



WHY THIS DEGREE?

There is a market need for well-rounded and well-trained management accounting and financial management specialists who are able to analyse and solve modern-day business challenges and effectively communicate such implications to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

The **Master of Commerce in Management Accountancy** is a qualification that will address this need by providing the South African business environment with highly skilled and advanced trained management accountancy specialists.

This **highly acclaimed programme** builds on the honours programme, which is accredited by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountant (CIMA), the world's largest professional body for management accountants, although students with other relevant honours degrees are welcome to apply.

CIMA, as a global organisation, focuses on a career in business and finance. The North-West University is ranked by CIMA as a Tier 1 university.



OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The qualification aims to develop management accountancy specialists able to **conduct, analyse and research current business issues** and effectively report to both specialist and non-specialist audiences. Students are **equipped** with the necessary research and academic skills to enable future professional and/or academic development.

Graduates of the programme will **acquire** the ability to understand, analyse, comment and advise on aspects within the organisational environment in which he/she finds him-/herself, with a focus on enterprise strategy, financial strategy and risk management.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

There are **three routes** into the programme:

1. An average module mark of 60% for Management Accounting and Financial Management, and an average of 60% for a relevant honours degree at NQF level 8 is required.
2. Students with a CTA (CA stream honours or post-graduate diploma) only need a pass mark.
3. CIMA members or students who have successfully completed the CIMA strategic-level case study may apply for recognition of prior learning for the two lectured modules.





COURSE TYPES

1

COURSEWORK WITH MINI-DISSERTATION

This programme commences in February every year and consists of two coursework modules (each with an examination written at the end of the module) and a mini-dissertation (under supervision) addressing a current research question.

The two coursework modules are focused on the content of the Chartered Institute of Management Accounting (CIMA) strategic-level subjects. Based on the admission requirements, it is assumed that learners already have the necessary basic knowledge of financial management, cost management, strategic management and financial accounting.

The content of the coursework modules is therefore focused on the discussion of selected topics of enterprise and financial strategy deemed relevant and topical. This is addressed in the two respective modules:

1. Advanced Financial Management (topics include investment, financing and dividend decisions; valuations & mergers; financial statements analysis; risk management and behavioural finance) and
2. Strategy, Advanced Management Accounting and Business Strategy (topics include enterprise strategy; trust and corporate ethics; corporate environment & strategic positioning; implementing strategy and digital strategy).

The mini-dissertation must be focused on a management accounting topic of the student's interest and choice (the choice of topic may, however, in some instances be limited to expertise of study leaders available.)

DISSERTATION ONLY

2

This programme consists entirely of a dissertation on a management accounting or financial management topic of the student's interest and choice (the choice of topic may, however, in some instances be limited to the availability of expert study leaders).

DISSERTATION AND MINI-DISSERTATION

The dissertation or mini-dissertation is completed under expert supervisors. Students who have not had previous research methodology experience may be required to complete a short course in research methodology at the beginning of the year.

LECTURED MODULES

To achieve the goal of the qualification, students are required to study the material supplied throughout the duration of the course, including, but not limited to books, academic articles and case studies and attend and participate in contact sessions (in person and web-based) during which interaction with fellow students during class discussions will play a valuable part. Contact sessions (with web discussions in between) take place on a monthly basis. Contact sessions include guest lectures from industry leaders, while the main focus is on a deeper understanding and application within the current economic and business environment. Students must also complete practical case studies in the form of assignments and successfully sit in two open-book examinations.

Marks in assignments and examinations are allocated for both technical content and critical assessments, and also for presentation and layout. Following the examination and after the scripts have been marked, a verbal examination script defence takes place.

Closing date for applications for the following year: 30 November of each year. Please apply early as we are only able to accept a limited number of students each year. Students may apply online, but should also send an e-mail to indicate that they have applied online. Final academic results are required for the final selection decision. Acceptance is also dependent on the availability of subject expert supervisors.