



# AFCP802

## Professional Practice

AFC Term 3 CBD 2017

*Dept of Applied Finance and Actuarial Studies*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor / Lecturer

Alison Belot

[alison.belot@mq.edu.au](mailto:alison.belot@mq.edu.au)

Contact via Email

Credit points

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Prerequisites

Admission to MAppFin and AFCP801 and ECFS866 and ECFS867 and ECFS868

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 (requires a Mark of 50 or better) the student must pass the Research Project.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Proposal for Research Project</a>	5%	No	Prior to first class
<a href="#">Finalised ResearchProjectTopic</a>	5%	No	Refer to iLearn
<a href="#">Developing Professional Skills</a>	25%	No	Refer to iLearn
<a href="#">Research Project</a>	40%	Yes	Refer to iLearn
<a href="#">In-Class Activities</a>	25%	No	Ongoing

### Proposal for Research Project

Due: **Prior to first class**

Weighting: **5%**

#### 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.
- 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.

## Finalised ResearchProjectTopic

Due: **Refer to iLearn**

Weighting: **5%**

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

## Developing Professional Skills

Due: **Refer to iLearn**

Weighting: **25%**

### **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.
- 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.

## Research Project

Due: **Refer to iLearn**

Weighting: **40%**

**This is a hurdle assessment task (see [assessment policy](#) for more information on hurdle assessment tasks)**

### 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.

## In-Class Activities

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **25%**

## Summary of Assessment Task

**Individual / Group:** Individual

**Due Date:** Ongoing

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

**Submission Method:** Based on a series of structured in-class activities and participation in Topic 4: Communication, Topic 5: Negotiation, Topic 6: Legal Reasoning & Legal Duties and Topic 7: Ethics in Finance.

**Duration:** Assessed during class times

**Extension Requests:** N/A

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 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.

## 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](http://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](http://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**, 6<sup>th</sup> ed, Wiley, 2013 [available as e-text]
- Alana Bryman & Emma Bell, **Business Research Methods**, 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 TRUSTED ADVISOR**

#### **Topics:**

1. Changing environment shaping the role of the finance profession
2. Impact on nature of employment
3. Skill set of the future professional
4. A proposed model – the creative problem solving trusted advisor
5. Assessing our own 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 MAKING**

#### **Topics:**

1. Problem solving & decision making models

2. Key steps in the process
3. Decision making general issues
4. Capital expenditure process
5. Case study

### 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:

1. Research applications in Applied Finance
2. Research process for applied finance
3. Data sources for applied finance research
4. Research strategies
5. Concluding material

### 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 1: “Framing the Problem” 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: COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES

### Topics:

1. Background
2. Types of Communication

3. Effective Communication
4. Gaining Support
5. Communication Styles
6. Framework for Communications Strategy

**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

**TOPIC 5: NEGOTIATION**

**Topics:**

1. Negotiation Models
2. Preparation
3. Conducting the negotiations
4. Working in Teams
5. Real World Challenges

In class Case Studies.

**Readings:**

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 6: LEGAL REASONING AND LEGAL DUTIES Topics:**

1. Review of International Legal Frameworks
2. Legal Reasoning
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 7: ETHICS IN FINANCE Topics:**

1. Introduction
2. Case Study
3. The Origins of Ethical Failure
4. Cultural Diversity & Corruption
5. Ethical Implications of Product/Service Structure
6. Organisational Culture
7. Professional Character

#### **Readings:**

*Ethical Frameworks for Finance* prepared by Chris Whit & Gordon Preece Case Study; Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bE3r0bRYGeY&feature=youtu.be>

### **TOPIC 8: CONTEMPORARY INDUSTRY ISSUES**

#### **Topics:**

1. Masterclass on selected industry topic
2. Review of Contemporary Industry Challenges & Opportunities
3. Preparation for Assessment Task #5
4. In Class Presentations on Assessment Task #5

#### **Readings:**

N/A

### **TOPIC 9: DEFINING PROFESSIONAL CHARACTER**

#### **Topics:**

1. What is Professional Character?
2. Why Are We Here?
3. What's Next?
4. Driving Career Change
5. Over to You!

#### **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](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy\\_2016.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.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](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html)

Disruption to Studies Policy (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption\\_studies/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html)

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): <https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration>

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/](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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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/](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](http://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/](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.
- Collaborate effectively with colleagues in order to address contemporary issues in applied finance.

#### Assessment tasks

- Proposal for Research Project
- Finalised ResearchProjectTopic
- Developing Professional Skills
- Research Project
- In-Class Activities

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

## Assessment tasks

- Proposal for Research Project
- Finalised ResearchProjectTopic
- Developing Professional Skills
- Research Project
- In-Class Activities

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

## Assessment tasks

- Proposal for Research Project
- Finalised ResearchProjectTopic
- Developing Professional Skills
- Research Project
- In-Class Activities

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

## Assessment tasks

- Proposal for Research Project
- Finalised ResearchProjectTopic
- Developing Professional Skills

- Research Project
- In-Class Activities

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

### Assessment tasks

- Proposal for Research Project
- Finalised ResearchProjectTopic
- Developing Professional Skills
- Research Project
- In-Class Activities

## 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
- Finalised ResearchProjectTopic
- Developing Professional Skills
- Research Project
- In-Class Activities

## Changes from Previous Offering

The previous topic of Developing Professional Skills has been split into two individual topics, being Communication Strategies and Negotiation. As a result, topics have been renumbered. A concluding topic, Defining Professional Character, has also been formally included. In addition, the assessment tasks have been streamlined.

## Important Notice

Pre-reading: **Please read the preliminary material provided prior to the first class.**

This Unit Guide may be subject to change. The latest version is on the Centre's web site [www.mafc.mq.edu.au](http://www.mafc.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 [h](#)

<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 numerical Mark which is a summation of the individual assessment components, providing the Research Project 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
  - Grades for all individual assessment items will be released to students, but Marks may not necessarily be released.

### Specific Unit Grading:

- To pass this unit (requires a Mark of 50 or better) the student must pass the Research Project.
- All final Marks and 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.

Grade	Expectation
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.
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>.

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
23/05/2017	Important Notice section updated.