




Durham
University
Business School



Celebrating Sixty Years of
Excellence, Innovation & Impact



MSc Accounting Analytics and Sustainability 2026



durham.ac.uk/business/maas



We are dedicated to empowering future leaders with the knowledge and skills to thrive at the intersection of accounting, data analytics, and sustainability. Our MSc in Accounting Analytics and Sustainability combines cutting-edge tools like machine learning and AI with a strong focus on ESG and sustainability practices. Through this innovative programme, we aim to develop professionals who can drive positive change and meet the evolving needs of global industries and society.

Dr Terry Harris, Programme Director

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A global leading business school

Founded in 1965, Durham University Business School stands as one of the UK's longest-established business schools, recruiting and developing the highest calibre students to achieve success in their chosen career. We are proud to be an integral part of Durham University, a prestigious institution founded in 1832, with over 190 years of history. Durham University is a globally outstanding centre of teaching and research excellence, known for its unique, historic setting and its collegiate community of extraordinary people. Our University is also a member of the Russell Group of 24 leading, research intensive UK universities.

We are one of an elite group of **triple-accredited** business schools worldwide



10th in the UK

Financial Times European Business School Ranking 2024

90%

of Durham University's research is classed as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'

REF 2021

Department of Accounting

The Department of Accounting at Durham University Business School is renowned for its cutting-edge research and world-class faculty. With strong industry connections and collaboration with leading firms, we are closing the gap that has emerged between academic accounting research and the real world of accountancy practice. The department's three key themes include: accountability, sustainability, and digitisation, shaping and guiding our research and teaching, ensuring our graduates are prepared to address the ethical, environmental, and technological challenges that define and confront modern business practice.



Celebrating 60 Years

In 2025, Durham University Business School proudly marks 60 years of excellence in business education, research, and impact. Since the launch of our first programme in 1965, we have shaped generations of leaders, advanced ground-breaking research, and built a strong global community.

Expertise

Emeritus Professor Carol Adams, a globally recognised expert in sustainability reporting and integrated reporting, enriches the MSc Accounting Analytics and Sustainability programme with her extensive research and thought leadership, which have shaped global best practices.

You'll also learn from some of the most respected voices in industry. Michael Izza, Professor in Practice and former Chief Executive of ICAEW, brings extensive experience in leading one of the world's premier accountancy bodies, with a focus on sustainable economics. Honorary Professors and Visiting Fellows, including Paul Druckman, founding CEO of the International Integrated Reporting Council, and Russell Picot, a leader in sustainability reporting also feature. Their experience in governance, public policy, audit and sustainability will provide valuable insights, from those shaping the future of the profession.

MSc Accounting Analytics and Sustainability

Education

As the first business school in the UK to introduce big data analytics into accounting programmes at undergraduate level, our Business School continues to lead in innovation. In another UK first, our innovative MSc Accounting Analytics and Sustainability programme integrates cutting-edge technologies such as machine learning, artificial intelligence (AI), and data analytics, with a focus on accountability and sustainability. This ensures that our graduates acquire practical, future-ready skills, highly sought by employers.

Research

Our expertise spans multiple critical areas, including data analytics, integrated reporting, corporate governance, and sustainability assurance. Central to our cutting-edge research initiatives is the Durham Rutgers Accounting Analytics Network (DRAAN), a pioneering collaboration between Durham University and Rutgers University, USA.

DRAAN brings together global experts in accounting analytics to tackle some of the biggest challenges in the industry, exploring the integration of big data, machine learning, and AI into accounting practices, with a focus on continuous auditing, real-time reporting, and predictive analytics. We are developing innovative solutions that are reshaping how organisations approach accounting and auditing in a data-driven world.

Our research not only informs the programme, but you'll be exposed to the latest tools and techniques that are transforming the accounting profession. You'll have the opportunity to engage with ongoing research and benefit from insights generated by DRAAN's pioneering work, equipping you with the expertise to lead in a rapidly evolving industry.

Shaping responsible accounting through analytics and sustainability

In an era of increasing demand for corporate accountability and transparency, businesses are expected to play a pivotal role in addressing global sustainability challenges. The MSc in Accounting Analytics and Sustainability will equip you with the skills needed to meet these evolving demands. The programme aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), fostering an understanding of how businesses can contribute to sustainability while maintaining financial performance. By integrating cutting-edge technologies like machine learning and AI, we'll prepare you to lead in the transition towards a more sustainable and responsible business environment.

Gain key skills to lead a sustainable future

You'll enhance your understanding of technology, data analytics, machine learning and AI in the related fields of accounting and auditing. In addition you'll improve your analytical and data visualisation skills and knowledge in sustainability, integrated reporting, and environmental, social and governance (ESG) related issues, including ESG investment ratings, and ESG assurance analytics.



