



AFCP802

Professional Practice

AFC Term 3 CBD 2016

Dept of Applied Finance and Actuarial Studies

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Disclaimer

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Lecturer

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Lecturer

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MAppFin and 24cp from (AFCP801 or AFCP854-AFCP862 or ECFS units at 800 level or above)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Students will integrate and apply their knowledge and skills to issues and cases that simulate professional practice in finance. Students will reflect on their roles as practitioners in the finance industry and further develop their professional identity. Critical analysis skills will be utilised to evaluate, synthesise and provide reasoned responses to issues arising in financial practice. Students will undertake research in applied finance and will be challenged to critically reflect on current issues via the preparation and presentation of a major research report. Personal communication, negotiation and collaborative skills will be further developed. This unit will be undertaken towards the end of the program of study.

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 research principles and methods as used in contemporary professional practice in

applied finance

Conduct independent research, with personal autonomy and accountability, to specialised issues in applied finance.

Evaluate and synthesise established knowledge and apply professional judgement to current issues in applied finance practice.

Demonstrate advanced critical, analytical and integrative thinking as applied to contemporary issues in applied finance.

Communicate effectively to diverse audiences.

Address and analyse contemporary industry challenges and ethical issues in a global financial context.

Collaborate effectively with colleagues in order to address contemporary issues in applied finance.

General Assessment Information

To pass this unit the student requires a Standardised Numerical Grade of 50 or better.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
<u>Proposal for Research Project</u>	10%	Prior to first class
<u>Peer Feedback on Proposal</u>	5%	First Saturday
<u>Developing professional skills</u>	15%	Refer to iLearn
<u>Major Industry Challenge</u>	15%	Refer to iLearn
<u>Research Project</u>	40%	Refer to iLearn
<u>Class Participation</u>	15%	Ongoing

Proposal for Research Project

Due: **Prior to first class**

Weighting: **10%**

Summary of Assessment Task

Individual / Group: Individual

Due Date: Wednesday night prior to first class

Grading Method: Refer to 'Standards Required to Complete the Unit Satisfactorily' section

Submission Method: Online via Turnitin on iLearn site

Duration: Refer to Assignment Coversheet

Extension Requests:

- If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your assignment by the due date, please make arrangements with your lecturer prior to the due date.
- Unless prior arrangements have been made, any late submission of assignments will automatically be penalised. In the absence of special circumstances, a zero mark will apply.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply research principles and methods as used in contemporary professional practice in applied finance
- Conduct independent research, with personal autonomy and accountability, to specialised issues in applied finance.
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences.

Peer Feedback on Proposal

Due: **First Saturday**

Weighting: **5%**

Summary of Assessment Task

Individual / Group: Individual

Due Date: On Saturday of first weekend

Grading Method: Refer to 'Standards Required to Complete the Unit Satisfactorily' section

Submission Method: Submitted in class

Duration: Refer to Assignment Coversheet

Extension Requests:

- If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your assignment by the due date, please make arrangements with your lecturer prior to the due date.
- Unless prior arrangements have been made, any late submission of assignments will automatically be penalised. In the absence of special circumstances, a zero mark will apply.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply research principles and methods as used in contemporary professional practice in applied finance

- Evaluate and synthesise established knowledge and apply professional judgement to current issues in applied finance practice.
- Demonstrate advanced critical, analytical and integrative thinking as applied to contemporary issues in applied finance.
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences.

Developing professional skills

Due: **Refer to iLearn**

Weighting: **15%**

Summary of Assessment Task

Individual / Group: Individual

Due Date: Refer to the Unit's iLearn site

Grading Method: Refer to 'Standards Required to Complete the Unit Satisfactorily' section

Submission Method: Depends on media in which assessment is submitted – refer to iLearn site for details

Duration: Refer to Assignment Coversheet

Extension Requests:

- If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your assignment by the due date, please make arrangements with your lecturer prior to the due date.
- Unless prior arrangements have been made, any late submission of assignments will automatically be penalised. In the absence of special circumstances, a zero mark will apply.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply research principles and methods as used in contemporary professional practice in applied finance
- Conduct independent research, with personal autonomy and accountability, to specialised issues in applied finance.
- Evaluate and synthesise established knowledge and apply professional judgement to current issues in applied finance practice.
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences.

