



AFIN310

Issues in Applied Finance

S2 Evening 2015

Dept of Applied Finance and Actuarial Studies

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Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Lurion De Mello

lurion.demello@mq.edu.au

Contact via afin310@mq.edu.au

E4A 515

Tues 10.30-11.30am

Teaching Assistant

Veronica Chen

afin310@mq.edu.au

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

3cp in ACST or AFIN units at 300 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The lectures in this unit are presented by leading practitioners working in equity research, financial planning, property development, investment banking and venture capital to name a few. The aim of this unit is to gain an understanding of how theory and practice mesh in the real world of financial markets. Previous topics covered include: legal issues surrounding financial services and financial products; equity valuation; venture capital; managing market risk; mergers and acquisitions; funds management; credit risk modelling; global portfolio management; project finance and modelling it in MS Excel with speakers come from renowned firms such as DLA Piper, Precept Investment and Actuaries, MaCap Advisors (Macquarie Bank), Westpac Institutional Bank, and John Laing. The assessments in the unit are written in conjunction with the practitioners and predominantly individual and group project based. They are also assessed by the practitioner and then moderated by the unit convenor.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Apply economic and finance theories to practical situations or problems.

Understand the limitations of theories and techniques in finance and in particular be aware of the assumptions upon which the theory and practice is based.

Become exposed to and gain some working knowledge of how models are implemented in MS Excel with particular emphasis on how these are modified for use within different areas of finance and banking.

Learn the financial planning process in Australia and the duty of care required from a financial planner. Students are made aware of the major case studies involving scandals in the financial planning industry in Australia.

Understand how financial institutions are run and the influence of the legal and regulatory environment on the holder of an AFSL (Australian Financial Services License).

Understand alternative sources of capital and have a good knowledge about private equity and venture capital markets and the latest area of interest to venture capitalists.

General Assessment Information

Please note that students will have a limited opportunity to ask questions regarding the assignments should they need some clarifications. These questions should be posted on the relevant discussion thread on iLearn as questions posted on other threads might be missed. The opportunity to post queries to the guest lecturers and other academic staff will close 5 days prior to the assignment due date. However, students will be able to continue posting on the thread but the questions will not be answered by any of the academic staff including the teaching assistant. You are free to discuss matters amongst yourselves.

Please read the assignment question carefully and start planning early. Replies to online posts and emails will be responded to within 48hrs however we will only respond to them during work hours and not on weekends. Repeated questions will not be answered so please read the previous postings carefully.

No extensions will be granted. Late tasks will be accepted up to 48 hours after the submission deadline. There will be a deduction of 20% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 40% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for special consideration is made and approved.

Any emails after the completion of the final exam might not be responded to if the student claims to have not fared well or if the student requests the outcome of the final grade prior to the official release of grades by the university.

Standardized Numerical Grade

“A Standardised Numerical Grade (SNG) gives you an indication of how you have performed within the band for your descriptive grade. The SNG is not a mark, and you may not be able to work it out based on your raw examination and other assessment marks. Nor are you able to determine you are “one mark away” from a different grade.”

Grade Book

It is the responsibility of students to view their marks for each within session assessment on iLearn within 20 working days of posting. If there are any discrepancies, students must contact the unit convenor immediately. Failure to do so will mean that queries received after the release of final results regarding assessment marks (not including the final exam mark) will not be addressed.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Report</u>	15%	Mon 24th August 2015
<u>Assignment 1</u>	20%	Fri 14th Sept 2015
<u>Assignment 2</u>	15%	Mon 12th Oct 2015
<u>Final Exam</u>	50%	See Examination Timetable

Report

Due: **Mon 24th August 2015**

Weighting: **15%**

The report will be discussed by Nidal Danoun and based on the **Regulatory and Compliance Issues** topic

This task will be completed individually. The formatting and structure of the assignment will be discussed by the guest lecturer and any additional information will be communicated via an iLearn announcement.

If the assignment report demonstrates extensive work, but is poorly written then you will lose marks.

You will only need to submit a **soft copy** via Turnitin link provided on the course page in iLearn. Your assessment and the mark will be returned to you via Grade Mark within the course's iLearn space.