Flexibility at its core

Delivered fully online, in a part-time study format, the 48-month programme has been designed to allow you to continue in full-time employment, enabling you to achieve your personal and career aspirations, whilst also contributing to your continuing professional development (CPD) obligations.

Choose your study journey

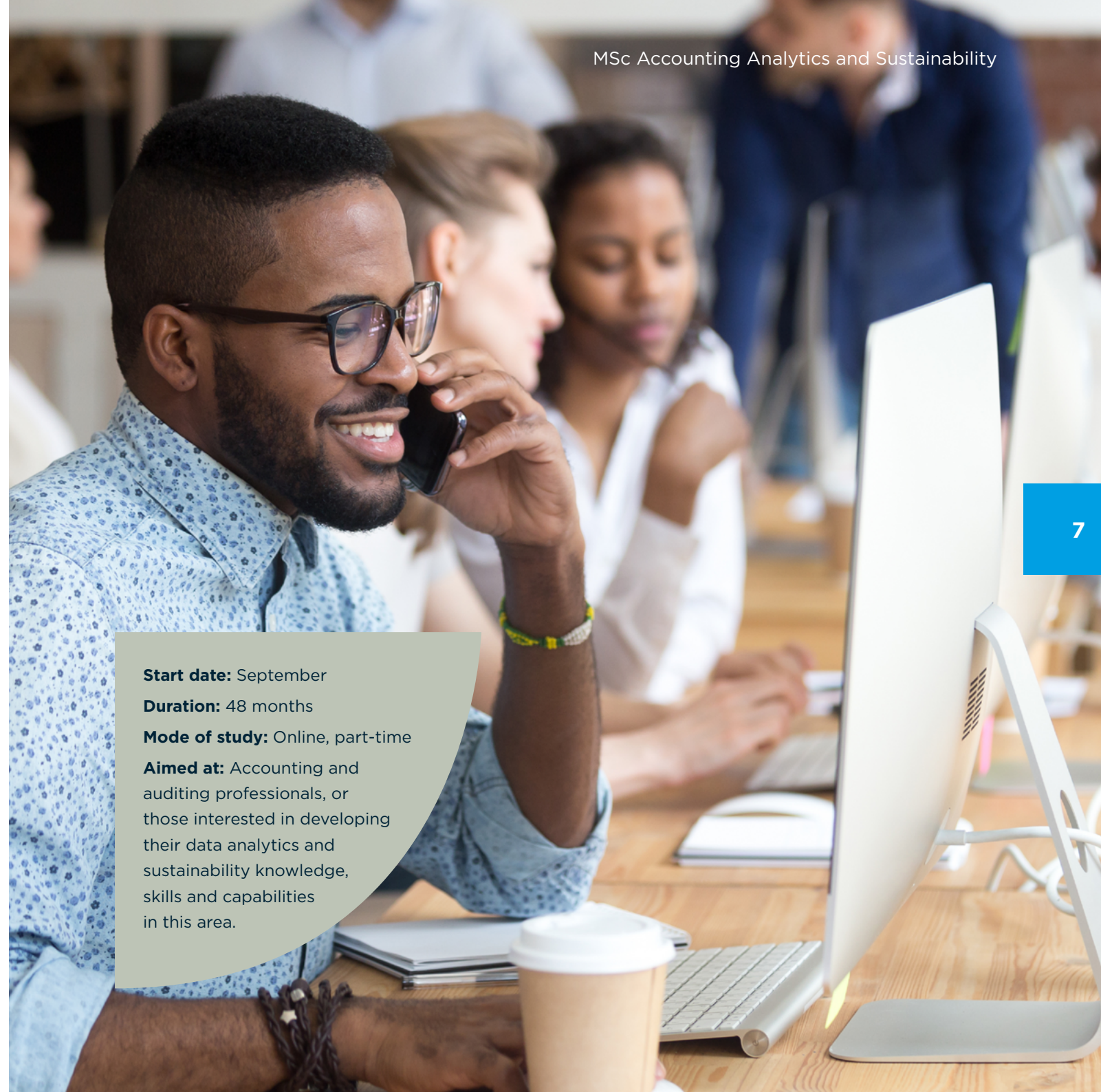
Complete the full four-year programme for the MSc qualification, or depending on your circumstances, exit earlier with a Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma.

Start date: September

Duration: 48 months

Mode of study: Online, part-time

Aimed at: Accounting and auditing professionals, or those interested in developing their data analytics and sustainability knowledge, skills and capabilities in this area.



Programme structure

Blending academic knowledge, research and practitioner insight, you'll study analytics within the context of accounting, linking to the various sustainability issues that affect organisational survival. The programme provides hands-on experience in developing an analytical mindset, data interpretation, and insights development skills, alongside improving your technology and sustainability literacy. You'll also build knowledge and skills in the high-demand areas of machine-learning, AI, data analytics and sustainability, giving you confidence in the quality level of service you'll provide.