Major Industry Challenge

Due: **Refer to iLearn**

Weighting: **15%**

Summary of Assessment Task

Individual / Group: Group

Due Date: Refer to the Unit's iLearn site

Grading Method: Refer to 'Standards Required to Complete the Unit Satisfactorily' section

Submission Method: Submitted at time of in class presentation

Duration: Refer to Assignment Coversheet

Extension Requests:

- If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your assignment by the due date, please make arrangements with your lecturer prior to the due date.
- Unless prior arrangements have been made, any late submission of assignments will automatically be penalised. In the absence of special circumstances, a zero mark will apply.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply research principles and methods as used in contemporary professional practice in applied finance
- Conduct independent research, with personal autonomy and accountability, to specialised issues in applied finance.
- Evaluate and synthesise established knowledge and apply professional judgement to current issues in applied finance practice.
- Demonstrate advanced critical, analytical and integrative thinking as applied to contemporary issues in applied finance.
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences.
- Address and analyse contemporary industry challenges and ethical issues in a global financial context.
- Collaborate effectively with colleagues in order to address contemporary issues in applied finance.

Research Project

Due: **Refer to iLearn**

Weighting: **40%**

Summary of Assessment Task

Individual / Group: Individual

Due Date: Refer to the Unit's iLearn site

Grading Method: Refer to 'Standards Required to Complete the Unit Satisfactorily' section

Submission Method: Online via Turnitin on iLearn site

Duration: Refer to Assignment Coversheet

Extension Requests:

- If you have extenuating circumstances that prevent you from submitting your assignment by the due date, please make arrangements with your lecturer prior to the due date.
- Unless prior arrangements have been made, any late submission of assignments will automatically be penalised. In the absence of special circumstances, a zero mark will apply.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply research principles and methods as used in contemporary professional practice in applied finance
- Conduct independent research, with personal autonomy and accountability, to specialised issues in applied finance.
- Evaluate and synthesise established knowledge and apply professional judgement to current issues in applied finance practice.
- Demonstrate advanced critical, analytical and integrative thinking as applied to contemporary issues in applied finance.
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences.
- Address and analyse contemporary industry challenges and ethical issues in a global financial context.

Class Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **15%**

Summary of Assessment Task

Individual / Group: Individual

Due Date: Ongoing

Grading Method: Refer to 'Standards Required to Complete the Unit Satisfactorily' section

Submission Method: Is based on participation in Topics 5 and 6, but requires 80% attendance over the whole unit

Duration: Assessed during class times

Extension Requests: N/A

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate advanced critical, analytical and integrative thinking as applied to contemporary issues in applied finance.
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences.
- Address and analyse contemporary industry challenges and ethical issues in a global financial context.

Delivery and Resources

CLASSES

Face-to-Face Teaching: Approximately 30 hours

Timetable: Detailed timetable for classes are on the Centre's web site www.mafc.mq.edu.au

Class Changes:

Students will only be permitted to change classes if authorised by the Applied Finance Centre.

Request for changes must be made:

- By completion of a Change of Unit Form, available on the Centre's web site at www.mafc.mq.edu.au; or
- In person by going to reception at the relevant Applied Finance Centre location.

Consultation Times:

Students who wish to contact any of the teaching staff may do so through:

- The Unit's iLearn site, in relation to general queries (so that all students may benefit); or
- Individual consultation with the lecturer by email in the first instance, if necessary.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS

This unit introduces students to a type, and range, of literature different to that covered in the balance of the degree. There are no textbooks which cover the scope of this course, however the course notes and supplementary material will provide a broad overview of the literature, which you will need to explore as part of the various assessment tasks. Some useful books which cover some aspects of the professional skills domain are listed below, and are considered useful material.

