



Manufacturing & Engineering
Growth & Advancement

**DEGREE
APPRENTICESHIP**
in Accounting
& Finance



Department for the
Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

www.midulstermega.com     



Financing a Better Future for Northern Ireland

WHAT IS A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP?

Degree Apprenticeships provide an opportunity to gain a full honours bachelor's degree (Level 6).

The programme is developed in partnership with Ulster University, employers and the major professional accounting bodies.

Degree Apprenticeships combine working with part-time study at a university. Apprentices are employed throughout the programme and spend part of their time at university and the rest with their employer. For the Degree Apprenticeship in Accounting and Finance, this will be one day per week during semesters (usually Mondays during term time).

HOW IS IT FUNDED?

Degree Apprenticeships have two aspects, **learning** and **working**. The cost of learning is paid for by the Department for the Economy NI. The apprentice is **paid from day one** of the programme by the employer for both working on site and their learning at university.

WHAT IS THE MEGA DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP IN CONJUNCTION WITH ULSTER UNIVERSITY?

Working collaboratively, MEGA with its industry network and Ulster University Business School at the Derry-Londonderry campus, together launched the Accounting and Finance Degree Apprenticeship in 2023.

This Apprenticeship provides an abundance of real-time industry experience together with relevant training and skills acquired through the degree programme which has been created with industry needs at its epicentre, resulting in relevant highly skilled apprentices, ready for **local employment** within **professional services firms** and within the **finance function** of all businesses across all sectors. Its duration is 3 years, the same time commitment as a traditional degree.

WHY CHOOSE A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP?

The MEGA Degree Apprenticeship offers a wealth of benefits including mentorship, career pathways, progression, earn as you learn, development of skills and **no debt!**

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE APPRENTICESHIP?

GCSE

Grade B in Maths and Grade C in English - Essential

A Level

BBB or BBC if undertaking one of A Level Mathematics, Economics, Physics or Accounting.

Applied General Qualifications

QCF Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma/OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Diploma (2012 Suite)

Award profile of DDD in a relevant subject

OR

RQF Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma/OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Diploma (2016 Suite)

Award profile of DOM in a relevant subject.

You may also meet the course entry requirements with combinations of different qualifications to the same standard (provided subject requirements are met). Examples of combinations include:

QCF Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma/OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Diploma (2012 Suite)
Award profile of range DD plus A Level Grade B or DM plus A Level Grade 8 (if undertaking A Level Mathematics, Economics, Physics or Accounting)

RQF Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Diploma/OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Diploma (2016 Suite)
Award profile of OM plus A Level Grade B or DM plus A Level Grade C (if undertaking A Level Mathematics, Economics, Physics or Accounting)

QCF Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma/OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Introductory Diploma (2012 Suite)
Award profile of D plus A Level grades BB or M plus A Level Grades BB (if undertaking A Level Mathematics, Economics, Physics or Accounting)

RQF Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate/OCR Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate (2016 Suite)
Award profile of D plus A Level grades BB or M plus A Level Grades BB (if undertaking A Level Mathematics, Economics, Physics or Accounting)

For further information on the entry requirements for this course please contact the administrator as listed in contact details.

Irish Leaving Certificate

120 UCAS tariff points to include a minimum of five subjects (four of which must be at Higher level). The overall profile must include English at minimum grade H6 at Higher Level or grade O4 at Ordinary level plus Mathematics at minimum H5 at Higher level or Grade O3 at Ordinary Level.

OR

112 UCAS tariff points to include a minimum of five subjects (four of which must be at Higher level). The overall profile must include English at minimum grade H6 at Higher Level or grade O4 at Ordinary level and grade O3 or H5 in Ordinary or Higher Mathematics.

One Higher Level subject must include minimum grade H3 from Higher level Mathematics, Economics, Physics or Accounting.

Access to Higher Education (HE)

Overall mark of 65%. To include a 20 credit Level 2 Mathematics module, passed at 60% or successful completion of NICATS Mathematics at 60% as part of the pre-2021 Access Diploma or GCSE Maths grade C*/5.

