MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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MASTER'S DEGREE SPECIALTY

E D U C A T I O N A L P R O G R A M M E

Specialty code and title: 7004006 – Finance

BAKU - 2025

AZERBAIJAN UNIVERSITY

Approved by the Academic Council of
Azerbaijan University on 12.09.2025,
under Minutes No. 01.

Rector S.N. Əliyeva

MASTER'S DEGREE SPECIALTY

E D U C A T I O N A L P R O G R A M M E

Specialty code and title: 7004006 - Finance
Specialisation: Banking

BAKU - 2025

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE IN THE SPECIALTY

1. General provisions

1.1. The educational programme for the master's degree in specialty **7004006 - Finance** (hereinafter referred to as the educational programme) has been developed in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Education, the relevant decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Education's Framework Document for Educational Programmes for Master's Degree Specialties and the Classification of Master's Degree Specialties in Higher Education, as well as international best practice and labour market requirements.

1.2. The objectives of the educational programme are to:

- define graduates' competencies in the specialty, the scope of the specialty, teaching and learning methods for courses, assessment methods, learning outcomes, requirements for the infrastructure and staffing needed to train specialists, and students' opportunities for practical training, employment and further education;
- inform students and employers of the knowledge, skills and learning outcomes acquired by graduates;
- inform the partners involved in evaluating whether specialist training under the educational programme complies with this programme.

1.3. The educational programme is mandatory for all higher education institutions operating in the Republic of Azerbaijan that provide master's degree training in this specialty, regardless of their affiliation, type of ownership or organisational and legal form.

1.4. A student's total weekly classroom and independent study workload over a 5 (five) day working week is 45 academic hours (except at special-purpose higher education institutions). Of these, 12-16 academic hours are classroom hours. The weekly workload may be adjusted for specialisations studied in greater depth for professional purposes.

2. Graduate competencies

2.1. By the end of the educational programme, graduates must acquire the following *general competencies*:

- the ability to independently resolve unexpected and complex issues in their professional activities;
- the ability to propose and plan appropriate activities and methods and analyse their current and prospective outcomes;
- the ability to investigate the causes of problems in their field of work or study and resolve them within a specific time frame and with limited information;
- the ability to select and use appropriate technologies and methods to solve problems in their field of work or study, and to identify, appraise and assess the expected outcomes;
- the ability to critically evaluate their own performance when solving problems in their field of work or study;
- the ability to present and substantiate problems in their field of work or study orally and in writing in Azerbaijani and one foreign language, and to participate in related discussions with specialists and non-specialists;
- the ability to transfer their knowledge and competencies to others using various methods;

- the ability to act in accordance with ethical standards in all circumstances and understand the ethical aspects, possibilities, limitations and social role of their personal conduct;
- the ability to assess their own and others' needs for continuous learning and professional development, and to use effective methods necessary for independent learning.

By the end of the educational programme in the Banking specialisation of specialty 7004006 - Finance,
graduates must acquire the following ***professional competencies***:

- develop and implement an appropriate lending strategy based on financial statement analysis;
- identify new banking risks arising from changes in internal and external environmental factors and develop appropriate mechanisms to address them;
- propose new banking products and services based on market demand and conditions;
- provide an opinion on the soundness of decisions based on the analysis of financial and statistical indicators;
- oversee the context-appropriate application of Basel III standards in bank liquidity management;
- propose infrastructure improvement initiatives to develop digital banking technologies and ensure their implementation;
- expand the use of new financial technologies (FinTech) by drawing on the capabilities of blockchain platforms;
- ensure oversight of compliance with banking legislation and the implementation of amendments to it.

3. Structure of the educational programme

3.1. Standard duration of the educational programme and the higher academic qualification awarded to graduates:

Specialisation titles	Degree awarded	Duration of full-time study	Number of credits
Banking*	Master's degree	1.5 years	90

3.2. The educational programme in Banking must comprise 90 ECTS credits (1.5 years). Each semester provides for 30 credits, with no more than 5 courses. Credits are allocated as follows:

