

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	Richmond Business School
Programme:	BSc Finance and Investment
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Fintech
Course Code:	FINC 6102
Total Hours:	160 (Lev 3-5) (4 US Credit)
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	15
Independent Learning Hours:	100
Credit	16 UK CATS credits 8 ECTS credits 4 US credits

Course Description:

This module explores the dynamic landscape of financial technology (Fintech), examining how technological innovations are transforming the financial services industry. Students will develop a critical understanding of key Fintech trends, their applications, and their impact on traditional financial institutions, markets, and consumers. The module will cover a range of topics, from mobile payments and blockchain technology to artificial intelligence and regulatory challenges. Through real-world case studies and interactive discussions, students will gain insights into the opportunities and challenges presented by this rapidly evolving field.

Prerequisites:

70 Credits

Aims and Objectives:

- Provide a comprehensive overview of the Fintech landscape and its key components.
- Equip students with the knowledge to critically evaluate the impact of Fintech on financial services.

- Develop an understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with Fintech innovation and potential disruptive forces in the current settings.
- Enhance students' analytical and problem-solving skills in the context of Fintech applications.
- Foster an appreciation for the ethical and regulatory considerations surrounding Fintech.

Programme Outcomes:

A6I, A6II, B6I, B6II, C6I, D6I

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

Course Learning Outcomes	Programme Outcomes
Identify and analyze key Fintech trends and technologies, including mobile payments, blockchain, crowdfunding, robo-advisory, and Insurtech.	L6 A (i)
Evaluate the impact of Fintech on different segments of the financial services industry, such as banking, investment management, and insurance.	L6 A(ii)
Critically assess the opportunities and challenges associated with Fintech adoption for businesses, consumers, and regulators.	L6 B(i)
Apply Fintech concepts to real-world scenarios through case study analysis and problem-solving exercises.	L6 B(ii)
Communicate effectively about Fintech topics, demonstrating an understanding of the ethical and regulatory dimensions	L6 C (i) L6 D (i)

Indicative Content:

- Introduction to Fintech: Definition, scope, evolution, and key drivers.
- Payments and Transaction Technologies: Mobile payments, digital wallets, payment gateways, and the future of payment systems.
- Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies: Fundamentals of blockchain technology, cryptocurrencies (Bitcoin, Ethereum, etc.), smart contracts, decentralized finance (DeFi), and their applications in finance.
- Artificial Intelligence in Finance: Machine learning, robo-advisors, algorithmic trading, fraud detection, and customer service automation.
- Lending and Capital Markets: Peer-to-peer lending, crowdfunding, online investment platforms, and the impact on traditional lending models.
- Insurtech: Digital insurance platforms, personalized insurance, claims processing, and the use of technology in risk assessment.
- Regulatory Landscape: Fintech regulations, data privacy, cybersecurity, and ethical considerations.
- Mobile Payments: The rise of mobile payment systems like Apple Pay, Google Pay, and their impact on consumer behavior and retail transactions.
- Cryptocurrency Adoption: The growing acceptance of cryptocurrencies by major companies like Tesla and PayPal, and the implications for investment and financial markets.
- Robo-advisory Platforms: The disruption of traditional wealth management by platforms like Betterment and Wealthfront, offering automated investment advice.
- Insurtech Innovation: Examples of insurance companies leveraging technology for personalized pricing, such as Lemonade using AI for claims processing.
- Application programming interfaces: (APIs) API Economy and Open API

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be delivered face to face through a combination of lectures and interactive sessions. In addition to classroom activities, there are guided learning elements that are tutor led and arranged through Blackboard. These activities can be asynchronous online sessions, flipped classrooms, set readings with discussion boards or set guest lectures for example. Set activities are monitored by the instructor to ascertain student engagement. Students are encouraged to prepare for class and to play an active part, to raise questions, following-up ideas and interact with a wide range of provided material.

Indicative Text(s):

Allen, F., Gu, X., & Jagtiani, J. (2022). *Fintech and the Future of Financial Services*. Oxford University Press.

Baker, H.K., Filbeck, G. and Black, K. (eds) (2024) *The emerald handbook of fintech: reshaping finance*. 1st ed. Leeds: Emerald Publishing Limited.

Devie, K. (2021). *The Age of Cryptocurrency: How Bitcoin and Digital Money are Challenging the Global Economic Order*. Currency.

King, S. & Williams, J. (2021). *The Fintech Revolution: How Financial Technology is Transforming the World*. Wiley.

Journals

The Journal of Finance
Review of Financial Studies

Websites

Fintech Futures: www.fintechfutures.com - Provides news, analysis, and insights on the global Fintech industry.

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA): www.fca.org.uk - Offers information on Fintech regulation and innovation in the UK.

Bank for International Settlements (BIS): www.bis.org - Publishes reports and working papers on Fintech and its implications for central banks and financial stability.

- See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body	Change Actioned by Registry Services

	(School or AB)	
First Edition	Nov 2024	