CAREER OPTIONS FOR GRADUATES FROM MEGA DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

Trainee Chartered Accountant

Trainee Chartered Certified Accountant

Trainee Management Accountant

Financial Analyst

Financial Advisor

Graduate Management Role



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APPLICATION PROCESS

HOW TO APPLY?

Please visit the MEGA website www.midulstermega.com to apply for the MEGA Degree Apprenticeship in Accounting and Finance. This course is not part of the UCAS application process.

Step 1 - Go to www.midulstermega.com

Step 2 - Go to 'Student Area', and select 'Degree Apprenticeship' from the dropdown menu.

Step 3 - Apply by completing the 'UNIVERSITY APPLICATION' and 'COMPLETE MEGA CV' sections.

Only MEGA member companies will receive your CV.

November	Applications Open
March	Applications Close
APPLY HERE: www.midulstermega.com	
April	Company Shortlisting and Interviews
May	Conditional Industry offers of employment
August	Industry Confirmed offers – confirm results with UU
September	Start Ulster University Year 1

Successful MEGA candidates must have the appropriate entry requirements and have secured employment within a MEGA company.

APPLY ONLINE



SCAN ME!



Delivering
Excellence
in the
Workplace



WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE IN COST?

The cost of opting for a traditional degree:

Students not living with parents	Tuition Fee NI	Tuition Fee UK	Maintenance Grant (not paid back)	Maintenance Loan (repayable)	Total Cost Full-time study NI (minimum approx.)	Total Cost Full-time study UK (minimum approx.)
Parents earn < £19,203	£4,710 x 3 years = £14,130	£9,250 x 3 years = £27,750	£3,475 x 3 = £10,425	*£4,661 x 3 years = £13,983 *The lowest amount	£28,113	£41,733
Parents earn > £41,065	£4,710 x 3 years = £14,130	£9,250 x 3 years = £27,750	£0	£6,776 x 3 years = £20,328	£34,458	£48,078

The cost of a Degree Apprenticeship:

Cost of Tuition (Paid for by DfE)	Apprenticeship Wages	Total cost of Degree Apprenticeship
£0 x 3 years = £0	National minimum wage depending on apprentice's age	£0



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WHO ARE MEGA?

MEGA stands for Manufacturing, Engineering, Growth & Advancement. It's an **industry-led collaborative network** of Engineering & Manufacturing companies of all sizes in Mid Ulster working together with Mid Ulster Council, Invest NI and Education Providers towards a common goal. Their main aim is to tackle the diminishing labour pool by implementing ways to attract and retain talent in the Engineering & Manufacturing industry.

The industry is changing and companies are struggling to employ graduates with the right skills to help them embrace technological advancements and to efficiently and effectively operate their finance function. MEGA, representing industry, along with Ulster University have designed an Accounting and Finance Degree Apprenticeship. This Degree Apprenticeship will be open to all Manufacturing and Engineering companies as well as students across the province.

WHY ULSTER UNIVERSITY?

The Ulster University Business School at the Derry~Londonderry campus has a long history of engagement with all levels of the education landscape. They enhance the exposure of young people to careers in Accounting, Finance and International Business. The MEGA Accounting and Finance Degree Apprenticeship represents another opportunity for Ulster University to support this brand of learning. Ulster University Business School views Apprenticeships as essential to providing a pipeline of suitably educated individuals to support local businesses across all sectors including engineering and manufacturing.



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MODEL OF DELIVERY

The Degree Apprenticeship in Accounting and Finance can be completed in a minimum of 3 years. However, the completion time can be extended to 5 years where an apprentice wishes to study modules at a slower pace.

University class-based modules will take place one day per week only, during semesters.