No.	Course title	ECTS credits	
1	**Academic Writing and Ethics** [1,2] This course aims to teach the fundamentals of academic writing, speaking and integrity, and to develop master's students' skills in writing research articles, dissertations, essays and other academic documents, speaking professionally at conferences, symposia, seminars and academic discussions, and observing publication ethics. The course will equip students with knowledge and competencies in academic style, the proper use of sources, citation conventions and ethical standards.	6	
2	**Project Management**[2] This course explains in detail team building and team operations in projects, project leadership, the duties of the project manager and related issues. It also provides knowledge of project scope, schedules, communications, procurement, professional stakeholder relations and other topics. The course also addresses agile project management. It should cover managing projects amid change, assessing risks appropriately, the duties of the Product Owner and Scrum Master, and other related topics.	6	
	Compulsory courses determined by the higher education institution[3]: depending on the specialisation, the courses included here are determined individually by each higher education institution and reflected in the educational programme for that specialisation.	54	
3	**Contemporary Issues in Finance** This course covers current innovations, trends and challenges in global and national financial systems. Topics examine pressing issues such as the integration of international financial markets, financial risk management, digital financial instruments, cryptocurrencies, financial stability and regulatory mechanisms, sustainable financing and green finance. The course draws on both theoretical foundations and the analysis of practical issues. The main aim of this course is to enable master's students to understand developments in the contemporary financial environment, analyse emerging problems and formulate research-based approaches to solving them.	6	
4	**Modern Banking Products and Services** Course aim: The course aims to provide master's students with in-depth knowledge of how the modern banking system operates, the economic nature of new-generation banking products and services, the mechanisms	6	

	through which they are developed and the principles of their management. The course develops students' ability to analyse, evaluate and apply innovative financial instruments, digital technologies and customer-oriented service models in the banking sector. Course overview: The course covers the structure of modern banking, the range of products and services, the application of innovative technologies and risk management mechanisms.		
5	**Behavioural Finance** Course aim: The course aims to explain to master's students the role of human behaviour and psychological factors in financial decision-making and enable them to evaluate the impact of irrational economic behaviour on market processes. In contrast to traditional financial theories, the course develops students' ability to study behavioural approaches, analyse investor psychology and assess how financial decisions depend on cognitive biases. Course overview: The course covers the psychological foundations of financial decisions, the influence of investors' emotional and social behaviour on markets, and applications of behavioural finance	6	
6	**Bank Management** Course aim: The course aims to teach master's students the principles of modern bank management, strategic decision-making mechanisms and risk management processes. The course develops students' analytical and practical skills in planning commercial bank operations, managing resources efficiently, and ensuring financial stability and competitive advantage. Course overview: This course covers the basic concepts of modern bank management, management structures, decision-making mechanisms and the strategic directions of banking activities.	6	
7	**Banking Risk Management** The Banking Risk Management course covers the nature of the various risks arising in banking—credit, liquidity, interest rate, currency, market and operational risks—their impact mechanisms and management methods. It provides knowledge of modern methodologies, statistical models and analytical tools used to identify, assess and mitigate risks. The Basel Committee's international standards and regulatory principles relating to risk management are also taught. The course aims to equip master's students with the theoretical foundations and practical skills for effective risk management in the banking sector. Students learn to analyse the impact of risks on banks' financial stability, make decisions appropriate to the level of risk and develop sustainable risk management strategies.	6	
8	**Digital Banking** The Digital Banking course covers the application of digital technologies in the modern banking system, the development of electronic financial services, and their economic, legal and technological foundations. It examines online and mobile banking, the FinTech ecosystem, blockchain technology, cryptocurrencies, artificial intelligence and big-	6	

	data-based decision-making. It also provides knowledge of cybersecurity, digital payment systems, the digitalisation of customer experience and regulatory frameworks. The course aims to teach master's students the nature, advantages and challenges of digital banking and train them as specialists capable of applying modern banking technologies. Students learn to assess the impact of digital transformation on the banking sector, create innovative financial products and manage secure banking transactions in a digital environment.		
9	**Banking Supervision and Audit** The Banking Supervision and Audit course teaches internal and external oversight mechanisms in the banking system, risk-based audit principles and prudential regulatory tools. It analyses the national and international legal and regulatory framework for banking supervision, the functions of the Central Bank and other supervisory authorities, and regulatory principles consistent with Basel standards. It also covers organising internal control systems in banks, auditing financial statements, identifying risks and ensuring transparent reporting. The course aims to enable master's students to master the nature, objectives and application mechanisms of banking supervision and audit. Students learn to evaluate banks' compliance with legislation, identify risks and develop control procedures to mitigate them, and apply audit principles that ensure the reliability of financial statements.	6	
10	**Financial Statement Analysis** The Financial Statement Analysis course teaches analytical methods and indicators used to assess enterprises' financial position and performance. It analyses the structure and interrelationships of key financial statements, including the **balance sheet**, **income statement**, **statement of cash flows** and **statement of changes in equity**. Students learn horizontal and vertical analysis, financial ratios (liquidity, profitability, financial stability, etc.) and trend analysis, and become familiar with the principles of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The course aims to enable master's students to assess enterprises' financial position and operating efficiency. Students learn to make sound decisions based on financial indicators, identify risks and use analytical techniques to support investment and management decisions	6	
11	**International Banking** The International Banking course teaches the operating principles of banks in the global financial system, the structure of international financial markets and the nature of cross-border banking transactions. It examines international lending, foreign exchange transactions, the financing of foreign investment, international payment systems, correspondent banking relationships and the role of international regulatory bodies (the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Basel Committee, etc.). International banking risks, the effects of global financial crises, and ethical and legal issues in international banking are also key areas of the course. The course aims to teach master's students how the international banking system operates, the nature of international financial transactions and risk management in global banking markets. Students	6	