- David Maister, Charles H. Green and Robert M. Galford, **The Trusted Advisor**, Simon and Schuster, 2004 [available as ebook]
- John S. Hammond, Ralph L. Keeney and Howard Raiffa, **Smart Choices**, Broadway

Books, 2015 (Reprint) [available as kindle version via Amazon]

- Barbara Minto, **The Pyramid Principle**, Financial Times – Pitman Publishing, 1987

For the design and preparation of assessment tasks the following are considered helpful:

- *Chapter 1, “Framing the Problem” and Chapter 2, “Designing the Analysis”*, in Ethan M. Rasiel and Paul N. Friga, **The McKinsey Mind**, McGrath Hill, 2002 [ebook available via library]
- Uma Sekaran and Roger Bougie, **Research Methods for Business: A Skill-Building Approach**, 6th ed, Wiley, 2013 [available as e-text]
- Alana Bryman & Emma Bell, **Business Research Methods**, 4th ed, Oxford, 2015 [available as e-text]

Additional Material:

- The iLearn site contains additional material for students interested in following up particular aspects in greater detail. This will be particularly relevant for some of the assessment tasks. This material is not included in the notes folder.

Lecture Notes:

- Available in printed form and electronically via iLearn.

Assumed Knowledge:

- This Unit is designed to be undertaken towards the end of a student’s program of study. Familiarity with the broad range of applied finance is therefore assumed.

Assumed Access:

- Access to a computer with word processing, powerpoint and internet capability is assumed, as is general computer literacy.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

Unit iLearn Site:

- Found by logging on to iLearn ilearn.mq.edu.au, then clicking on **Professional Practice**.
- This is where you will find links to forums, downloadable resources and other important pages.
- The forum allows you to communicate with other students and lecturer(s) and may provide supplementary material.
- You are requested to post your questions to the forum at least 24 hours prior to the assignment submission date. Questions posted after that time may not be answered.

Please try to not leave your questions to the last few days.

Important Notice:

- It is important that you familiarise yourself with the Unit's iLearn site.
- Students should check the Unit's iLearn site regularly (including prior to all lectures) and look for updates and distribution of materials (including case studies) related to the unit or assessments and, if relevant, participate in forum discussions.

Unit Schedule

TOPIC 1: THE PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR

Topics:

- 1.1 Trends shaping the role of the finance professional
- 1.2 Traditional Dimensions of the Finance Professional's Skill Set
- 1.3 Adapting for the future:
 - 1.3.1 The creative problem solver, and
 - 1.3.2 The "Trusted Advisor" model
- 1.4 Identifying and responding to gaps in our own personal skill set

Readings:

Ch 2: "What is a Trusted Advisor" and Ch 8: "The Trust Equation" from **The Trusted Advisor** by David H. Maister, Charles H. Green and Robert M. Galford, Simon & Schuster, 2004

TOPIC 2: PROBLEM SOLVING AND DECISION ANALYSIS

Topics:

- 2.1 Problem Solving & Decision making applications for finance practitioners
- 2.2 Challenges to:
 - 2.2.1 Creative problem solving
 - 2.2.2 Good decision making
- 2.3 A model of decision making:
 - 2.3.1 Framing the problem
 - 2.3.2 Using Logic Trees
- 2.4 Being creative
- 2.5 Role of applied research in problem solving & decision making

Readings:

Ch 8: “Questioning the Problem Solving Process” from **The Pyramid Principle** by Barbara Minto, Financial Times – Pitman Publishing, 1987

Ch 1: “Making Smart Choices” and Ch 2 “The Problem” from **Smart Choices** by John S. Hammond, Ralph L. Keeney and Howard Raiffa, Broadway Books, 2015 [Reprint]

Ch 14: “Decision framing and cognitive inertia” from **Decision Analysis for Management Judgement** by Paul Goodwin and George Wright, 3rd ed, Wiley, 2004

Ch 1: “Framing the Problem” in Ethan M. Rasiel and Paul N. Friga, **The McKinsey Mind**, McGrath Hill, 2002 [only available via link to ebook at library]

TOPIC 3: RESEARCH METHODS FOR APPLIED FINANCE

Topics:

- 3.1 Research Applications in Applied Finance
- 3.2 The Nature of, and Motivation for, Applied Finance Research
- 3.3 The process of research for applied finance
- 3.4 Data sources for applied finance research
- 3.5 Analytical methods: quantitative & qualitative
- 3.6 “*Studies show.....well do they?* Critically assessing other people’s research
- 3.7 Designing a Research Project

Readings:

Ch 1: “The nature and process of business research” from **Business Research Methods**, by Alan Bryman & Emma Bell, Oxford, 2015

