

DIRECTIVE CONCERNING THE STUDY PLAN OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSc) IN FINANCE (FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021 ONWARDS)

Introduction

- The *Regulations on Studies and Exams of the Masters of Science delivered by the Faculty of Economics and Business (Règlement d'études et d'examens des Masters of Science en sciences économiques, du 27 mai 2008, avec les modifications ultérieures)*, apply to the programme of the *MSc in Finance*.
- The present Directive provides the following further application rules for the *MSc in Finance*.
- *MSc in Finance* is offered in three options, a basic programme (90 ECTS) and two enhanced programmes (120 ECTS) as follows:
 - *MSc in Finance* (90 ECTS)
 - *MSc in Finance* (120 ECTS)
 - *MSc in Finance with Data Science Major* (120 ECTS)
- By default, students are enrolled in the basic programme, *MSc in Finance* (90 ECTS).
- Any student can register at the latest, by the end of semester 3, in one of the two enhanced programmes for acquiring *MSc in Finance* (120 ECTS), or *MSc in Finance with Data Science Major* (120 ECTS). All students who start their 4th semester without registering in an enhanced programme can no longer register in any enhanced programme.
- Once one of the two enhanced programmes is selected, the student can no longer switch between the two programmes.
- *Fallback clause*: In case of failure in the requirements of an enhanced programme, the student can still meet the requirements for the basic programme *MSc in Finance* (90 ECTS).
- Only one field project could be counted as an elective course. In particular, students who have completed the Field Project in Financial Analysis (6 ECTS) but subsequently choose the Research Option or the Data Science option cannot take the Field Project in Finance and Data Science (9 ECTS) as an elective course.

MSc in Finance, 90 ECTS

- To obtain a *Master in Finance* (90 ECTS) all students need to acquire 60 ECTS in mandatory (M) and 30 ECTS in elective (E) courses.
- The regular duration of study is 3 semesters.*
- Students in the *Master in Finance* (90 ECTS) programme cannot write a master thesis (30 ECTS).

MSc in Finance, 120 ECTS

- To obtain a *MSc in Finance* (120 ECTS), students have to meet the criteria of the *Master in Finance* (90 ECTS) and they must validate the master thesis (30 ECTS).
- The regular duration of study is 4 semesters.*
- Students who want to write a master thesis (30 ECTS) must have acquired at least 30 ECTS[†] in line with the *MSc in Finance* (90 ECTS).

* Art. 6, al. 2 of the *Règlement d'études et d'examens des Masters of Science en sciences économiques*.

† Art. 21, al. 3 of the *Règlement d'études et d'examens des Masters of Science en sciences économiques*

MSc in Finance with Data Science Major, 120 ECTS

- To obtain an *MSc in Finance with Data Science Major* (120 ECTS), students must acquire 87 ECTS in mandatory (M or DS-M) courses and 33 ECTS in elective (E or DS-E) courses.
- The regular duration of study is 4 semesters.*
- *Change of status in Module:* After a student has registered for the *Data Science Option*, some courses change status to mandatory for Data Science (DS-M). These are:
 - *Econometrics: changes from E to DS-M*
 - *Data Science for Business: changes from E to DS-M*
 - *Data Management: changes from E to DS-M*
- The course *Alternative Investments* changes status from mandatory (M) to Data Science elective (DS-E)
- Interim arrangements:
 - *Students who have started in the academic year 2019-2020 can validate credits for the courses Quantitative Methods for Finance (3 ECTS) and Corporate Social Responsibility and Governance (3 ECTS) in the third semester as elective (E) courses.*

*Adopted by the Faculty of Economics and Business on August 23, 2019 and amended on May 26, 2020
Approved by the Rectorate of the University of Neuchâtel on August 26, 2019, and on June 22, 2020.*