	gain the ability to analyse strategic decisions by banks involved in international financial relations, apply international regulatory standards and operate effectively in the global financial environment.		
	Elective courses determined by the higher education institution The relevant courses are determined individually by each higher education institution according to the specialisation and reflected in its educational programme.	18	
12	**-Securities Market** This course teaches the economic nature, structure and functioning of the securities market as a key component of financial markets. It examines shares, bonds and **derivative financial instruments (futures, options, swaps, etc.),** their issuance and circulation, and the principles of market price formation. It also covers exchange and over-the-counter trading systems, the activities of issuers and investors, market risks, the role of financial intermediaries and state regulation of the securities market. The course aims to teach master's students the theoretical foundations and practical mechanisms of the securities market and equip them to conduct independent analysis when making investment decisions, constructing portfolios and managing risks. **-Stock Markets** The Stock Markets course teaches the structure, functions and operating mechanisms of capital markets as a key component of the financial system. It examines the trading of financial instruments such as shares, bonds, investment funds and derivatives, price formation, the interaction of supply and demand, and the organisational foundations of exchange and over-the-counter markets. It also covers comparative analysis of Azerbaijani and international stock markets, principles of state regulation, market transparency and investor protection. The course aims to teach master's students the economic nature, structure and functional principles of stock markets. Students learn to conduct capital market transactions, construct investment portfolios and analyse risk and return, and gain the ability to evaluate stock market development based on international experience.	6	
13	**-Investment Portfolio Management** The Investment Portfolio Management course teaches the principles of investment decision-making in financial markets and portfolio construction, diversification and optimisation. It explains in detail Markowitz portfolio theory, the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM), risk and return analysis, asset valuation, beta coefficients and portfolio performance indicators. It also covers integration with stock markets, portfolio strategy development, passive and active management approaches, and contemporary topics such as ETFs, investment funds and individual investor behaviour. The course aims to teach master's students to assess the balance between risk and return in investment decisions, construct efficient portfolios and select management strategies. Students learn to optimise asset selection and allocation in stock markets, increase returns while reducing financial risks, and use modern investment instruments professionally.	6	

	-Corporate Finance The Corporate Finance course teaches the theoretical foundations and practical applications of enterprises' financial decisions. It analyses capital formation and structure, financial resource management, dividend policy, calculation of the cost of capital, investment project appraisal (NPV, IRR, payback period, etc.) and corporate finance transactions such as mergers and acquisitions (M&A). It also covers corporate governance, agency problems, risk-return relationships and the strategic effects of financial decisions. The course aims to equip master's students with the theoretical foundations and practical skills for financial decision-making in corporations. Students learn to optimise capital structure, evaluate investment and financing decisions, develop financial strategies that increase company value and manage corporate financial risks.		
14	- International Monetary and Credit Relations The International Monetary and Credit Relations course teaches the nature of monetary and credit mechanisms in the world financial system, the structure of the international balance of payments and the operating principles of foreign exchange markets. It examines exchange rate formation, exchange rate policy, the activities of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and other international financial institutions, forms of international credit and cross-border financing mechanisms. It also analyses currency risks, global borrowing problems and international financial stability. The course aims to teach master's students the theoretical and practical foundations of international monetary and credit relations and prepare them to analyse and manage global financial processes. Students learn to assess the economic impact of exchange rate changes, apply international credit mechanisms and analyse policies aimed at countries' financial stability. -International Finance The International Finance course teaches the nature of financial flows, international capital movements and monetary relations in the global economy. It analyses international financial markets and institutions, exchange rates and exchange rate policies, the balance of payments, foreign investment, international borrowing, global financial stability and the role of organisations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. It also covers financial integration under globalisation, the causes and consequences of financial crises and risk management mechanisms. The course aims to teach master's students the theoretical foundations and practical applications of international financial relations. Students learn how international financial markets operate, assess global financial risks, analyse foreign investment and borrowing decisions, and evaluate policies aimed at safeguarding countries' financial stability.	6	
Practical training			
15	Research and Teaching Practicum	6	

