



ACST1001

Finance 1A

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Department of Actuarial Studies and Business Analytics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This is an introductory unit in finance and is a core part of the first year knowledge base in most programs. Students will examine the Australian financial system as well as an introduction to financial mathematics and the pricing of financial instruments. They will also learn about financial institutions, financial markets, and risk and regulation. Students will develop spreadsheet skills in finance which is a critical employment skill.

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:

ULO1: Identify major functions, risks and regulation of financial markets.

ULO2: Explain key fundamental concepts in finance including time value of money and

risk and return.

ULO3: Perform valuation of cash flows including single and multiple amounts, annuities, amortised loans, bonds and shares.

ULO4: Apply various criteria to capital budgeting problems for decision making.

ULO5: Evaluate financial information using a spreadsheet.

Assessment Tasks

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Assessment details are no longer provided here as a result of changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Students should consult [iLearn](#) for revised unit information.

[Find out more about the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and potential impacts on staff and students](#)

General Assessment Information

Online Quizzes

An Online quiz (open-book) will be held each week from week 2 through to week 13. Quiz 4 contributes to a possible **5%** of overall quiz marks and is part of the Excel Assignment requirement. The other 9 quizzes each carry a weight of 2% each (total **18%** of possible course marks). Students are given a single attempt at each quiz. No extensions will be granted.

Students should not delay completion of any quiz until the last day. Students who do not complete the quiz prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of zero (0) for the task except for cases in which an application for Special Consideration (SC) is made and approved. Any approved SC application in relation to an online quiz will normally only be considered for special consideration where the disruption lasted for at least three days of the assessment period. Where the SC is granted, the student may be offered an alternative assessment or may receive a mark based on the percentage mark achieved by the student in one or more other assessment tasks, at the Unit Convenor's discretion.

Excel Assignment

The Excel Assignment requires preparation of an excel spreadsheet. The assignment will be available on **7th April at 2pm** and is to be completed individually and submitted within a 48-hour window, i.e., it is due by **2pm on 9th April**. Details of the assignment, the submission procedure and marking guide will be posted on iLearn in week 5. No extensions will be granted. Students who do not complete the assignment prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task except for cases in which an application for Special Consideration (SC) is made and approved. The Unit Convenor has no discretion to award a supplementary assessment outside of the SC policy. Those who are granted a Supplementary Assignment will be issued instructions during the mid-term break.

In Class Test

In Class Test (ICT) (closed book) will be held on **Wednesday 13th May** at a separately advised time and venue. Details of the venue, time and allocation process will be posted on iLearn in week 5. The Class Test will be 50 minutes in duration and will be based on Week 1 to 7 (inclusive) content. This test will be worth 15%. The test is closed book. A formula sheet will be included in the test paper and will be posted on iLearn.

Students who fail to attend the test for the allocated session will be awarded a mark of zero (0) except in cases where a Special Consideration application is made and approved.

General information

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.

Delivery and Resources

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19.

Please check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

Learning and Teaching Activities

There are 3 hours of face-to-face teaching per week consisting of 1 x 2 hour lecture and 1 x 1 hour tutorial. The schedule of lecture and tutorial class times is available at:

<http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au>

Lectures

Lectures will be held weekly. No lecture will be held in week 10 but see above for the In Class Test in that week. Lecture notes will be available in the week of the lecture, at the *iLearn* weekly tabs.

Tutorials

Tutorials will be held weekly, commencing in Week 1. No tutorials are scheduled for Week 10. Tutorials are considered compulsory but no marks are allocated. Attendance will be recorded and may be considered in instances where applications are made for withdrawal without penalty.

Tutorial enrolment or change of tutorial can be made through *eStudent* in the first two weeks of the semester. No tutorial changes are allowed after Week 2. Students should check on *eStudent* for their tutorial room, especially as tutorial room allocations may have been changed since time of enrolment. Students should attend their allocated tutorial, but exceptions may occur on a one-off basis. That is, where circumstances prevent you attending your own tutorial in a given week,

you may attend an alternative tutorial if a seat is available (sign the attendance record for that alternative tutorial).

Students are expected to complete the 'Tutorial Questions' as a self-directed study activity before attending a tutorial. Solutions will be posted after the week in which the questions are discussed. Additional learning support will be available in tutor consultation times, and in PAL sessions.

Recommended Text

Parino, R. et al. 2018. Fundamentals of Corporate Finance (Australian 3rd Ed.). Milton, QLD: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

e-text version (cheapest): ISBN 978-0-7303-5517-5 <https://www.wileydirect.com.au/buy/fundamentals-of-corporate-finance-3rd-edition/>

Hardcopy alternative: ISBN 978-0-7303-6346-0

The university library also has licences that enable FREE online access to the text (with limited page printing allowance per logon). See iLearn.

Note: This textbook is only a recommendation for students that want to read in more depth. It is NOT a requirement that students use this text.

Technology Used and Required

Calculator

A calculator will be required during the *Week 10 In Class Test (ICT)*, and the *Final Examination*. Note: students are expected to clearly show all steps (working) in their solutions to 'calculation' questions.

Non-programmable calculators with no text-retrieval functionality are permitted. Calculators that have a full alphabet on the keyboard are not permitted. Graphics calculators are not permitted. Calculators need the following minimum functionality: x^y or \wedge , $1/x$ and \log or \ln functions, and a memory. Non-programmable financial calculators are permitted but it is not a requirement to use a financial calculator.

Students are assumed to already be familiar with the basic operation of their calculator prior to the start of this unit.

Computing

Prior to the start of this unit, students are expected to be familiar at least with the basic operation of their computing device, ensuring the device is *Wi-Fi* enabled to access lecture activities in 'real-time'.

Software

Students should have access to Excel 2013 (or more recent), or equivalent software that can output .xlsx files. Further, students are expected to have viewed the 'Excel Tutorials' in *iLearn 'Kick-Start'* by the end of Week 1. *Excel* will be used in lectures and tutorials from Week 1. An Excel assignment is part of the assessment. A review of *Excel* fundamentals and time value

of money functionality is scheduled for the Week 4 lecture. We strongly recommend students to engage with *Excel* from Week 1. Students should refer to iLearn for links to obtain free access to Excel software.

Knowledge of Maths

A background of at least HSC General Mathematics or equivalent numerical competency is assumed. A small self-diagnostic online Maths Revision exercise is available on iLearn. The self-diagnostic exercise is not assessable itself, (although Assessable Quiz 1 questions include coverage of similar questions), but may assist in providing an indication of your understanding of the type of mathematics functions we will use in the unit. Students requiring assistance with the unit's mathematical elements throughout the term may consult with the *Numeracy Centre* team during appointed hours (no appointment needed).

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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](#) or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Supplementary exams

Information regarding supplementary exams, including dates, is available at: http://www.businessandeconomics.mq.edu.au/current_students/undergraduate/how_do_i/disruption_to_studies

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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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](#)

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@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.