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# DIRECTIVE CONCERNING THE STUDY PLAN OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSc) IN FINANCE (FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027)

1. 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 6 mai 2019, état au 20 septembre 2022 et l'arrêté modifiant le règlement d'études et d'examens des Masters of Science en sciences économiques, du 29 mars 2022), apply to the programme of the MSc in Finance.
2. The present Directive provides the following further application rules for the MSc in Finance.
3. This Directive applies to students who have started in the academic year 2026-2027.
4. MSc in Finance is offered in four options, the basic programme (90 ECTS) and three enhanced programmes (120 ECTS):
   - MSc in Finance (120 ECTS)
   - MSc in Finance with a Data Science Track (120 ECTS)
   - MSc in Finance with a Sustainability Track (120 ECTS)
5. By default, students are enrolled in the basic programme, MSc in Finance (90 ECTS)
6. Any student can register at the latest, by the end of semester 3, for one of the three enhanced programmes for acquiring the MSc in Finance (120 ECTS), MSc in Finance with a Data Science Track (120 ECTS), or MSc in Finance with a Sustainability Track (120 ECTS). All students who start their 4th semester without having registered for an enhanced programme can no longer register for any enhanced programme.
7. Once one of the three enhanced programmes is selected, the student can no longer switch between the three programmes.
8. 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).

## a. MSc in Finance, 90 ECTS

- To obtain a MSc in Finance (90 ECTS) all students need to acquire 60 ECTS in mandatory and 30 ECTS in elective courses.
- The regular duration of study is 3 semesters.[1]
- Students in the MSc in Finance (90 ECTS) programme cannot write the master thesis or the internship thesis (30 ECTS).

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

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## b. MSc in Finance, 120 ECTS

- To obtain a MSc in Finance (120 ECTS), students have to meet the criteria of the MSc in Finance (90 ECTS) and they must validate the master thesis or the internship thesis (30 ECTS).
- The regular duration of study is 4 semesters.[2]
- Students who want to write the master thesis or the internship thesis* (30 ECTS) must have acquired at least 30 ECTS[3] in line with the MSc in Finance (90 ECTS)
- Following the submission of the Master Thesis, an oral defense in the form of a presentation combined with a "question-and-answer" is organized by the academic supervisor. The oral defense tests the student's understanding of the submitted thesis.

*The duration of the internship is a minimum of 12 weeks full-time (3 months) and a maximum of 6 months (full-time or part-time).

## c. MSc in Finance with a Data Science Track, 120 ECTS

- To obtain a MSc in Finance with a Data Science Track (120 ECTS), students have to validate 120 ECTS (60 mandatory courses and 60 elective courses) and at least 30 ECTS have to be part of the Data Science course list.
- The regular duration of study is 4 semesters.[4]
- Students in the MSc in Finance with a Data Science Track (120 ECTS) cannot write the master thesis or the internship thesis (30 ECTS).

## *d.* MSc in Finance with a Sustainability Track, 120 ECTS

- To obtain a MSc in Finance with a Sustainability Track (120 ECTS), students have to validate 120 ECTS (60 mandatory courses and 60 elective courses) and at least 30 ECTS have to be part of the Sustainability course list.
- The regular duration of study is 4 semesters.[5]
- Students in the MSc in Finance with a Sustainability Track (120 ECTS) cannot write the master thesis or the internship thesis (30 ECTS).

*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.*

[2] Art. 6, al. 2 of the *Règlement d'études et d'examens des Masters of Science en sciences économiques*.
[3] Art. 21, al. 3 of the *Règlement d'études et d'examens des Masters of Science en sciences économiques*
[4] Art. 6, al. 2 of the *Règlement d'études et d'examens des Masters of Science en sciences économiques*.
[5] Art. 6, al. 2 of the *Règlement d'études et d'examens des Masters of Science en sciences économiques*.