TOTAL	90	

[1] This course is intended for specialisations culminating in a master's dissertation.
[2] This course is intended for specialisations that do not culminate in a master's dissertation.

[3] Here, “courses” includes not only taught courses but also projects (including a Capstone project), creative work, laboratory work and other relevant learning activities, where applicable. These courses are determined by the higher education institution with regard to academic staff expertise, research infrastructure, and local and international employment opportunities, and are compulsory for students admitted to the relevant specialisation. This section must contain at least 4 courses.
[4] Here, “courses” includes not only taught courses but also projects (including a Capstone project), creative work, laboratory work and other relevant learning activities, where applicable. These courses are offered by the higher education institution with regard to academic staff expertise, research infrastructure, and local and international employment opportunities. Labour market proposals are also taken into account when determining these courses; for this purpose, it is recommended that a working group comprising representatives of higher education institutions and the labour market be established. The courses determined by the institution must be elective for students and facilitate their participation in international exchange programmes. This section must contain at least 3 courses.
[5] This type of practical training is intended for specialisations culminating in a master's dissertation.
[6] Intended for specialties (specialisations) culminating in a master's dissertation. Requirements for the content, writing, submission and defence of the master's dissertation are determined by the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

4. Programme and course learning outcomes

4.1. Graduates of this educational programme must have a systematic general understanding and broad knowledge of the basic concepts, theoretical principles and research methods in their field of study or work, and acquire in-depth knowledge of their specific (specialised) field of study or work.

4.2. Determining learning outcomes for each course in the specialisation's educational programme and preparing each course syllabus fall within the authority of the higher education institution/academic staff.

4.3. Programme learning outcomes for the specialisation are set out in Appendix 1. Course learning outcomes are determined by each higher education institution. The learning outcomes matrix (Appendix 2) must show the relationship between courses and the educational programme's learning outcomes.

4.4. Course syllabi must be updated regularly to ensure that the educational programme provides academic and practical content responsive to the changing needs of society and the labour market.

5. Infrastructure and staffing capacity

5.1. Teaching, learning and assessment under the educational programme require the higher education institution to have the following infrastructure:

- academic and teaching support staff;
- classrooms equipped with the necessary facilities;
- a computer room and internet access;
- a research and teaching laboratory;
- host organisations for practical training;
- a research library;
- access to academic and professional electronic databases.

5.2. Academic staff engaged in teaching at higher education institutions generally hold an academic degree; specialists without an academic degree but with at least 5 years of relevant professional experience may also teach;

5.3. Master's dissertations are generally supervised by persons holding an academic title or academic degree.

6. Career opportunities and lifelong learning

Graduates of the Banking specialisation in programme 7004006 - Finance will be able to work in the following occupations in the public and private sectors:

- Credit adviser;
- Banking risk adviser;
- Head of department;
- Bank branch manager;
- Bank manager;
- Bank director, etc.

6.1. The higher education institution must regularly survey the employment of graduates of the educational programme and publish information on job vacancies on its website;

6.2. Persons who have completed a master's degree in higher education (and defended a master's dissertation), or whose education is recognised as equivalent (medical specialists in medical education), may be admitted to doctoral studies leading to a Doctor of Philosophy degree;

6.3. The knowledge, skills and approaches acquired during study are prerequisites for graduates' independent lifelong learning.