Please see the conditions relating to your submission in the **General Assessment Information** section of the course outline.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply economic and finance theories to practical situations or problems.
- Understand the limitations of theories and techniques in finance and in particular be aware of the assumptions upon which the theory and practice is based.
- Understand how financial institutions are run and the influence of the legal and regulatory environment on the holder of an AFSL (Australian Financial Services License).

Assignment 1

Due: **Fri 14th Sept 2015**

Weighting: **20%**

The assignment will be discussed by David Beaton and based on the **Project Finance** topic

This task will be completed in a group of minimum 3 and maximum 4 (strictly enforced).

The formatting and structure of the assignment will be discussed by the guest lecturer and any additional information will be communicated via an ilearn announcement.

If the assignment report demonstrates extensive work, but is poorly written then you will lose marks.

You will need to submit a **soft copy** of the written component via the Turnitin link provided on the course page in iLearn and the MS Excel component via the special link also provided in the ilearn space. Your assessment and the mark will be returned to you via Grade Mark within the course's ilearn space.

Please see the conditions relating to your submission in the **General Assessment Information** section of the course outline.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Become exposed to and gain some working knowledge of how models are implemented in MS Excel with particular emphasis on how these are modified for use within different areas of finance and banking.

Assignment 2

Due: **Mon 12th Oct 2015**

Weighting: **15%**

The assignment will be discussed by Elmar/Brendon and based on the **Venture Capital** topic

This task will be completed individually. The formatting and structure of the assignment will be discussed by the guest lecturer and any additional information will be communicated via an ilearn announcement.

If the assignment report demonstrates extensive work, but is poorly written then you will lose

marks.

You will only need to submit a **soft copy** via Turnitin link provided on the course page in iLearn. Your assessment and the mark will be returned to you via Grade Mark within the course's iLearn space.

Please see the conditions relating to your submission in the **General Assessment Information** section of the course outline.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply economic and finance theories to practical situations or problems.
- Understand the limitations of theories and techniques in finance and in particular be aware of the assumptions upon which the theory and practice is based.

Final Exam

Due: **See Examination Timetable**

Weighting: **50%**

The final exam will be on all the topics and will consist of multiple choice and written components.

"You are permitted ONE A4 page of paper containing reference material printed on both sides. The material may be handwritten or typed. The page will not be returned at the end of the final examination."

"To be eligible to pass this unit, a pass is required in the final examination"

If you are granted a disruption to studies for the final exam then the mix of topics in the supplementary assessment might be different to the ones allocated to the normal end of semester examination.

Supplementary assessment will only take place during the supplementary examination period.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply economic and finance theories to practical situations or problems.
- Understand the limitations of theories and techniques in finance and in particular be aware of the assumptions upon which the theory and practice is based.
- Become exposed to and gain some working knowledge of how models are implemented in MS Excel with particular emphasis on how these are modified for use within different areas of finance and banking.
- Learn the financial planning process in Australia and the duty of care required from a financial planner. Students are made aware of the major case studies involving scandals in the financial planning industry in Australia.
- Understand how financial institutions are run and the influence of the legal and

regulatory environment on the holder of an AFSL (Australian Financial Services License).

- Understand alternative sources of capital and have a good knowledge about private equity and venture capital markets and the latest area of interest to venture capitalists.

Delivery and Resources

Classes

Lecture: **LOTUS Theatre (W6D)** <https://timetables.mq.edu.au/scientia/web/W6DLotus.html>
on Monday's 6 – 9pm

The campus map can be downloaded from the following link http://www.ofm.mq.edu.au/maps_campus.html

The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site <https://timetables.mq.edu.au/2015/>

Classes in AFIN310 are composed of a three hour lecture. Unit materials are learnt by attending lectures and through independent learning. The lectures provide a general overview of the topics highlighting a number of concepts and techniques. Students are strongly advised to study any additional reading material provided by the unit convenor, the guest lecturers and further explore all relevant concepts and techniques.

Students should attend a three-hour lecture every week. Lecture slides will sometimes be available prior to the lecture on iLearn and in some instances after the lecture. They will be distributed at the discretion of the guest lecturer.

