



ACST2001

Financial Modelling

Session 2, Special circumstance 2020

Department of Actuarial Studies and Business Analytics

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Disclaimer

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Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Colin Zhang

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

50cp at 1000 level or above including [(ACST101 or ACST1001) and (STAT150 or STAT1250 or STAT170 or STAT1170 or STAT171 or STAT1371)]

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit explores some basic concepts of finance, in particular: price; yield; the relationship between price and yield; interest rate risk; reinvestment risk; duration and its uses; volatility; the contingent payments approach; arbitrage pricing theory; pricing forwards; futures and options. To achieve understanding, this unit uses financial mathematics (the techniques learned in ACST1001 are developed further here) to analyse transactions involving commonly used financial instruments in the context of the markets in which they are traded. At the same time, students develop skills in solving problems; in explaining financial ideas in simple language; in constructing spreadsheet models; and in working as part of a team. A range of assessment tasks are provided, some to generate feedback on how well the understanding and skills are developing, and others to determine the standard of understanding and skills attained.

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 the basic concepts and principles of financial analysis into solving financial problems.

ULO2: Design Excel spreadsheets to solve basic problems in financial analysis.

ULO3: Appraise the work of others in the field of financial analysis.

ULO4: Construct a solution to a problem in financial analysis as part of a team.

General Assessment Information

It is the responsibility of students to view their marks for each within-session-assessment on iLearn within 20 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 tasks (not including the final exam mark) will not be addressed.

Late submissions and extensions

Tasks 10% or less – No extensions will be granted. Students who have not submitted the task prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task, except for cases in which an application for special consideration is made and approved.

Tasks above 10% - 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 – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for special consideration is made and approved. No submission will be accepted after solutions have been posted.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Take-home Quizzes</u>	20%	No	18/8/20 13/10/20
<u>Spreadsheet Project Task</u>	20%	No	6/10/20
<u>Online Exam</u>	60%	No	Exam period

Take-home Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **18/8/20 13/10/20**

Weighting: **20%**

You will use the quiz links on iLearn to complete two take-home quizzes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply the basic concepts and principles of financial analysis into solving financial problems.
- Appraise the work of others in the field of financial analysis.

Spreadsheet Project Task

Assessment Type ¹: Quantitative analysis task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **6/10/20**

Weighting: **20%**

There are two components (an individual task and a group spreadsheet task). You will need to submit the tasks via iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply the basic concepts and principles of financial analysis into solving financial problems.
- Design Excel spreadsheets to solve basic problems in financial analysis.
- Appraise the work of others in the field of financial analysis.
- Construct a solution to a problem in financial analysis as part of a team.

Online Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 28 hours

Due: **Exam period**

Weighting: **60%**

The final examination will be an open book online exam, to be held during the University Examination period.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply the basic concepts and principles of financial analysis into solving financial problems.
- Design Excel spreadsheets to solve basic problems in financial analysis.
- Appraise the work of others in the field of financial analysis.
- Construct a solution to a problem in financial analysis as part of a team.

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

Reference books

You do NOT have to buy a printed textbook. You may find these books useful as additional references for some topics in ACST2001:

- Knox, D M, Zima, P & Brown, R L (1999) *Mathematics of Finance* (Second edition), Irwin/McGraw-Hill
- Sherris, M (1996) *Money & Capital Markets* (Second Edition), Allen & Unwin (available in library only)
- Viney C (2011) *Financial Market Essentials*, McGraw-Hill
- Valentine, T, Ford, G & Copp, R (2006) *Financial Markets & Institutions in Australia*, Prentice Hall

The recommended texts are available in the reserve section of Macquarie University Library.

For those wishing useful reference material on using Microsoft Excel, you may wish to buy a SIMnet online account <http://mq.simnetonline.com>.

Technology Used and Required

Calculators

You may use a calculator in the class tests and at the final exam provided that it is portable, silent and battery operated, but you must show clearly the steps involved in every calculation. In the final exam you may NOT use any calculators that have a text-retrieval capacity, whether or not they have a full alphabet on the keyboard. Calculators may be checked at the commencement of the final exam, and the make/model may be recorded.

Software

Many of the problems you will encounter in this unit can be solved easily with the spreadsheet program, Excel. You can use this spreadsheet program to verify your solutions to many of the problems you are solving. You will need to use Excel to do the Spreadsheet quizzes and the Group Spreadsheet Project. In addition, students in ACST2001 will be given access to the financial industry data platform, FactSet. This can be accessed through a web browser. You will use the data from FactSet to complete a number of the assessment tasks in the unit.

Take-home quizzes

You need to electronically submit your solutions (using iLearn) to the class tests as PDF files. Some possibilities to produce these files are: scan your handwritten solutions to a PDF file; use WORD (or similar software) to type out your solutions and save your work as a PDF file. For each class test you can only submit one PDF file; it must contain all the pages of your solution (so make sure, if your scanner produces separate PDF pages, that you can combine them into one file).

Unit Schedule

1	Simple interest and short-term financial instruments, compound interest and bonds
2–3	Short-term financial instruments and bond prices
4	Bond prices, bond yields and zero coupon bonds
5	Re-investment risk and TRCY
6	Horizon analysis
7	Horizon analysis, bond duration
	Semester break
8	Bond duration
9–10	Contingent payments, forward contracts
11	Forward contracts
12	Option pricing
13	Revision

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>).

[s://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.