Appendix 1

Learning outcomes for the educational programme and teaching activities

The *programme learning outcomes* for the Banking specialisation in specialty 7004006 - Finance are as follows:

Programme learning outcomes for the Banking specialisation (PLOs)
1. Develops and implements a lending strategy based on financial statement analysis
2. Identifies new banking risks arising from changes in environmental factors and develops appropriate mechanisms to address them
3. Proposes new banking products and services
4. Evaluates the soundness of decisions based on financial and statistical indicators
5. Implements Basel III standards in stages appropriate to the circumstances
6. Improves infrastructure for digital banking technologies
7. Applies blockchain and new financial technologies (FinTech)
8. Oversees compliance of banking activities with national legislation

Appendix 2

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs)
FOR COMPULSORY COURSES

Learning outcomes for Research Methods (CLOs)
CLO 1. Distinguishes between quantitative and qualitative research methods, their characteristics and areas of application, and applies them purposefully in research.
CLO 2. Acquires the ability to formulate research questions, hypotheses and research designs (experimental or observational) in their field of activity.
CLO 3. Collects existing knowledge through the systematic use of academic sources (libraries, research databases, electronic resources, etc.) and develops a research framework based on it.
CLO 4. Measures, statistically process, visualise and analyse collected data in line with the research objectives.
CLO 5. Presents research findings in a logical structure, writes research articles and reports, and communicates findings to an audience orally and in writing.
CLO 6. Conducts research independently or in groups in accordance with ethical and methodological principles and correctly applies methodological foundations in preparing projects and dissertations.
Learning outcomes for Academic Writing and Ethics (CLOs)
CLO 1 Understands the purpose, structure and stylistic features of academic writing and writes academic essays, dissertations, articles and other academic documents logically and professionally.
CLO 2. Prepares content meeting the writing requirements of different academic genres (articles, dissertations, theses, reports, etc.) and expresses ideas coherently and with justification.
CLO 3. Acquires source-handling skills and uses different citation systems (APA, MLA, IEEE, etc.) correctly in academic writing and avoids plagiarism.
CLO 4. Masters academic speaking styles for research discussions, seminars, symposia and conferences and presents ideas professionally.
CLO 5. Masters copyright, publication ethics and academic integrity principles and observes them in research.
CLO 6. Analyses ethical dilemmas and appropriate conduct in research and writing and makes ethical decisions in academic settings.
Learning outcomes for Research Analytics (CLOs)
CLO 1 Develops an effective data collection strategy for research by identifying data types and collection methods appropriate to the research purpose.
CLO 2. Carries out initial data processing (cleaning, coding and structuring) and prepares data for analysis in line with the research objectives..
CLO 3. Analyses data using different software packages (Excel, EViews, SPSS, Python, R, Matlab, etc.) and draws conclusions based on simple and complex statistical indicators.
CLO 4. Obtains analytical findings by applying the main research analysis methods (quantitative, qualitative, mixed and experimental) appropriately to the field.

CLO 5. Presents analytical findings on a sound academic basis using visual tools (graphs, charts, tables, etc.) and interprets the results correctly.
CLO 6. Prepares research reports and academic documents by developing logical, evidence-based opinions, recommendations and generalisations from research findings.
Learning outcomes for the Research and Teaching Practicum (CLOs)
CLO 1. Acquires skills in preparing syllabi for academic courses in the specialty, drawing up lesson plans, organising lectures and practical classes, and selecting and preparing teaching materials.
CLO 2. Acquires the ability to plan teaching, work with an audience, select teaching strategies and use modern teaching methods to increase student engagement.
CLO 3. Develops the ability to shape and deliver course content based on current research developments in teaching practice.
CLO 4. Learns to use modern information and communication technologies (ICT) and educational software (CAD/CAM/CAE, simulation software and virtual laboratories) effectively.
CLO 5. Communicates openly and fluently in academic teaching and conveys knowledge and research findings to an audience clearly and with justification.
CLO 6. Learns to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching practice, reflect on them and identify areas for future development..
Learning outcomes for the Research Practicum (CLOs)
CLO 1. Identifies current research topics in the specialty and clearly formulates research aims and objectives.
CLO 2. Acquires the ability to select and effectively apply modern research methods (case analysis, operational and tactical analysis, modelling, statistical methods, etc.) appropriate to specific research objectives.
CLO 3. Acquires skills in processing and systematising experimental and theoretical data, processing findings, conducting statistical analysis and interpreting results.
CLO 4. Applies research findings to process optimisation and to the application and development of innovative technologies.
CLO 5 Acquires the ability to present research findings as academic articles, reports and dissertations, speak at research conferences and seminars, and participate in academic discussions.
CLO 6. Learns to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching practice, reflect on them and identify areas for future development.
Learning outcomes for the Master's Dissertation (CLOs)
CLO 1. Identifies current research topics in the specialty and clearly formulates research aims and objectives.
CLO 2. Acquires the ability to select and effectively apply modern research methods (case analysis, operational and tactical analysis, modelling, statistical methods, etc.) appropriate to specific research objectives.
CLO 3. Acquires skills in processing and systematising experimental and theoretical data, processing findings, conducting statistical analysis and interpreting results.
CLO 4 Applies research findings to process optimisation and to the application and development of