The lecture recording (audio and video) will also be available via ECHO360 (approximately 1 hr after the end of the lecture). Please see the ECHO360 link in your course iLearn page.

Prizes

The Financial Services Institute of Australasia, FINSIA, has kindly sponsored a prize of \$500 for the most outstanding student in AFIN310.

Required and Recommended Texts and/or Materials

There are no required or recommended texts for AFIN310. Notes for each of the lectures will be made available in iLearn. If required, additional readings will also be provided either via iLearn and eReserve.

Please note that you will be required to complete the following module from the CFA website and upload the completion report to iLearn.

<http://www.cfainstitute.org/learning/products/onlinelearning/Pages/61587.aspx?WPID=BrowseProducts>

Technology Used and Required

iLearn is an online program available at <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/> through which

students will be able to access resources such as lecture notes and ilectures to assist them throughout the semester. The discussion forum environment will be extensively used to allow students to interact with each other.

Unit Web Page

Course material is available on the learning management system at <http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>

You are strongly encouraged to regularly visit the website and use it as a resource centre to assist with your learning.

If you are unable to access the website because you are not aware of or have forgotten your username and password, please contact the IT helpdesk. All information can be found at <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>

With regards to assistance in using iLearn please visit the following link.

http://www.mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/index.htm

You can follow the tabs on the left, i.e., “Getting Started” and “Access iLearn”

Please remember to log out when you have finished using iLearn. Failure to do so could result in unauthorised access to your iLearn account.

Learning and Teaching Activities

The teaching strategy in AFIN310 recognises that students learn independently and assume responsibility for the learning process and with academic integrity.

Students are expected to participate in the unit by attending lectures, reading the provided material and thoroughly revising the lecture notes. You are also expected to use the full suite of research databases available from the library. This includes reference to journal articles and industry reports.

What we aim to achieve in AFIN310 is deep (as opposed to surface) learning. Thus, learning is interpreted as making sense or abstracting meaning. Learning involves relating parts of the subject matter to each other and to the real world. Further learning is understood as comprehending the world by understanding and re-interpreting knowledge.

This unit also gives you the opportunity to go beyond your discipline and exposes you to different areas of finance, including discussion of the latest financial regulation from ASIC and other bodies that will become essential when starting your career in the workforce.

Unit Schedule

Week 1	Nidal Danoun (Principal Director of Prosperity Financial Services Pty Ltd)
27th Jul	Regulatory and Compliance Issues (Part 1)

Week 2 3rd Aug	Nidal Danoun (Principal Director of Prosperity Financial Services Pty Ltd) Regulatory and Compliance Issues (Part 2)
Week 3 10th Aug	Mr David Beaton (Senior Investment Manager, John Laing) Project Finance (Part 1)
Week 4 17th Aug	Mr David Beaton (Senior Investment Manager, John Laing) Project Finance (Part 2)
Week 5 24th Aug	Mr. Michael McCarthy (Chief Market Strategist, CMC Markets Australia) Markets and Trading Strategy
Week 6 31st Aug	Mr. Elmar Broscheit and Mr. Brendon Blacker (Vice President, Macquarie Capital Advisors) Venture Capital Investments
Week 7 7th Sep	Anthony Passe-de Silva (Vice President, Strategic Research & Analysis, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC)) Business and Industry Analysis
MID SEMESTER BREAK 14th SEPT to 25th SEPT	
Week 8 28th Sep	Ms Claire Mackay (Director at Qantum Financial) Financial Planning (Part 1)
Week 9 5th Oct	Labour Day (Public Holiday)
Week 10 12th Oct	Ms Claire Mackay (Director at Qantum Financial) Financial Planning (Part 2)
Week 11 19th Oct	Mr. Mark Hancock (Precept Investment Actuaries Pty Ltd) Ms Kimberly Kishore (Senior Analyst: Precept Investment Actuaries Pty Ltd) Equity Analysis (Part 1)
Week 12 26th Oct	Mr. Mark Hancock (Precept Investment Actuaries Pty Ltd) Ms Kimberly Kishore (Senior Analyst: Precept Investment Actuaries Pty Ltd) Equity Analysis (Part 2)
Week 13 2nd Nov	Richard Lawson (Senior Quantitative Analyst, RF Capital, Sydney (Robert Family Capital)) Quantitative Investing

Learning and Teaching Activities

Lectures

Lectures – Large group learning (3 hours for each teaching week) Lectures are intended to

provide an overview of conceptual frameworks and issues in applied finance that are critical to the core themes of the unit.