Ch 2: “The scientific approach and alternative approaches to investigation” from, **Research Methods for Business: A Skill-Building Approach**, by Uma Sekaran and Roger Bougie, 6th ed, Wiley, 2013 [available as e-text]

Ch 2: “Designing the Analysis” from **The McKinsey Mind**, by Ethan M. Rasiel and Paul N. Friga McGrath Hill, 2002 [ebook available via library]

Ch 3: “Consuming Statistical Data” from **Making Better Decisions**, by Itzhak Gilboa, Wiley-Blackwell, 2011

TOPIC 4: DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Topics:

- 4.1 Communications Strategies
 - 4.1.1 Role of Communication Strategies in Applied Finance
 - 4.1.2 Communication Strategy Models: Overview
 - 4.1.3 Elements of Successful Communication Strategies
 - 4.1.4 Review of application in Applied Finance

4.2 Negotiations

- 4.2.1 Negotiation situations in Applied Finance
- 4.2.2 Negotiation Models: Overview
- 4.2.3 Elements of Successful Negotiations
- 4.2.4 Review of application in Applied Finance

4.3 In class Case Studies: students can participate in either the *Aerospace Investment Case* or the *Oil Pricing Exercise*.

Readings:

Ch 14: “*Persuading Others*” from **The Art of Thinking**, by Vincent Ryan Ruggiero

Ch 5: “*Having the Conversation*” from **Fixing Feedback** by Georgia Murch, Wiley, 2015

Ch 16: “*Investor Communications*” from **The Cornerstones of Corporate Finance**, by Tim Koller, Richard Dobbs and Bill Huyett, Wiley, 2011

Ch 35: “*Communicating the Deal: Gaining Mandates, Approvals, and Support*”, from **Applied Mergers & Acquisitions** by Robert F. Bruner, Wiley Finance, 2004

Ch 30: “*Negotiating the Deal*”, from **Applied Mergers & Acquisitions** by Robert F. Bruner, Wiley Finance, 2004

“*Six Habits of Merely Effective Negotiators*” by James K. Sebenius, Harvard Business Review, April, 2001

“*Control the Negotiations Before It Begins*” by Deepak Malhotra, Harvard Business Review, December, 2015

Negotiation Case Studies will be made available prior to classes.

TOPIC 5: LEGAL REASONING AND LEGAL DUTIES

Topics:

5.1 Review of International Legal Frameworks

5.2 Legal Reasoning

5.3 How best to deal with lawyers to achieve optimal outcomes

Readings:

Law: A Very Short Introduction, by Raymond Wacks, 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press, 2015

“*Legal Duties*”, Reading Material prepared by Applied Finance Centre

[Will be made available in class for Block #1]

TOPIC 6: ETHICS IN FINANCE

Topics:

- 6.1 Introduction
- 6.2 Methods of Ethical Reasoning
- 6.3 Case Study
- 6.4 Cultural Diversity & Corruption
- 6.5 Ethical Implications of Product/Service Structure

Readings:

Ethical Frameworks for Finance prepared by Chris Whit & Gordon Preece

Case Study;

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bE3r0bRYGeY&feature=youtu>

TOPIC 7: CONTEMPORARY INDUSTRY ISSUES / CHALLENGES

Topics:

- 7.1 Masterclass on selected industry topic
- 7.2 Review of Contemporary Industry Challenges & Opportunities
- 7.3 Preparation for Assessment Task #5
- 7.4 In Class Presentations on Assessment Task #5

Readings:

N/A

Learning and Teaching Activities

Strategy

The Master of Applied Finance degree adopts a deep teaching and learning strategy, in which Students acquire and retain knowledge and also are able to make sense of the issues and concepts and apply them in the “real world”. The degree relies heavily on student engagement and participation by: (a) Continuous learning throughout the semester. This is encouraged through a combination of students undertaking prescribed reading throughout the units and / or completion of practice problems, case studies, assignments, class presentations etc and interaction via forums in the unit’s iLearn site; and (b) Assessments, which enable the student to demonstrate his / her understanding of the learning objectives achieved through the continuous learning.