innovative technologies.
CLO 5. Acquires the ability to present research findings as academic articles, reports and dissertations, speak at research conferences and seminars, and participate in academic discussions.
CLO 6. Learns to observe research ethics (preventing plagiarism, citing correctly, respecting copyright, etc.) and understands academic responsibility.

Course: Contemporary Issues in Finance

1. Can analyse key problems in the modern financial system (fiscal instability, public debt, difficulties in tax collection, etc.);
2. Analyses emerging risks in global and national financial markets and the causes of crises;
3. Evaluates the application of monetary and fiscal policy instruments under current economic conditions;
4. Examines international regulatory mechanisms applied to preserve financial stability (Basel Accords, OECD standards, etc.);
5. Can respond to new financial challenges such as climate change, green finance and ESG investment principles;
6. Analyses current problems in Azerbaijan's financial and tax systems and develops well-founded proposals;
7. Acquires the ability to conduct independent analytical and research work in finance and taxation, prepare policy documents and contribute to decision-making.

Modern Banking Products and Services

1. Can distinguish between traditional and modern banking products (deposits, loans, mortgages, payment cards, foreign exchange transactions, investments, etc.) and analyse their functions and applications.
2. Can explain the development, evaluation and market launch of new banking products and services (market research, risk analysis, pricing and marketing strategies).
3. Can analyse the profitability, liquidity and risk level of banking products and services using financial indicators.
4. Masters customer-oriented approaches and service quality principles and can make strategic decisions to increase customer satisfaction.
5. Develops teamwork, analytical thinking and strategic decision-making skills; can apply principles of innovative and ethical bank management.
6. Has research skills and can critically analyse and present new trends and technological innovations in modern banking services.

Behavioural Finance

1. Can explain the theoretical foundations of behavioural finance and its differences from classical financial theory.
2. Can identify and explain key behavioural biases—loss aversion, overconfidence, herd behaviour, framing, mental accounting, etc.
3. Analyses bank customers' and investors' decision-making from a behavioural finance perspective and can formulate proposals for more rational decisions.
4. Can apply decision-making models under risk and uncertainty (Prospect Theory, heuristics, etc.).
5. Can optimise product and service strategies by taking behavioural factors into account in banking and financial management.
6. Applies ethical and social responsibility principles in behaviour-based financial decisions; evaluates the role of trust and transparency in bank-customer relations.
7. Develops teamwork, analytical thinking and innovative thinking skills; can apply behavioural finance knowledge to real banking activities and investment management.

Bank Management

1. Masters the theoretical and practical foundations of bank management and can explain the structure and functions of a bank's management system.
2. Can analyse commercial banks' strategic objectives, organisational structures and management models.
3. Can systematically evaluate decision-making in key areas of banking (asset and liability management, liquidity, profitability, risk management, etc.).
4. Understands internal control and corporate governance mechanisms and can identify ways to prevent risks and ensure transparency.
5. Can take national and international banking regulations (Basel principles, Central Bank regulations, etc.) into account in management decisions.
6. Develops analytical thinking, decision-making and leadership skills and can formulate effective management strategies in a team setting.
7. Can conduct research and propose applied solutions to practical problems; critically evaluates new trends in bank management.

Banking Risk Management

1. Understands the nature, types and management principles of banking risks in depth and can classify them.
2. Can identify and analyse key risks such as credit, liquidity, interest rate, currency, operational and market risks.
3. Can apply quantitative risk assessment methods (VaR, stress testing, scenario analysis, etc.).
4. Effectively analyses risk management models and strategies (hedging, diversification, insurance, limit systems, etc.).
5. Develops risk management decision-making skills and identifies ways to achieve an optimal balance between risk and return.

6. Acquires teamwork, analytical thinking and strategic thinking abilities; can propose practical solutions for reducing risks in real banking environments.
7. Has research and analytical skills and can critically assess current risk management trends and regulatory requirements.

