) must be submitted to the *Mr Molefe Rampa (Course administrator)* and respective lecturer via official email within 3 days of the assessment, no later, with supporting documents to be considered. After the closing date, the lecturer will decide on the application and communicate the outcome and logistics for writing the deferred test to students (via Ulwazi). Deferred tests are usually held within a week of the first test. Please refer university rules for deferred examinations:

<https://www.wits.ac.za/exams/deferred-examinations/>

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is not acceptable. Plagiarism is using another's words or ideas as your own. When you use the ideas of another, you must give that person credit. This means that proper referencing is always necessary. Please see the referencing guide distributed with the research report guideline for further details. All referencing for the financial technology master courses should be done using the latest APA referencing style.

Please refer link here: <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/references/examples>

This programme is subject to the SEF and Wits policy on the use of Gen AI. Please refer Wits University guidelines here: [https://www.wits.ac.za/media/wits-university/library/documents/Student%20Plagiarism%20Policy%20Approved%202020-11-28%20\(002\).pdf](https://www.wits.ac.za/media/wits-university/library/documents/Student%20Plagiarism%20Policy%20Approved%202020-11-28%20(002).pdf)

Usage of Gen AI

With the advent of chatbots and other online resources (for example, chatGPT), it is important for students to understand the following: While the specific use of chatGPT is not prohibited, it does not guarantee accuracy in your submission. In other words, chatGPT may not give you an answer that is awarded full marks. We rely on students' code of ethics as either current or future finance professionals. The use of technology to aid in this course is certainly encouraged, but the user must understand the ethical considerations of such activity along with how much trust to place in obtaining an accurate output or answer from such resources. Use resources at your disposal in a responsible manner, ensuring that you do not plagiarise or commit any action that can be seen as academic misconduct. This programme is subject to the SEF and Wits policy on the use of Gen AI. Please refer Wits University guidelines here:

<https://www.wits.ac.za/media/wits-university/learning-and-teaching/cltd/documents/Wits-CLTD-Guidelines-for-GAI-use-in-Learning-Teaching-Research-Dec2024.pdf>

Computer and Bloomberg facilities available to Masters students

Registered M. Com Financial Technology students have access to the postgraduate computer lab in NCB, located on the 2nd floor. Should you have problems regarding access to the lab, please contact Mr Lehlohonolo Mokoatle in NCB136 or on email: Lehlohonolo.mokoatle@wits.ac.za.

Communication

There are two main forms of communication, Wits student email and Ulwazi. Students are advised to check both these channels regularly. Whenever it is possible, we will notify students about changes or events via email &/Ulwazi. Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that your student email address is activated and checked frequently for any information.

Grievances and code of conduct

If you have any concerns, we are here to assist you. Please ensure that the proper escalation protocol is followed. First speak to your lecturer/supervisor/administrator depending on the problem. If your problem is not dealt with adequately, then please escalate as follows: the course coordinator, the Head of Division, the Head of School, the Dean of the Faculty. Please try to use email if you can with details/messages attached so records can be kept. For more details follow the below link:

<https://www.wits.ac.za/students/student-grievance-procedures/>

Useful websites

SEF Faculty and administrative personnel details:

<https://www.wits.ac.za/sef/people/>

Fintech Hub

<https://www.wits.ac.za/sef/fintech-hub/>

Ulwazi

<https://ulwazi.wits.ac.za/>

CONTACT PERSONS:

Prof Moinak Maiti

Programme Chair

Tel: 011 717- 8066 or email: moinak.maiti@wits.ac.za (Preferred)

Mr Molefe Rampa

Course administrator

Tel: 011 717- 8112 or email: Molefe.rampa@wits.ac.za

Ms Kamo Nhlapo

Academic Administrator

Tel: +27-11-717-8074 or E-mail: Kamo.Nhlapo@wits.ac.za

APPENDIX 1

To be completed in its entirety and submitted to the Postgraduate Administration Officer of the School of Economics and Finance no later than the first week of classes.

I,, Student Number....., currently enrolled in the Master's Programme in Financial Technology designated by the Code, understand the Rules contained in the *Handbook for Master of Financial Technology (CCA01)* as well as their consequences.

Student and signature

Date:

Place: