



ACCG3015

Accountants in the Profession

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

Department of Accounting & Corporate Governance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convener

Professor Rahat Munir

rahat.munir@mq.edu.au

Contact via via email

Room 312, Building 4ER

via email

Moderator

Amy Tung

[Please communicate with the UC regarding any academic matter](#)

Contact via via email

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

160cp including ACCG200 or ACCG2000 or ACCG224 or ACCG2024 or ACCG250 or ACCG2050 or ACCG2065

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This is an accounting PACE and Capstone unit. The unit integrates the materials that are covered in first- and second-year accounting and business law units, applying these materials to an environment where accounting graduates become professionals. The unit is reflective and integrative and future-focused, offering opportunities for 'real world' preparatory experience in the accounting profession. The class is conducted through workshops and discussions where students learn to develop personal and professional skills in sustaining a professional profile in business and the profession. It provides opportunities for students to engage with the community through panels from professional accounting bodies, community groups, NGO's, MQ alumni, public sector and commercial organisations, and others. The unit requires students to interact with the industry partners in order to complete a major research project under the supervision of a faculty member. Students are also exposed to case studies which present realistic, complex, and contextually rich situations and involve dilemmas, conflicts, and problems accountants face in the profession, which allows to understand emergent issues for the accounting professionals.

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: Analyse the environments in which an accountant works.

ULO2: Integrate the interests of different stakeholders in an organisation or/and professional environment, including customers, competitors, collaborators, and other external forces.

ULO3: Develop personal, professional skills and group work capabilities through the identification and application of tools and strategies that take into account the opportunities and constraints of the professional environment.

ULO4: Formulate and communicate strategic responses to problem areas in the accounting profession.

ULO5: Critique the accounting profession's contribution to society through discussion of ethical and professional conduct.

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

Late Submission(s): *“Late assessment must also be submitted through Turnitin. 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 incurs a 20% penalty). Late submissions will not be accepted after solutions have been discussed and/or made available. This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for [Special Consideration](#) is made and approved. Note: applications for [Special Consideration Policy](#) must be made within 5 (five) business days of the due date and time.*

To be eligible to pass this unit, it is necessary to obtain a mark of at least 50% in the unit overall

Turnitin

All text-based assessments must be submitted through Turnitin as per instructions provided in the unit guide. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that work is submitted correctly prior to the due date. No hard copies of assessments will be accepted and only Turnitin records will be taken as records of submission.

Multiple submissions may be possible in some units via Turnitin prior to the final due date and time of an assessment task and originality reports may be made available to students to view and check their work. All identified matching text will be reconsidered carefully. Students should note that the system will not immediately produce the similarity score on a second or subsequent submission - it approximately takes 24 hours for the report to be generated. This may be after the due date so students should plan any resubmissions carefully. Please refer to these instructions on how to submit your assignment through Turnitin and access similarity reports and feedback provided by the teaching staff. Should you have questions about Turnitin or experience issues submitting through the system, you must inform your unit coordinator immediately. If the issue is technical in nature may also lodge OneHelp Ticket, refer to the IT help page.

It is the responsibility of the student to retain a copy of any work submitted. Students must produce these documents upon request. Copies should be retained until the end of the grade appeal period each term. In the event that a student is asked to produce another copy of work submitted and is unable to do so, they may be awarded zero (0) for that particular assessment task.

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 & STRATEGY

This unit is structured as a participation subject as part of the Capstone and PACE requirement. It integrates the materials that you covered in three years of accounting studies, applying this material to an environment where accounting graduates become a professional in an environment that is contemporary, global and technologically driven.

The objectives of the unit are to consolidate and investigate the factors and contextual issues that influence the competitive business environment for an accountant. It addresses the role of an accounting professional in the application of governance structures, accountability regimes, professional development, skill enhancements, and continuous awareness of self-positioning and self-renewal in terms of professional and personal competency. The unit is not only reflective and integrative but also future-focused, offering opportunities for the 'real world' preparatory experience in the accounting profession. The class is conducted through workshops and discussions where students learn to develop personal and professional skills in sustaining a

professional profile in business and the profession.

The unit provides opportunities for students to engage with the community through panels from professional accounting bodies, community groups, NGOs, MQ alumni, public sector and commercial organisations, and others. The unit requires students to interact with the industry partners in order to complete a major research project under the supervision of a faculty member. The project includes topics that are valued by industry partners and are mutually beneficial to both Macquarie University students and industry partners. While the project attempts to bridge the gap between students and the accounting profession, it also provides an opportunity for students to clarify and refine their understanding of the accounting profession through discussion with industry partners and peers. Group work engages students in the challenges of interpersonal communication, task allocation, coordination, and control. Cohesive and systematic presentations from a range of industry partners also provide students an opportunity to think critically about the accounting profession. Through these presentations, students will gain an insight into organisations and be able to contextualise their graduate capabilities into the main project. By reflecting on industry partners' presentations students will be able to identify what they have learned about the accounting profession and how they have learned. This will result in a greater sense of ownership which, in return, will help students to develop valuable career and leadership skills, improve their job prospects and make a difference to the business and the community for which they work. Further, students are exposed to case studies that present realistic, complex, and contextually rich situations and involve dilemmas, conflicts, and/or problems accountants face in the profession, which will allow students to understand emergent issues for the accounting professionals.

The unit comprises 13 seminars that include lectures, presentations by industry partners, case studies sessions, students' presentations, discussions, and a feedback session. The components of the unit are structured as follows:

Introduction/Orientation: One seminar each week to provide students with a strong orientation to the University expectations and academic requirements for this PACE/Capstone unit and addresses pragmatic concerns (group formation, communication, and other logistical requirements). The first seminar includes a session on "Skills Audit". This session uses Self Understanding Module along with other skills audit activities that are available. This is embedded in the iLearn for ACCG3015 and also includes a workbook that students need to print and fill in as part of the audit. The objective of this session is to make students rate themselves on a variety of key employability skills and also find evidence to support their ratings. (Skills include: Creativity and Innovation, Relationship Building, Problem Solving, Technology, Communication, Teamwork, Planning & Organising, Research). In order to give this skills audit context within the framework of the course structure, each industry partner will discuss 3 to 5 skills they feel are essential for the accountants to possess.

The experience: Students are required to complete a session long "Accounting Profession" project. The project expects that students identify information needs, acquire the necessary information by consulting the information provided by industry participants, interpret the information and use it as the basis for recommendations. In order to complete this project, students are required to attend seminars presented by industry partners including professional accounting bodies; Big 4 accounting firms; Commercial, financial and manufacturing firms; NFP;

public sector and SMEs. The presentations from industry partners will help students become familiar (from multiple perspectives and viewpoints) with regulatory, cultural, technological and business environment issues that affect accounting and the accounting profession.

Assessment tasks: Knowledge and understanding are assessed by a mixture of assignments and presentations. The assessments include weekly individual reflections (30%), essay (30%), a group project report (20%) with an individual oral presentation (20%). Oral presentations will take place in seminars judged by a panel comprising industry partners and academics.

Final Wrap-up/Debrief: One seminar to review conclusions from the projects and evaluate findings. Industry partners will provide feedback on the students' findings. This seminar will also provide an opportunity for students to network with industry partners and discuss around a specific and current accounting themes, which will further their understanding of the actual work context of their studies and enhance their skills. This seminar will also give an opportunity to network with students who can help tackle challenging projects. Through this seminar industry partners will also gain recognition for involvement in education, collaborate with academics, develop new networks with other organisations and gain access to potential future graduates.

EXPECTATIONS AND WORKLOAD

Students are expected to spend **150** hours working on this unit.

Unit Schedule

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The unit schedule/topics and any references to on-campus delivery below may no longer be relevant due to COVID-19. Please consult [iLearn](#) for latest details, and check here for updated delivery information: https://ask.mq.edu.au/account/pub/display/unit_status

| Week | Seminar topics | Industry participants/ Time | Assessments/Due dates/Activity |
|------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Week 1 25/02/2020 5pm (Tuesday)</p> | <p>Unit Overview and Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining the Group Project scope and research questions. | <p>Unit Convener distributes Group Agreement & Formation/ Self and Peer Assessment Forms. The Group Agreement & Formation will be collected back from students in week 2/3 (or via email) as advised by the UC.</p> | |
| <p>Week 2 03/03/2020 6:00pm-9pm (Tuesday)</p> | <p>How to build your personal brand and networking skills for success?</p> <p>Accounting, Audit and Tax</p> | <p>Anthony Matis</p> <p>Ernst & Young</p> <p>Deloitte</p> | <p>Reflection 1: Accounting Profession (Part A)</p> |
| <p>Week 3 10/03/2020 6:00pm-9pm (Tuesday)</p> | <p>Accountants in the Commercial organisations</p> | <p>Pfizer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>William Buck</p> | |
| <p>Week 4 17/03/2020 6:00pm-9pm (Tuesday)</p> | <p>Accountants and the NFP sector</p> <p>How to use LinkedIn to stimulate your career?</p> | <p>The Whiddon Group</p> <p>James Evangelidis</p> | <p>Reflection 2: Skills (first submission)</p> |

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| <p>Week 5 24/03/2020</p> | <p>Forensic accounting and other services organisations</p> | <p>KPMG</p> | |
| <p>6:00pm-9pm (Tuesday)</p> | <p>Professional Accounting Bodies</p> | <p>Chartered Accountants Australia NewZealand</p> | |
| <p>Week 6 31/03/2020 5:30pm-9pm (Tuesday)</p> | <p>How could/would Blockchain technology change Accounting in the future?</p> | <p>James Evangelidis</p> | <p>Reflection 2: Skills (second submission)</p> |
| | <p>Accountants in the SMEs</p> | <p>Aptus Accounting & Advisory</p> | |
| <p>Week 7 07/04/2020 (Tuesday)</p> | <p>No class – finalise group project report for submission.</p> | | |
| <p>Week 8 28/04/2020 (Tuesday)</p> | <p>No class – Prepare presentations starting from week 9</p> | | <p>Reflection 3: Project</p> |
| <p>Week 9 05/05/2020 5pm-9pm (Tuesday)</p> | <p>Project Presentation Session 1</p> | <p>Judging Panel: Deloitte, Anthony Matis, and UC</p> | |
| <p>Week 10 12/05/2020 5pm-9pm (Tuesday)</p> | <p>Project Presentation Session 2</p> | <p>Judging Panel: KPMG, William Buck and UC</p> | <p>Submission of Essay</p> |

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| <p>Week 11</p> <p>19/05/2020</p> <p>5pm-9pm (Tuesday)</p> | <p>Project Presentation Session 3</p> | <p>Judging Panel: The Whiddon Group, EY and UC</p> | <p>Reflection 4: Personal Branding/Personality Profiling and Career Planning</p> |
| <p>Week 12</p> <p>26/05/2020</p> <p>5pm-9pm (Tuesday)</p> | <p>Project Presentation Session 4</p> | <p>Judging Panel: AAA, Huawei, and UC</p> | |
| <p>Week 13</p> <p>02/06/2020 (Tuesday)</p> | <p>No class</p> | | <p>Reflection 1: Accounting Profession (Part B)</p> |

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

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.