Student Participation

Students participate in this unit by: (a) Attending lectures and participating in class discussion; (b) Before each class, completing the recommended readings of notes and text, and working

systematically through suggested problem sets; (c) Interacting on the unit's iLearn site; and (d) Completing all assessment tasks and exams. On average the unit will require students to complete, for every hour of class time, approximately 3 - 4 hours private study. In this unit, the research project is the major assessment task, and there is no final exam.

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.

Students should also consult the MAFC Program Rules & Procedures found at <http://www.mafc.mq.edu.au>

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 enquiry service (MAFC-specific)

For all student enquires, please contact studentsupport@mafc.mq.edu.au

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.

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/) 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 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 - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and

decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Apply research principles and methods as used in contemporary professional practice in applied finance
- Conduct independent research, with personal autonomy and accountability, to specialised issues in applied finance.
- Evaluate and synthesise established knowledge and apply professional judgement to current issues in applied finance practice.
- Demonstrate advanced critical, analytical and integrative thinking as applied to contemporary issues in applied finance.
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences.
- Address and analyse contemporary industry challenges and ethical issues in a global financial context.

Assessment tasks

- Proposal for Research Project
- Peer Feedback on Proposal
- Developing professional skills
- Major Industry Challenge
- Research Project
- Class Participation

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:

Learning outcomes

- Apply research principles and methods as used in contemporary professional practice in applied finance
- Conduct independent research, with personal autonomy and accountability, to specialised issues in applied finance.
- Evaluate and synthesise established knowledge and apply professional judgement to current issues in applied finance practice.
- Demonstrate advanced critical, analytical and integrative thinking as applied to

contemporary issues in applied finance.

- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences.
- Address and analyse contemporary industry challenges and ethical issues in a global financial context.

Assessment tasks

- Proposal for Research Project
- Peer Feedback on Proposal
- Developing professional skills
- Major Industry Challenge
- Research Project
- Class Participation

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

- Apply research principles and methods as used in contemporary professional practice in applied finance
- Conduct independent research, with personal autonomy and accountability, to specialised issues in applied finance.
- Evaluate and synthesise established knowledge and apply professional judgement to current issues in applied finance practice.
- Demonstrate advanced critical, analytical and integrative thinking as applied to contemporary issues in applied finance.
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences.
- Address and analyse contemporary industry challenges and ethical issues in a global financial context.

Assessment tasks

- Proposal for Research Project
- Peer Feedback on Proposal
- Developing professional skills

- Major Industry Challenge
- Research Project
- Class Participation

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

- Apply research principles and methods as used in contemporary professional practice in applied finance
- Conduct independent research, with personal autonomy and accountability, to specialised issues in applied finance.
- Evaluate and synthesise established knowledge and apply professional judgement to current issues in applied finance practice.
- Demonstrate advanced critical, analytical and integrative thinking as applied to contemporary issues in applied finance.
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences.
- Address and analyse contemporary industry challenges and ethical issues in a global financial context.
- Collaborate effectively with colleagues in order to address contemporary issues in applied finance.

Assessment tasks

- Proposal for Research Project
- Peer Feedback on Proposal
- Developing professional skills
- Major Industry Challenge
- Research Project
- Class Participation

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

- Apply research principles and methods as used in contemporary professional practice in applied finance
- Conduct independent research, with personal autonomy and accountability, to specialised issues in applied finance.
- Evaluate and synthesise established knowledge and apply professional judgement to current issues in applied finance practice.
- Demonstrate advanced critical, analytical and integrative thinking as applied to contemporary issues in applied finance.
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences.
- Address and analyse contemporary industry challenges and ethical issues in a global financial context.

Assessment tasks

- Proposal for Research Project
- Peer Feedback on Proposal
- Developing professional skills
- Major Industry Challenge
- Research Project
- Class Participation

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Apply research principles and methods as used in contemporary professional practice in applied finance
- Conduct independent research, with personal autonomy and accountability, to specialised issues in applied finance.
- Evaluate and synthesise established knowledge and apply professional judgement to

current issues in applied finance practice.

- Demonstrate advanced critical, analytical and integrative thinking as applied to contemporary issues in applied finance.
- Communicate effectively to diverse audiences.

