The financial world has changed dramatically as a result of various crises. The theory and practice of risk management turned out to be ineffective at protecting the interests of stakeholders. The neoclassical equilibrium paradigm, which was the dominant framework in theory and practice up to this point, proved to be an insufficient basis for academically responsible and practically effective risk management.

The role of human actions in decisionmaking under uncertainty must be better understood.

It is therefore necessary to work on creating a different view of how people in financial markets and financial companies make decisions in uncertain circumstances and deal with the risks associated with these decisions. Awareness of this is growing and the importance of a degree programme that contributes to this awareness should be obvious. For this reason, the VU School of Business and Economics launched the Risk Management for Financial Institutions programme in 2010.

The degree programme is intended for working professionals in the financial sector who would like to actively contribute to boosting risk management in their own organization. The programme also serves as an ideal stepping-stone for professionals who would like to switch careers. The overarching, integrated approach to risk management makes the programme

FOR WHOM?

The degree programme is intended for working professionals in the financial sector who would like to actively contribute to boosting risk management in their own organization. The programme also serves as an ideal stepping-stone for professionals who would like to switch careers. The overarching, integrated approach to risk management makes the programme
suitable for professionals from various disciplines in the financial world:
> Risk managers at pension funds, insurers, banks and asset managers
> Managers of the front office, mid-office and back office
> External and internal auditors with financial institutions
> Supervisors and nonexecutives
> Senior professionals who prepare for board positions (CFO, CIO, CRO)
> Consultants with financial institutions or supervisors in their client base.

**COURSE CONTENT**

This postgraduate programme starts from economics and business. Unlike other programmes, it also offers insights from other disciplines, such as organizational science and humanities (e.g. behavioural finance). Of course, the programme also covers economic and mathematic modelling, scenario analysis and stress testing. The practical approach, including casework and risk management games, brings the theory to life. A portfolio of papers allows students to digress on topics of their interest. As a result, the acquired knowledge can be applied directly to their own organizations.

**WHY TO REGISTER RIGHT NOW?**

> Risk management is getting more and more priority within financial institutions
> Standard models and risk management solutions are no longer sufficient, so new insights are essential now
> Expansion of career opportunities

**VU SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS**

The degree programme is part of the VU Amsterdam School of Business and Economics. VU Amsterdam aims to bring together fundamental research, applied research and degree programmes in all financial areas. In addition to postgraduate programmes, the School offers full-time programmes at Bachelor’s and Master’s level as well as PhD programmes. This master’s programme is NVAO-accredited.

—I THINK THE DIVERSITY OF THE GROUP OF STUDENTS IS GREAT. WE COME FROM MANY DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND THE ACADEMIC STANDARD IS VERY HIGH. THIS CREATES AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS HIGHLY CONDUCIVE TO EXCHANGING KNOWLEDGE, PARTICULARLY BY WORKING TOGETHER ON CASES.’

ANNE KOCK, SPECIALIST RISK & ALM, DNB

VU.NL/RISK
## RISK MANAGEMENT FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DURATION</strong></th>
<th>Part time, 2 years + thesis trajectory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TIME</strong></td>
<td>Lectures take place on a weeknight, once a week, from 19:00-22:00.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>START</strong></td>
<td>The degree programme starts in September.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXAMINATION</strong></td>
<td>Every semester ends with a written evaluation. Additionally, throughout the semester various case studies will be graded.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PORTFOLIO</strong></td>
<td>Students will be working on a portfolio consisting of four short papers. This fulfils the academic thesis requirement. The learning objectives of each paper are clearly defined and teach the student how to apply knowledge gained in writing research papers relevant to the daily practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STUDY LOAD</strong></td>
<td>An average of 10 hours per week (including a three-hour lecture).</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LANGUAGE</strong></td>
<td>Depending on the composition of the group and the teacher’s background, lectures can be given in Dutch or English. The required reading is mostly in English.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TITLE</strong></td>
<td>Students who graduate are awarded the title of MSc by VU Amsterdam. In addition, they can have their names added to the Risk Manager for Financial Institutions Register and use the title of RMFI.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COSTS</strong></td>
<td>The degree programme costs 25,000 euros in total. This includes a kick off, the exams, cases, papers, syllabuses, final day and graduation ceremony. The fee excludes required reading of approximately 350 euros.</td>
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## MORE INFORMATION

Michelle Habets  
020-598 61 59  
risk.sbe@vu.nl  
vu.nl/risk

VU School of Business and Economics  
Postgraduate Programme Risk Management for Financial Institutions  
De Boelelaan 1105, room 6A-55  
1081 HV Amsterdam