

First Cohort of the Master of Science in Accounting and Finance with AI and Fintech Applications Admitted in December 2020

The first cohort of the [Master of Science in Accounting and Finance with AI and Fintech Applications \(MScAF\)](https://www.cb.cityu.edu.hk/ac/mscaf/introduction) programme, in collaboration with the Beijing National Accounting Institute (BNAI), was admitted in December 2020. An opening ceremony and discussion panel was livestreamed from the BNAI on the class commencement day.

The MScAF programme (programme link: <https://www.cb.cityu.edu.hk/ac/mscaf/introduction>) aims to advance the future career prospects of middle-level accounting and finance managers by furthering their knowledge of advanced accounting and finance topics, in line with contemporary trends in AI and Fintech applications. The programme provides students with opportunities to gain insights into senior leadership attributes and capacity, thus preparing them for CFO positions or higher in the business context of the current technology-driven environment. The language of instruction of the programme is Chinese (Mandarin) supplemented by English, with most courses taught at the BNAI campus in Beijing.

Sparked by the rising demand for tech-savvy professionals, the Department of Accountancy has received an overwhelming number of applications for the 2020 cohort. The candidates come from a wide variety of backgrounds and have previously achieved excellence in their studies and work. Upon careful review and a stringent selection process, the Department is glad to have admitted 49 students as the first MScAF cohort.

“We strongly believe that our unique approach of blending knowledge-sharing with the actual business and technology context will be very useful for the future career development of our graduates. We are very excited for the year to come, and wish every bit of success to the first cohort of our MScAF programme,” said Professor Houmin Yan, Programme Director of the MScAF programme.

The demand for professionals with AI and Fintech knowledge has been rising at an unprecedented pace. According to Deloitte’s 2020 Global Blockchain Survey¹, 82% of respondents said that they are hiring staff with blockchain expertise or are planning to do so within the next 12 months. The Department expects that MScAF programme graduates will be able to take advantage of the growing demand for AI and Fintech knowledge in the jobs market and pursue successful careers.

¹ <https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/about-deloitte/articles/press-releases/blockchain-maturing-as-a-true-strategic-priority.html>