4 Days Employer / 1 Day University

YEAR 1	LATE SEPT - MID DEC	FEB - MID MAY	MID JUN - AUG
	1 Day per week	1 Day per week	1 Day per week
	Modules: Financial Accounting	Modules: Finance, Economics	Modules: Finance, Digital Accounting & Analytics
YEAR 2	LATE SEPT - MID DEC	FEB - MID MAY	MID JUN - AUG
	1 Day per week	1 Day per week	1 Day per week
	Modules: Financial Accounting, Data Analytics	Modules: Management Accounting, Business Law	Modules: Managerial Finance, Taxation
YEAR 3	LATE SEPT - MID DEC	FEB - MID MAY	MID JUN - AUG
	1 Day per week	1 Day per week	1 Day per week
	Modules: Financial Accounting, Audit & Assurance	Modules: Managing Financial Performance, Sustainability Reporting & Governance	Modules: Taxation, Data Analytics for Strategic Leadership



The manufacturing
and engineering
sector is a huge
driver of the
economy in the
Mid Ulster region

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP AT ULSTER UNIVERSITY

YEAR 1

BMG272 Professional and Academic Skills (Semester 1)

The overarching aim of this module is to positively influence and develop students' awareness of, and performance in, key skills and competencies required for personal effectiveness in academic study, placement year and graduate employment. A further aim of the module is to develop these competencies through a student-centred approach to learning. Importantly, the module aims to provide students with a general understanding of wellbeing, resilience and to develop their confidence. Through this module students will better understand and develop their academic, professional, and personal skills.

ACF109 Introduction to Financial Accounting (Semester 1)

This module forms a foundation for further study of the subject in cognate subject modules. The aim of the module is to provide students with an academically challenging and intellectually stimulating study of foundation level accounting. It focuses on the skills and techniques appropriate to practical accounting, in addition to providing an understanding of key elements of accounting theory.

ACF150 Introduction to Financial Markets, Securities, and Investments (Semester 2)

The module aims to develop students' knowledge and understanding of key financial institutions, financial markets and associated financial securities and investments. The module will cover the roles of key institutions operating within the financial system, the regulatory environment, key financial markets and associated financial securities and investments. The module will thereby, provide students with a solid understanding of the importance of and the workings of the UK financial system.

EC0133 Global Economic Analysis (Semester 2)

The module aims to develop students' knowledge and understanding of key economic principles, concepts and theories and their relevance in a variety of contexts. A strong emphasis will be placed on real world applications and analysis to enable students to understand core economic problems/issues and how global economic analysis can assist in the process of decision making in accounting and finance.

ACF120 Digital Accounting and Analytics (Semester 3)

The aim of this module is to provide students with an academically challenging and intellectually stimulating study of foundation level digital accounting. The module will provide students with an understanding of how accounting and finance transactions are recorded, controlled, and analysed using technology. The module aims to develop the students critical and analytical thinking styles, and apply these skills to develop practical, creative, and financially sound solutions for sustainable businesses.

ACF148 Introduction to Finance (Semester 3)

This module aims to provide students with an understanding of key financial decisions and their implications commonly considered by organisations. The module is concerned with the integrative nature of corporate decisions related to financial, economic and investment performance of a business relevant to corporate financial management. The module places an emphasis on managerial decision-making and the relationship with the wider external environment.

YEAR 2

ACF309 Financial Accounting I (Semester 1)

This module aims to provide students with a deeper understanding of the conceptual framework of financial reporting, to evaluate proposed developments from a theoretical base and to give them the skills to evaluate corporate performance. This module succeeds the introductory financial accounting module. It examines the development of financial accounting and reporting of limited companies and partnerships.

ACF303 Data Analytics for Accounting and Finance (Semester 1)

This module is designed to provide students with the understanding, knowledge, and data skills to manipulate, review and interpret numerical and graphical information and describe data appropriately. The module will introduce concepts and methods of data management, descriptive and statistical analysis, and data reporting. The module will enable students to solve problems and make decisions using various statistical tools available on Excel.

ACF311 Management Accounting (Semester 2)

On completion of the module a student will gain an understanding of the functions of the management accounting and demonstrate application and integration of knowledge in respect to planning, controlling and decision-making in a business organisation. The student will appreciate the conceptual framework of management accounting and will be able to apply key principles of the discipline the context of problem solving and decision-making.



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DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP AT ULSTER UNIVERSITY

YEAR 3

LAW309 Business Law 1 (Semester 2)

This module aims to provide students with explanations of the legal environment within which businesses operate. The content demonstrates the legal forms of business organisations, the methods whereby businesses are managed and analyses how the external environment, in terms of legal regulation, impacts on the operation of businesses. The module provides a necessary basis for the understanding of the legal regulation of businesses and enables students to undertake further study of related Business Studies subjects.