Assessment tasks

- Proposal for Research Project
- Peer Feedback on Proposal
- Developing professional skills
- Major Industry Challenge
- Research Project
- Class Participation

Changes from Previous Offering

New Learning Outcome added: "Collaborate effectively with colleagues in order to address contemporary issues in applied finance."

Important Notice

Pre-reading: **Please read the preliminary material provided prior to the first class.** It provides an overview of key concepts you should be familiar with, some institutional background on tax systems and some discussion on the scope of corporate finance.

This Unit Guide may be subject to change. The latest version is on the Centre's web site www.mq.edu.au.

Students should read the Unit Guide carefully at the start of semester. It contains important information about the unit. If anything is unclear, please consult one of the unit lecturers.

Standards Required to Complete the Unit Satisfactorily

University Policy on Grading:

- Macquarie University's Academic Senate has established a Grading Policy available at <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>. Your final result will include:
 - A grade ranging from Fail to High Distinction; and
 - A Standardised Numerical Grade (SNG). A SNG is not a summation of the individual assessment components, but is allocated on the basis of the performance in all assessment items, providing the examination component is passed.

- It is important to note:
 - The Policy does not require that a minimum or maximum number of students are to be failed in any unit;
 - Grades will not be allocated to fit a predetermined distribution; and
 - The process of allocating SNGs does not change the rank order of marks among students who pass the unit.

Specific Unit Grading:

- To pass this unit the student requires a Standardised Numerical Grade of 50 or better.
- All final grades in the Applied Finance Centre are determined by a grading committee and are not the sole responsibility of the unit convenor.
- The core criteria used to assess student work in this unit are:
 - Knowledge and understanding: Understanding key ideas, knowledge and use of concepts.
 - Application: Ability to apply theoretical ideas and frameworks in practice and in a critically reflective way.
 - Reasoning and analysis: Ability to analyse, use critical reasoning and principles to formulate a position, balancing theory and personal reflection.
 - Professional literacy and research: Understanding of professional factors (language and landscape) and ability to undertake appropriate research.
 - Communication and presentation: Ability to communicate and present effectively (written and oral, as relevant).
 - Use of mathematical and statistical ideas: Ability to use mathematical and statistical ideas, methods and formulae appropriately.
- Performance in relation to each of these criteria are assessed against the University’s grading descriptors:

Grade	Expectation
High Distinction	Provides consistent evidence of deep and critical understanding in relation to the learning outcomes. There is substantial originality and insight in identifying, generating and communicating competing arguments, perspectives or problem solving approaches; critical evaluation of problems, their solutions and their implications; creativity in application as appropriate to the discipline.
Distinction	Provides evidence of integration and evaluation of critical ideas, principles and theories, distinctive insight and ability in applying relevant skills and concepts in relation to learning outcomes. There is demonstration of frequent originality in defining and analysing issues or problems and providing solutions; and the use of means of communication appropriate to the discipline and the audience.
Credit	Provides evidence of learning that goes beyond replication of content knowledge or skills relevant to the learning outcomes. There is demonstration of substantial understanding of fundamental concepts in the field of study and the ability to apply these concepts in a variety of contexts; convincing argumentation with appropriate coherent justification; communication of ideas fluently and clearly in terms of the conventions of the discipline.

Grade	Expectation
Pass	Provides sufficient evidence of the achievement of learning outcomes. There is demonstration of understanding and application of fundamental concepts of the field of study; routine argumentation with acceptable justification; communication of information and ideas adequately in terms of the conventions of the discipline. The learning attainment is considered satisfactory or adequate or competent or capable in relation to the specified outcomes.
Fail	Does not provide evidence of attainment of learning outcomes. There is missing or partial or superficial or faulty understanding and application of the fundamental concepts in the field of study; missing, undeveloped, inappropriate or confusing argumentation; incomplete, confusing or lacking communication of ideas in ways that give little attention to the conventions of the discipline.

Review of Grade and final examination Script viewing:

- A student who has been awarded a final grade for a unit and who does not believe it is an accurate reflection of their performance, and has grounds for such a claim and can demonstrate those grounds, may apply to have their grade reviewed.
- For information on requesting a review of grade and/or viewing your final exam script, please refer to the University's Grade Appeal Policy at <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html> and MAFC Program Rules & Procedures at <http://www.mafc.mq.edu.au>.