Independent learning

Independent learning – learning by doing (about 6 hours each teaching week and 9 hours each week during the 2-week mid-semester recess) AFIN310 relies heavily on independent learning where students read the relevant material, listen to lectures, revise the lecture notes, participate in iLearn discussion forums and extend themselves by doing additional reading and research using the library online databases and data sources. Additionally students are expected to keep themselves abreast by reading key financial newspapers and referring to Factiva and Business Source Premier available online via the library databases. Students should also be able to work through the MS Excel help built into the program and seek online help from other websites directed from the MS Excel help search. Students should be able to demonstrate the comprehension of the assignment questions by being consistent in responding to the either exact or similar questions to the assignments in the final examination.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Supplementary Exam

Further information regarding supplementary exams, including dates, is available here http://www.businessandconomics.mq.edu.au/current_students/undergraduate/how_do_i/special_consideration

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Apply economic and finance theories to practical situations or problems.

- Understand the limitations of theories and techniques in finance and in particular be aware of the assumptions upon which the theory and practice is based.
- Become exposed to and gain some working knowledge of how models are implemented in MS Excel with particular emphasis on how these are modified for use within different areas of finance and banking.
- Learn the financial planning process in Australia and the duty of care required from a financial planner. Students are made aware of the major case studies involving scandals in the financial planning industry in Australia.
- Understand how financial institutions are run and the influence of the legal and regulatory environment on the holder of an AFSL (Australian Financial Services License).
- Understand alternative sources of capital and have a good knowledge about private equity and venture capital markets and the latest area of interest to venture capitalists.

Assessment tasks

- Report
- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Final Exam

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Apply economic and finance theories to practical situations or problems.
- Understand the limitations of theories and techniques in finance and in particular be aware of the assumptions upon which the theory and practice is based.
- Become exposed to and gain some working knowledge of how models are implemented in MS Excel with particular emphasis on how these are modified for use within different areas of finance and banking.
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Assessment tasks

- Report
- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2
- Final Exam

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Apply economic and finance theories to practical situations or problems.
- Understand the limitations of theories and techniques in finance and in particular be aware of the assumptions upon which the theory and practice is based.
- Become exposed to and gain some working knowledge of how models are implemented in MS Excel with particular emphasis on how these are modified for use within different areas of finance and banking.
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Assessment tasks

- Report

- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Apply economic and finance theories to practical situations or problems.
- Understand the limitations of theories and techniques in finance and in particular be aware of the assumptions upon which the theory and practice is based.
- Become exposed to and gain some working knowledge of how models are implemented in MS Excel with particular emphasis on how these are modified for use within different areas of finance and banking.
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- Understand alternative sources of capital and have a good knowledge about private equity and venture capital markets and the latest area of interest to venture capitalists.

Assessment tasks

- Report
- Assignment 1
- Assignment 2

Changes from Previous Offering

There are no changes from previous offerings. The assessments structure is the same with 1 group and 2 individual tasks.

Research and Practice

This unit gives the students multiple group projects that require research from traditional journal type articles, industry reports published by third parties and also current government legislation

supporting the finance and banking industry. It also exposes students in identifying key data sources used by the industry in writing various stock/share recommendation and company valuation reports. This unit gives you opportunities to conduct your own research based on skills obtained from using MS Excel and from exposure to different financial products. Being at the forefront of the legal environment gives one the chance to remain vigilant when giving advice to clients. One can also apply valuations techniques in their personal investment decisions which might enhance the performance of their assets. Please note however that under no circumstances is neither Macquarie University nor the lecturer liable for any losses suffered from the application of investment techniques learnt in this subject.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
07/09/2015	Updated learning outcomes and Delivery and Resources