ACF358 Managerial Finance (Semester 3)

The aim of the module is to provide a theoretical underpinning of managerial finance principles and techniques enabling application and integration of such knowledge within the corporate financial environment. In addition, students will be able to critically assess the relevant value and appropriateness of financial solutions to include investment, insurance, mortgage, and pension products and to relate these to the specific requirements of individuals in a variety of situations.

ACF325 UK Taxation I (Semester 3)

The aims of this module are to provide a specialised understanding of the theory and concepts of the UK taxation system and the law and practice of the UK taxation system with particular reference to personal, corporate, capital taxation and taxation within the business environment.

ACF540 Financial Accounting II (Semester 1)

The aim of the module is to give students a sound understanding of the concepts underlying financial accounting, how these concepts inform regulation and how international accounting standards are developed. Financial Accounting II develops in greater depth many of the concepts initially covered in Financial Accounting I. The concepts concerning group accounts are introduced together with the techniques for preparing group financial statements.

ACF558 Audit and Assurance (Semester 1)

The aim of this module is to give the student a sound understanding of the concepts and theoretical fundamentals of auditing. Additionally, the module aims to provide students with an understanding of the practical application of auditing principles and the issues encountered in a financial reporting and audit environment. It identifies the skills that a professional auditor must have and how best to utilise those skills in the audit of economic sustainable profit and non-profit organisations.

ACF537 Managing Financial Performance (Semester 2)

The aim of the module is to enable the student to acquire an in-depth appreciation of the management accounting systems and their function in assisting management in planning, controlling, and organising the activities of the organisation. The module builds on intermediate management accounting level module.

ACF572 Sustainability Reporting and Governance (Semester 2)

The aim of this module is to develop students' appreciation of sustainability reporting. The module aims to give students the opportunity to critically assess global sustainability reporting frameworks. The reporting requirements of these frameworks will be explored to enable students to analyse sustainability reports. The module will also give students a sound understanding of the information required from supply chains, internal control systems, and key metrics underlying sustainability reports. Some of the theoretical and practical problems in communicating sustainability information will be investigated. The module will emphasise the role of corporate governance particularly, the role of the Board of Directors in sustainability reporting.

ACF538 UK Taxation II (Semester 3)

The aim of this module is to provide an advanced level of understanding of the theory and concepts of income tax, corporate taxation, capital gains tax, VAT, and inheritance tax. This module builds on the income tax, corporation tax, capital gains tax and VAT knowledge from the year 2 module, ACF325 UK Taxation I. In addition, this module aims to provide students with a sound understanding of the scope of inheritance tax and the legal and ethical issues connected with taxation in the UK.

ACF573 Data Analytics for Strategic Leadership (Semester 3)

The aim of this module is to develop students' appreciation of strategic leadership in accounting and finance. The module aims to integrate the students' knowledge of organisational strategy and risk management into financial planning, reporting and decision making. The module will emphasise the role of analytics in leading strategic change within an organisation.



FAQ

WHERE DOES MY CV GO?

Your CV will be distributed to MEGA member companies. The companies will shortlist and then interview for the position.

CAN I ORGANISE MY OWN EMPLOYER?

If you want to be employed by a MEGA member company, this is done through the MEGA application process. If you gain an employer outside of this, they will need to become a MEGA member to ensure you can gain access to our support and services.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T GET AN EMPLOYER?

Unfortunately, if you don't gain relevant employment for this course then you cannot commence with this Degree Apprenticeship.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY APPRENTICESHIP?

There are ample career and progression opportunities on completion of your apprenticeship. See the '*Career Options*' section for examples.

IS MY QUALIFICATION THE SAME AS DOING A FULL-TIME DEGREE?

Yes, your degree qualification has equal status to a full-time degree, but you will also have gained four years industry experience.

CAN A STUDENT RESIDING IN SOUTHERN IRELAND GO ON THIS COURSE?

Yes, if your employer is Northern Ireland based. See the '*Entry Requirements*' section for more information.



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