



ACCG8047

Fundamentals of Forensic Accounting

Session 2, Fully online/virtual 2021

Department of Accounting & Corporate Governance

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Session 2 Learning and Teaching Update

The decision has been made to conduct study online for the remainder of Session 2 for all units WITHOUT mandatory on-campus learning activities. Exams for Session 2 will also be online where possible to do so.

This is due to the extension of the lockdown orders and to provide certainty around arrangements for the remainder of Session 2. We hope to return to campus beyond Session 2 as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Some classes/teaching activities cannot be moved online and must be taught on campus. You should already know if you are in one of these classes/teaching activities and your unit convenor will provide you with more information via iLearn. If you want to confirm, see the list of [units with mandatory on-campus classes/teaching activities](#).

Visit the [MQ COVID-19 information page](#) for more detail.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Lecturer

Stefan Williams

stefan.williams@mq.edu.au

Contact via By email please

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

ACCG611 or ACCG6011 or (admission to MAdvProfAcc or MCyberSec or GradCertForAccg or GradDipForAccg or MForAccgFinCri)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines issues relevant to forensic accounting and the role played by the forensic accountant in the legal and business context. It covers various techniques of financial fraud prevention, investigation and detection. Students will develop an understanding of the motivations for, and symptoms of, financial fraud. Topics include processes of evidence collection and evaluation, legal report writing, interviewing witnesses, fraud prevention, and an introduction to financial and data analysis processes. By the conclusion of the unit students will have gained essential forensic accounting skills.

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: Explore the role and character of forensic accounting and its relationship to the legal system including the legal, ethical and professional obligations of forensic accountants.

ULO2: Appraise the nature of, and concepts relevant to, civil, criminal and administrative procedure and articulate the role of forensic accounting in the calculation of commercial and economic damages, and the compiling of business valuation reports.

ULO3: Examine and investigate indicators of fraudulent activity and demonstrate knowledge of investigative processes and techniques, and their application.

ULO4: Analyse techniques in evidence collection and evaluation and develop the ability to present the results of an investigation in a legal context.

ULO5: Review and evaluate the role of governance structures, internal controls and compliance policies for the prevention of financial fraud.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Class Test	10%	No	12/08/2021
Final Exam	30%	No	During university examination period
Participation	20%	No	Throughout semester.
Assignment	40%	No	16 October 2021

Class Test

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **12/08/2021**

Weighting: **10%**

The test will be held in class in the first half of the session. The test may include one, or a combination of, the following types of assessment: multiple-choice questions, true/false questions, short answer style questions.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explore the role and character of forensic accounting and its relationship to the legal system including the legal, ethical and professional obligations of forensic accountants.
- Appraise the nature of, and concepts relevant to, civil, criminal and administrative procedure and articulate the role of forensic accounting in the calculation of commercial and economic damages, and the compiling of business valuation reports.

Final Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **During university examination period**

Weighting: **30%**

A two-hour online examination (open book) will be held during the University Examination period.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explore the role and character of forensic accounting and its relationship to the legal system including the legal, ethical and professional obligations of forensic accountants.
- Appraise the nature of, and concepts relevant to, civil, criminal and administrative procedure and articulate the role of forensic accounting in the calculation of commercial and economic damages, and the compiling of business valuation reports.
- Examine and investigate indicators of fraudulent activity and demonstrate knowledge of investigative processes and techniques, and their application.
- Analyse techniques in evidence collection and evaluation and develop the ability to present the results of an investigation in a legal context.
- Review and evaluate the role of governance structures, internal controls and compliance policies for the prevention of financial fraud.

Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Throughout semester.**

Weighting: **20%**

This assessment involves evidence of preparation for, participation in, and contribution to the class and may include presentations, questions or written exercises.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explore the role and character of forensic accounting and its relationship to the legal system including the legal, ethical and professional obligations of forensic accountants.
- Appraise the nature of, and concepts relevant to, civil, criminal and administrative procedure and articulate the role of forensic accounting in the calculation of commercial and economic damages, and the compiling of business valuation reports.
- Examine and investigate indicators of fraudulent activity and demonstrate knowledge of

investigative processes and techniques, and their application.

- Analyse techniques in evidence collection and evaluation and develop the ability to present the results of an investigation in a legal context.
- Review and evaluate the role of governance structures, internal controls and compliance policies for the prevention of financial fraud.

Assignment

Assessment Type ¹: Report

Indicative Time on Task ²: 35 hours

Due: **16 October 2021**

Weighting: **40%**

This assessment will require students to investigate and analyse an aspect of the unit and identify and communicate findings, exercise judgement and develop research capability. This is a group assignment and involves both a written submission not exceeding 2000 words and a group presentation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine and investigate indicators of fraudulent activity and demonstrate knowledge of investigative processes and techniques, and their application.
- Analyse techniques in evidence collection and evaluation and develop the ability to present the results of an investigation in a legal context.
- Review and evaluate the role of governance structures, internal controls and compliance policies for the prevention of financial fraud.

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

Rufus R J, Miller L S, and Hahn W - Forensic Accounting - Global Edition, 2015, Pearson.

Other resources:

Crain, M., Hopwood, W., Pacini, C., Young G. 2015. Essentials of forensic accounting. Wiley

Unit Schedule

Class	Topic	Reading
Topic 1 CLASS 1	The field and practice of forensic accounting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • The legal, regulatory, professional environment, and ethics • Professional roles of fraud and forensic accounting professionals 	Rufus 1, 2
Topic 2 CLASS 1	Fraud-related services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of fraud • Fraud detection, prevention, deterrence, investigation, remediation • Fraudulent financial reporting 	Rufus 6, 7
Topic 3 CLASS 1	Fraud-related services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misappropriation of assets 	Rufus 6, 7
Topic 4 CLASS 2	Engagement management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and managing an investigation • Case management and communication • Reporting and closure 	Crain 7 Rufus 3
Topic 5 CLASS 2	Evidence collection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of evidence • Documents • Interviewing • Evidence management 	Rufus 4
Topic 6 CLASS 2	Transforming Data into Evidence - Data Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial transactions / Islamic finance • The role of data analysis • Data sources • Data analysis tools 	Rufus 8
Topic 7 CLASS 3	Financial analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Context of financial reporting • Foundations of financial analysis • Methods of financial analysis 	Rufus 5

Topic 8 CLASS 3	Transforming Data into Evidence - Data and Digital Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptive statistics • Methods for displaying data • Money laundering 	Rufus 8, 9
Topic 9 CLASS 3	Evidence analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate intelligence • Big data • Digital forensics for accountants 	Rufus 4, 5 Crain 11
Topic 10 CLASS 4	Commercial and economic damages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damages litigation • Damages calculation 	
Topic 11 CLASS 4	Business valuation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuation fundamentals • Financial analysis • Business valuation reports 	Rufus 11
Topic 12 CLASS 4	Accountant as an expert witness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal frameworks • Litigation support from accountants • Forensic accountants and the court 	Rufus 10
Topic 13 CLASS 4	Special topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber crime • Crypto currencies 	Rufus 12
Review CLASS 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of all topics covered in ACCG 8047 • Class presentation, practical exercises, and subject review 	

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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 from Previous Offering

- **Online only during COVID 19.**
- Online and face-to-face once COVID 19 restrictions ease.