

## ECP77614 — International Banking and Cryptocurrencies

| Module Information |                                                   |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Module Code        | ECP77614                                          |
| Module Title       | International Banking and Cryptocurrencies        |
| Department         | <i>Economics</i>                                  |
| Year Group         | <i>MSc in Economics</i>                           |
| Module Personnel   | <i>Professor Maylis Avaro</i>                     |
| Academic Year      | <i>2026-27</i>                                    |
| Credit Weighting   | <i>5</i>                                          |
| Semester           | <i>Semester 1</i>                                 |
| Contact Hours      | <i>8 hours of lecture and 3 hour of tutorials</i> |

| Module Content       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| Module Description   | <p>How does money move across borders? Can cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology disrupt the international payment system? This module introduces students to the operations of global banks and the management of global liquidity and international monetary spillovers. Key topics include the utilization of Big Data by global banks for monitoring cross-border payments and by regulators for assessing international financial stability. The module discusses the latest innovations in cross border payments, including the impact of the development of fintech and cryptocurrencies.</p> <p>Topics covered include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Expansion of International Banking</li> <li>2. Cross-border payments</li> <li>3. Foreign Exchange Markets</li> <li>4. International Investment Banking</li> <li>5. The Regulation of International Banking Institutions</li> <li>6. The rise of Fintech</li> <li>7. Cryptography and payment security</li> <li>8. Blockchains features</li> <li>9. Stablecoins</li> <li>10. Crypto exchanges</li> <li>11. Smart contracts</li> </ol> |
| Module Learning Aims | <i>The broad aims of the module (optional)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

## Module Content

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <b>Learning Outcomes</b>              | <p>On completion of the module, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Analyse the structure and operations of global banks and explain the mechanics of cross-border payments and international liquidity management.</li> <li>2. Evaluate the implications of fintech innovations and decentralised technologies — including blockchains, stablecoins, and smart contracts — for the international monetary system.</li> <li>3. Collect and analyse large-scale cryptocurrency transaction data using SQL across multiple blockchains.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Indicative Reading / Resources</b> | <p>Smith, R. C., Walter, I., &amp; DeLong, G. (2012). <i>Global Banking</i> (Third Edition, Third Edition). Oxford University Press., part I and III.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## Assessment

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Assessment Components</b> | <i>Coursework 30%, Exam 70%</i> |
| <b>Assessment Details</b>    |                                 |

## Additional Information

|                              |                                                                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Prerequisites</b>         | <i>None</i>                                                       |
| <b>Co-requisites</b>         | <i>None</i>                                                       |
| <b>Any other information</b> | <i>Anything else that should appear on the website (optional)</i> |