AFCP6018

Quantitative and Economic Analysis

AFC term 3, Fully online/virtual 2020

Department of Applied Finance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Geoff Brianton geoff.brianton@mq.edu.au Contact via Email Alan Rai alan.rai@mq.edu.au Contact via Email
Credit points 10
Prerequisites Admission to GradCertFin or GradDipAppFin or MAppFin or MAppFin(Adv)
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit provides the important building blocks in microeconomic and quantitative analysis required for advanced study in applied finance. Microeconomic analysis develops tools in demand and supply and critically applies these to the consumer and the firm. It concludes with an analysis of market structure. The second part of the unit develops quantitative skills that are used in finance, including descriptive statistics, probability, statistical inference, correlation and regression analysis. Spreadsheets are extensively used in statistical modelling.

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: Apply mathematical skills to finance based problems.

ULO2: Explain and analyse the key concepts, models and theories used in microeconomics as required for applied finance.

ULO3: Apply the key concepts, models and theories used in microeconomics to solve a range of finance based problems.

ULO4: Analyse data using the key concepts, models and theories used in probability and statistics.

ULO5: Demonstrate proficiency in using spreadsheet based statistical modelling to solve a range of finance based problems.

General Assessment Information

Information - Extension Requests / Penalties

Online Participation (15%)

No extensions will be granted. Students who have not submitted the task prior to the due date will be awarded a mark of zero for the task, except for cases in which an application for Special Consideration is made and approved.

Further information on submitting an Application for Special Consideration can be found at https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration.

Assessed Coursework (55%)

No extensions will be granted. Students who have not submitted the task prior to the due date will be awarded a mark of zero for the task, except for cases in which an application for Special Consideration is made and approved.

Further information on submitting an Application for Special Consideration can be found at https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration.

Final Exam (30%)

Deferral of an examination is not permitted unless an application for Special Consideration is made and approved.

Students who do not attend receive a mark of zero. This penalty does not apply in cases where an application for Special Consideration has been made and approved.

Further information on submitting an Application for Special Consideration can be found at https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Online Participation	15%	No	In iLearn
Assessed Coursework	55%	No	In iLearn
Final Exam	30%	No	In iLearn

Online Participation

Assessment Type [1]: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30.00 hours
Due: **In iLearn**
Weighting: **15%**

Participation in online discussion forums. Online discussions and tasks will be conducted during the term. You are required to participate actively in these forums, and your contributions will be assessed.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply mathematical skills to finance based problems.
- Explain and analyse the key concepts, models and theories used in microeconomics as required for applied finance.
- Apply the key concepts, models and theories used in microeconomics to solve a range of finance based problems.
- Analyse data using the key concepts, models and theories used in probability and statistics.
- Demonstrate proficiency in using spreadsheet based statistical modelling to solve a range of finance based problems.

Assessed Coursework

Assessment Type [1]: Case study/analysis
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 40.00 hours
Due: **In iLearn**
Weighting: **55%**

You will be required to participate in a variety of assessment tasks for Economic Analysis and Quantitative Analysis. These will include written activities, online quizzes and project based learning.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply mathematical skills to finance based problems.
- Explain and analyse the key concepts, models and theories used in microeconomics as required for applied finance.
- Apply the key concepts, models and theories used in microeconomics to solve a range of finance based problems.
- Analyse data using the key concepts, models and theories used in probability and statistics.
- Demonstrate proficiency in using spreadsheet based statistical modelling to solve a range of finance based problems.

Final Exam

Assessment Type [1]: Examination
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 12.00 hours
Due: **In iLearn**
Weighting: **30%**

Online Exam via iLearn on all Topics

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply mathematical skills to finance based problems.
- Explain and analyse the key concepts, models and theories used in microeconomics as required for applied finance.
- Apply the key concepts, models and theories used in microeconomics to solve a range of finance based problems.
- Analyse data using the key concepts, models and theories used in probability and statistics.
- Demonstrate proficiency in using spreadsheet based statistical modelling to solve a range of finance based problems.

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[1] If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the Writing Centre for academic skills support.

[2] Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS

Required Text:

The required textbooks for this unit are:

- *Microeconomics: Principles and Practice*, 2nd edition (2017) by Frost, Taylor, Weerapana, Schuwalow, Cengage Learning. This textbook is available as either a print book - (ISBN-10: 0170380096 ISBN-13: 9780170380096) or eBook. See links below:

https://www.coop.com.au/search?keyW=9780170380096

Details on the eBook (a VitalSource eText) can be found at: https://www.vitalsource.com/en-au/p

roducts/microeconomics-principles-and-practice-lionel-frost-john-taylor-v9780170278973

It is recommended that students purchase the text with the Coursemate option.

- Basic Business Statistics, 5th edition (2018) by Berenson, Levine, Szabat, O'Brien, Watson and Jayne, Pearson Australia (ISBN 9781488617249). Details on the textbook can be found at https://pearson.com.au/9781488617249. The textbook is available from the publisher's website as a paperback or as a VitalSource eText. The textbook is also available as a paperback from the Co-op Bookshop.

Additional Readings:

- Additional readings are included iniLearn.
- Students should assume these readings are examinable unless otherwise advised.

Assumed Knowledge: Mathematical content

- This unit has a high level of numerical content. Consequently, this unit is mathematical and arithmetical. The applied nature of this unit means that the focus is on application of knowledge rather than complex mathematical derivations. To help prepare students for the numerical content in this unit, students will find a Fundamental Maths Quiz in iLearn. This will allow students to test their existing mathematics knowledge. Details on the quiz can be found iniLearn.

Assumed Access: Access to a computer with word processing and spreadsheet capability is assumed, as is general student computer literacy. In particular, students need access to a version of Microsoft Excel which includes regression analysis.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

This is an online unit which will make use of the University's iLearn system.

Unit's iLearn Site:

- Found by logging on to iLearn ilearn.mq.edu.au, then clicking on ***AFCP6018 Quantitative and Economic Analysis***.
- This is where you will find forums, downloadable resources and links to important pages.
- The forum allows you to communicate with other students and lecturer(s) and may provide supplementarymaterial.
- You are requested to post your questions on the forums at least 24 hours prior to the assessment submission date or the examination date. Questions posted after that time may not be answered. **Please ensure that you do not leave your questions to the last few days.**

Important Notice:

- It is important that you familiarise yourself with the unit's iLearnsite.
- All students should check iLearn regularly and look for updates and distribution of materials related to the unit or assessments and participate in forum discussions.

Unit Schedule

The following schedule is a guide to the timing of each topic. Details of the required readings are provided in iLearn.

Week	Topic	Date when you should have started working on this topic
1	Topic 0: Essential pre-work	Monday, 15 June 2020
2	Topic 1: Key concepts, supply & demand model	Monday, 22 June 2020
3	Topic 2: Market analysis & elasticity	Monday, 29 June 2020
4	Topic 3: Cost curves & the competitive market	Monday, 6 July 2020
5	Topic 4: Market structures	Monday, 13 July 2020
6	Topic 5: Descriptive statistics	Monday, 20 July 2020
7	Topic 6: Probability & random variables	Monday, 27 July 2020
8	Topic 7: Statistical estimation & inference	Monday, 3 August 2020
9	Topic 8: Correlation, regression & indices	Monday, 10 August 2020
10	Complete assessment tasks	Monday, 17 August 2020
11	Exam preparation start	Monday, 24 August 2020
12	Online exam period	Saturday, 29 August – Sunday 30 August 2020

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). 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). 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).

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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
28/05/2020	Contact details for Alan Rail added.