AFIN8005
Research Methods in Banking and Finance
Session 2, Special circumstance 2020

Department of Applied Finance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Terry Pan
terry.pan@mq.edu.au
Contact via +61 2 9850 9286
Room 524, Building 4ER
Thursday 3-5PM

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
(Admission to MCom in Finance or MBkgFin or MFin) and 30cp at 6000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status
AFIN7005

Unit description
This unit describes and analyses the methodology of contemporary research in banking and finance. It covers quantitative and qualitative methods to assist students to conduct further research in the future.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: Recognise research methods used in the banking and finance areas.
ULO2: Articulate research questions in response to a business problem or opportunity.
ULO3: Apply relevant methods to address finance issues or problems.
ULO4: Work productively in a group to design a research study.

General Assessment Information
Assessment criteria for all assessment tasks will be provided on the unit iLearn site.
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.

**General Information**

This course introduces you to the fundamentals of doing research. The course is designed to introduce you to an understanding of a variety of different methods, study designs and the fundamentals of qualitative and quantitative analysis. You will apply the skills by developing your own research questions, study design and project relevant to your studies or professional lives. The course will also provide a foundation to those of you who plan to conduct further research as part of your postgraduate studies. No prior knowledge or experience in research is required to take this course, apart from the prerequisites listed. The course is aimed at the postgraduate level.

### Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data Analysis Project</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>30/09/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>30/10/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>During University Examination Period</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Data Analysis Project**

Assessment Type ¹: Quantitative analysis task  
Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours  
Due: 30/09/2020  
Weighting: 15%

A project will be designed to test the knowledge of data analysis using statistical software packages.
On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognise research methods used in the banking and finance areas.
- Apply relevant methods to address finance issues or problems.

**Research Proposal**

Assessment Type 1: Project

Indicative Time on Task 2: 30 hours

Due: 30/10/2020

Weighting: 40%

The task involves development of a research proposal, conduct individual literature review and presentation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognise research methods used in the banking and finance areas.
- Articulate research questions in response to a business problem or opportunity.
- Apply relevant methods to address finance issues or problems.
- Work productively in a group to design a research study.

**Final Examination**

Assessment Type 1: Examination

Indicative Time on Task 2: 15 hours

Due: During University Examination Period

Weighting: 45%

A two hour open book online exam will be held during the University Examination period.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Recognise research methods used in the banking and finance areas.
- Articulate research questions in response to a business problem or opportunity.
- Apply relevant methods to address finance issues or 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 Learning Skills Unit 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Text:</th>
<th>There is no prescribed textbook. Readings (where applicable) are taken from relevant academic books and journals. Refer to iLearn for further details.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit Web Page:</td>
<td>Access to iLearn</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Technology Used and Required: | • Internet access  
• Software for producing presentations  
• Open-source software (R) for reproducible research.  
• Online Conference software: Zoom |

Classes

Students must thoroughly read all assigned materials before coming to the class so that they are fully prepared to discuss the key issues.

Timetables

We will use an online teaching model which combines Zoom lectures and Recording studies. You are required to attend your timetabled classes if these lectures are delivered as Zoom lectures. The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/

Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Research Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Literature Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>R Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Regression</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Applications of R with Examples</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>R in Portfolio Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Event Study and Market Efficiency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Macrofinancial Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Data Viualization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Qualitative Research I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Qualitative Research II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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 Enquiry Service

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

Equity 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.

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.