Digital Banking

1. Explains the concept, nature and development trends of digital banking and can distinguish it from traditional banking models.
2. Can analyse the FinTech ecosystem, digital payment systems, and mobile and online banking platforms.
3. Evaluates opportunities to apply blockchain, artificial intelligence, big data and cloud technologies in banking.
4. Has knowledge of electronic money, cryptocurrencies and central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) and understands their regulatory principles.
5. Masters international cybersecurity and data protection standards and can evaluate their application in banking.
6. Develops analytical thinking skills for managing digital risks (operational, technological, legal and reputational risks).
7. Analyses the economic, legal and ethical aspects of digital banking and develops decision-making skills in the modern digital financial ecosystem.

Banking Supervision and Audit

1. Understands the theoretical foundations, objectives and functions of banking supervision and audit in depth.
2. Can explain the objectives and functions of internal and external audit systems and the relationship between them.
3. Knows the principles of establishing and managing internal control systems in banks and can assess their role in risk reduction.
4. Can correctly apply the stages of the audit process (planning, data collection, analysis, reporting and final assessment).
5. Has practical skills in collecting audit evidence, applying verification methods and preparing reports.
6. Applies ethical principles, professional responsibility and confidentiality rules in bank auditing.
7. Has analytical thinking and decision-making skills and can propose strategic decisions based on audit findings.

Project Management

1. Understands the concepts of projects and project management, their stages and key principles in depth.
2. Can use economic and financial project appraisal methods (NPV, IRR, ROI, risk analysis, etc.).
3. Masters project budget and resource management principles and can ensure effective planning and cost control.
4. Can analyse the sources and structure of financing for banking and financial projects.
5. Acquires skills in project team management, leadership, communication and motivation.
6. Develops analytical and strategic thinking and decision-making skills for successful project implementation.
7. Can conduct research and prepare project reports and proposals; can critically assess the effectiveness of banking and financial projects.

Financial Statement Analysis

1. Understands in depth the structure and content of financial statements (balance sheets, income statements, cash flow statements and statements of changes in equity).
2. Can explain the principles of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and their application in banking.
3. Can read, interpret and comparatively analyse banks' financial statements.
4. Can assess a bank's financial position using financial indicators and ratios (liquidity, profitability, leverage, asset turnover, etc.).
5. Can draw analytical conclusions on bank asset quality, capital adequacy and profitability indicators.
6. Develops analytical and critical thinking and makes objective assessments based on financial indicators.
7. Acquires research and report-writing skills; can assess the transparency and reliability of financial statements in banking.

International Banking

1. Understands the nature and structure of the international banking system and can explain the main principles of international banking.
2. Analyses the functions of international financial institutions (the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the BIS, etc.) and their impact on banking.
3. Analyses the characteristics of international credit transactions and syndicated loans and can assess their risks.
4. Acquires the ability to manage international trade financing (letters of credit, documentary collections, guarantees, etc.).
5. Analyses international banking strategies, branch network management models and the competitive environment.
6. Assesses the impact of global financial crises on banking and can formulate proposals for risk reduction.

ELECTIVE COURSES
COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs)

A master's student who has completed the Securities Market course:

1. Explains the nature, structure and functions of the securities market on a sound theoretical basis.
2. Distinguishes the economic and legal characteristics of securities such as shares, bonds, derivatives and investment funds.
3. Analyses how exchange and over-the-counter trading systems operate and their role in banking.
4. Applies calculation and assessment methods for securities pricing, returns and risk factors.
5. Explains the principles of market participation and interaction among issuers, investors and intermediaries (brokers, dealers and investment companies).
6. Critically evaluates capital market development trends and banks' strategies for participating in these markets.
7. Uses analytical thinking and financial analysis skills to substantiate the effectiveness of securities in investment decision-making.

Stock Markets

1. Explains the nature, functions and structural elements of the stock market on a sound theoretical basis.
2. Distinguishes the operating principles of exchange and over-the-counter markets, shares, bonds, derivatives and investment funds.
3. Analyses stock market participants (issuers, investors, brokers, dealers, depositories and clearing organisations) and their interactions.
4. Explains the placement and trading of securities on primary and secondary markets using practical examples.
5. Applies methods for stock market price formation and the calculation of return and risk indicators.
6. Acquires the ability to conduct stock market research and prepare analytical reports and investment strategies.
7. Identifies development prospects for Azerbaijan's stock market amid global financial integration and makes strategic proposals.