For more information on modules visit: durham.ac.uk/business/maas

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Phase 1

Postgraduate Certificate in Accounting Analytics and Sustainability

- Introduction to Data Analytics & Visualisation
- Sustainability & Ethics
- Introduction to Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence
- Sustainability & Integrated Reporting

Phase 2

Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting Analytics and Sustainability

- Natural Language Processing & Textual Analytics
- Sustainability Assurance Analytics
- Robotic Process Automation
- Research Methods & Design

Phase 3

MSc Accounting Analytics and Sustainability

- **The Research Project**
The Research Project will be based on an important business issue or opportunity for development, where you can apply your learning to your organisation's real-life example. You'll be supervised by an academic from the Business School, who has specialist knowledge and expertise in these topics.



Term 2 (January to March) of each academic year has been left free, with no scheduled teaching. This break in teaching should align with what is typically the accounting profession's busy period, allowing the flexibility to focus on professional commitments.

For more information on modules visit: durham.ac.uk/business/maas

Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4			
Term 1 <i>Sept-Dec</i> Introduction to Data Analytics & Visualisation	Term 2 <i>Jan-Mar</i> No teaching	Term 3 <i>Apr-June</i> Sustainability & Ethics	Term 4 <i>July-Sept</i> Introduction to Machine Learning & Artificial Intelligence	Term 1 <i>Sept-Dec</i> Sustainability & Integrated Reporting	Term 2 <i>Jan-Mar</i> No teaching	Term 3 <i>Apr-June</i> Natural Language Processing & Textual Analytics	Term 4 <i>July-Sept</i> Sustainability Assurance Analytics	Term 1 <i>Sept-Dec</i> Robotic Process Automation	Term 2 <i>Jan-Mar</i> No teaching	Term 3 <i>Apr-June</i> Research Methods & Design	Term 4 <i>July-Sept</i> Research Project	Term 1 <i>Sept-Dec</i> Research Project	Term 2 <i>Jan-Mar</i> No teaching	Term 3 <i>Apr-June</i> Research Project	Term 4 <i>July-Sept</i> Research Project
Postgraduate Certificate (CAAS) 60 credits 15 months															
Postgraduate Diploma (DAAS) 120 credits 33 months															
MSc (MAAS) 180 credits 48 months															

Enhance your skills to elevate your career

With modules designed as a blend of academic knowledge, research, and practitioner insight, you'll gain the unique combination of analytical skills and sustainability-focused expertise that is required to drive responsible decision-making in the field of accounting — positioning you as a highly attractive professional across sectors.

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Software for data analysis

The skills of collecting, analysing, and interpreting data are a critical component in the toolkit of a contemporary accountant. Our programme provides cloud-based access to essential software such as Tableau (for visualisation), Excel, STATA, R, MATLAB and Python (for analytics).

Database resources

The programme incorporates contemporary case studies and industry-leading databases like Reuters, DataStream, WRDS, Refinitiv, and the EY Academic Portal providing powerful tools to enhance and support your summative and formative assessments.

Why Durham?

- Flexible online study
- Continue working while you study
- Integrate theory and practice
- Build a global network
- Gain a unique combination of sought-after skills and knowledge
- Stand out in a global marketplace

Supporting your studies



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Alumni network

When you join us, you become a member of the Business School's alumni network. With over 36,000 members in over 140 countries, it facilitates friendships and business connections, and sits at the heart of the Durham experience. Our alumni community enjoys online career resources and global career and network-building events.

Find out more at:

durham.ac.uk/business/about/alumni-and-friends

Virtual learning platform

Our virtual learning platform 'Blackboard' is at the heart of your studies. Through this, you'll have 24/7 access to your world-class learning materials. Connecting with other students is a key part of your learning experience, which you'll do, amongst other ways, through taking part in tutor-facilitated group discussions and live webinar sessions.

Next steps

Connect or chat to us

We encourage you to reach out to us, to find out more about our executive-level MSc Accounting Analytics and Sustainability programme.

To speak to one of the team, email us at exec.ed@durham.ac.uk

Entry requirements

The MSc Accounting Analytics and Sustainability programme has been specifically designed for accounting or other professionals interested in developing their data analytics and sustainability knowledge, skills and capabilities in the area of accounting.

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What do you need to apply?

- An upper second-class Bachelor Degree, or a recognised professional accounting qualification, or equivalent.
- Lack of formal qualifications is not necessarily a barrier to admission. In such cases, we may ask the candidate to submit a portfolio of evidence demonstrating capability in areas such as your management experience, including critical thinking skills and communication skills.

- If English is not your first language, please note that you must meet a minimum overall standard in a recognised test of English. For further details of these tests visit: durham.ac.uk/business/maas

How to apply

For further information on how to apply and for the most up-to-date programme fees please visit: durham.ac.uk/business/maas



Learn more

durham.ac.uk/business/maas

Enquiries

exec.ed@durham.ac.uk



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