



AFIN705

Research in Finance

S2 Day 2016

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

Convenor

Professor Gary Tian

gary.tian@mq.edu.au

Contact via Email

E4A729

Refer to iLearn announcement.

Angela Chow

angela.chow@mq.edu.au

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit commences with an overview and critical analysis of the methodology of contemporary research in finance. The balance of the unit examines theoretical and empirical issues related to the pricing of securities in financial markets.

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:

Develop advanced theoretical and technical knowledge in finance theory and practice

Acquire advanced cognitive, technical and communication skills in solving complex problems in finance

Apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, sound judgement and responsibility as a practitioner of finance

General Assessment Information

GradeBook

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.

Feedback Prior to the Census Date

Self-assessment exercise question(s) will be released in Week 3 for feedback prior to the census date. Its answer will be also provided before the census date in Week 4.

Assessment criteria

Assessment criteria for all assessment tasks will be provided on the unit iLearn site.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Presentation	25%	Weeks 5-12
Written Assignment	25%	Refer to iLearn Announcement
Final Exam	50%	University examination period

Presentation

Due: **Weeks 5-12**

Weighting: **25%**

Written Assignment with Oral Presentation. Students are allocated to present critiques of existing research papers during class. Refer to iLearn for further details.

No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% 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 – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for disruption of studies is made and approved. No submission will be accepted after solutions have been posted.

Assignment must be submitted via both iLearn and AFIN705/805 Assignment Box in BESS.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Written Assignment

Due: **Refer to iLearn Announcement**

Weighting: **25%**

Students will write a literature review on an issue in corporate finance and banking and come up with new research questions and hypotheses in the area. Refer to iLearn for further details.

No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% 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 – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for disruption of studies is made and approved. No submission will be accepted after solutions have been posted.

Assignment must be submitted via both iLearn and AFIN705/805 Assignment Box in BESS.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Final Exam

Due: **University examination period**

Weighting: **50%**

The exam covers the entire unit. Refer to iLearn for further details.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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Delivery and Resources

Classes

The weekly three hour class time for this unit consists of a two hour seminar and a one hour

workshop. Students must thoroughly read all assigned articles before coming to the class so that they are fully prepared to discuss the key issues.

Timetables

All students are required to attend their timetabled classes. The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/>

Required Text

There is no prescribed textbook. Readings are taken from relevant academic books and journals. Refer to iLearn for further details.

Technology Used and Required

- Internet access
- Access to iLearn
- Software for producing presentations.
- Open-source software for reproducible research.

Unit Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Source of research questions
2	Developing a research question, hypothesis and model
3	Corporate governance
4	Ownership and control
5	CEO compensation
6	Capital structure
7	Initial public offerings
	<i>Mid session break</i>
8	Bank lending
9	Informal finance
10	Cash holding policy
11	Mergers and acquisitions

12	Investment efficiency
13	Financial markets and asset pricing/Review
Note: this topic list is subject to revision. Any changes will be posted to iLearn.	

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

New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016 http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html. For more information visit http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new_assessment_policy_in_place_from_session_2/

Assessment Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

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

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.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 Exams

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://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

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

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment tasks

- Presentation
- Final Exam

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and

knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop advanced theoretical and technical knowledge in finance theory and practice
- Acquire advanced cognitive, technical and communication skills in solving complex problems in finance
- Apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, sound judgement and responsibility as a practitioner of finance

Assessment tasks

- Written Assignment
- Final Exam

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop advanced theoretical and technical knowledge in finance theory and practice
- Acquire advanced cognitive, technical and communication skills in solving complex problems in finance
- Apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, sound judgement and responsibility as a practitioner of finance

Assessment tasks

- Presentation
- Written Assignment
- Final Exam

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop advanced theoretical and technical knowledge in finance theory and practice
- Acquire advanced cognitive, technical and communication skills in solving complex problems in finance
- Apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, sound judgement and responsibility as a practitioner of finance

Assessment tasks

- Presentation
- Written Assignment

Changes from Previous Offering

Some changes in the unit topics.

Research and Practice

- This unit uses research from external sources.
- This unit gives you practice in applying research findings in your assignments.
- This unit gives you opportunities to conduct your own research.