Investment Portfolio Management

1. Explains the concept, types and purposes of investment from theoretical and practical perspectives.
2. Analyses the economic nature of portfolio investments and their role in financial markets.
3. Identifies criteria for including securities, shares, bonds and other financial instruments in a portfolio.
4. Analyses stock market volatility and the impact of macroeconomic factors on portfolio values.
5. Can calculate and analyse investment portfolio performance indicators (Sharpe, Treynor, Jensen, etc.).
6. Explains the role of banks and financial institutions in portfolio management and the modern technologies used in this process.

Corporate Finance

1. Can explain in depth the theoretical foundations of corporate finance and their application in banking.
2. Can analyse the interaction between companies' capital structure formation, cost of capital, dividend policy and financing decisions.
3. Can calculate investment project performance measures (NPV, IRR, PI, payback period, etc.) and evaluate projects in banking.
4. Analyses ways to raise funds through financial markets, debt and equity and can apply them in real situations.
5. Analyses the macroeconomic and institutional effects of corporate decisions in the global financial environment.
6. Can substantiate decision-making using modern corporate finance analytical tools and software.

International Monetary and Credit Relations

1. Can explain the nature, structure and evolution of the international monetary system and analyses the economic effects of different exchange rate regimes.
2. Identifies exchange rate formation mechanisms and factors affecting exchange rate stability and volatility.
3. Understands the legal, institutional and economic foundations of international financial and credit relations and can apply them in banking.
4. Analyses the international balance of payments, its structure and indicators, and evaluates it in terms of macroeconomic stability.
5. Can explain the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and other financial institutions in international credit and monetary relations.
6. Analyses the forms, terms and security mechanisms of international credit transactions and applies them in practical examples.

International Finance

1. Explains the nature, structure and evolution of the international financial system and evaluates its role in global economic stability.
2. Analyses the impact of international capital flows (foreign investment, portfolio investment and international loans) on economic and financial stability.
3. Explains the operating principles of international financial institutions–the IMF, the World Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, etc.–and their role in financial policy.
4. Analyses global financial integration and financial stability risks and evaluates the causes and consequences of international financial crises.
5. Analyses foreign borrowing, public debt and balance of payments policies and explains their impact on banking.
6. Understands the legal and ethical aspects of international financial transactions and can make decisions consistent with the international regulatory framework.

Appendix 3

Learning outcomes matrix for the educational

programme and teaching activities

The higher education institution must use the table below to identify how it supports the achievement of the specialisation's programme learning outcomes.

PLO alignment matrix for research-oriented courses

Teaching activity (course) title	PLO 1. Develops and implements a lending strategy based on financial statement analysis	PLO 2. Identifies new banking risks arising from changes in environmental factors and develops appropriate mechanisms to address them	PLO 3. Proposes new banking products and services	PLO 4. Evaluates the soundness of decisions based on financial and statistical indicators	PLO 5. Implements Basel III standards in stages appropriate to the circumstances	PLO 6. Improves infrastructure for digital banking technologies
Academic Writing and Ethics				X		
Project Management	X	X	X	X		
Research and Teaching Practicum				X		

This table shows that:

- Project Management supports practical and applied PLOs.
- Academic Writing and Ethics develops academic reasoning, analysis and ethical decision-making.
- The Research and Teaching Practicum supports the proper presentation of findings and the systematisation of research activities.

Alignment matrix of PLOs and teaching activities for the Banking specialisation

Courses / PLOs	1. Develops and implements a lending strategy based on financial statement analysis	2. Identifies new banking risks arising from changes in environmental factors and develops appropriate mechanisms to address them	3. Proposes new banking products and services	4. Evaluates the soundness of decisions based on financial and statistical indicators	5. Implements Basel III standards in stages appropriate to the circumstances	6. Improves infrastructure for digital banking technologies	7. Applies blockchain and new financial technologies (FinTech)	8. Oversees compliance of banking activities with national legislation
Contemporary Issues in Finance	X	X		X	X			X
Modern Banking Products and Services			X					
Behavioural Finance				X				
Bank Management	X	X	X	X				X
Banking Risk Management		X		X	X			
Digital Banking						X	X	
Banking Supervision and Audit		X			X			X
Securities Market				X				
Stock Markets				X				
Investment Portfolio Management				X				
Corporate Finance	X			X				
Project Management							X	
Financial Statement Analysis	X			X				
International Banking		X			X			X
International Monetary and Credit Relations	X							
International Finance	X			X				

Agreed:

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