



# AFCP8104

## Contemporary Issues in Applied Finance

Term 3, Infrequent attendance, City 2021

*Department of Applied Finance*

### Contents

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<a href="#"><u>General Information</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Learning Outcomes</u></a>	2
<a href="#"><u>Assessment Tasks</u></a>	3
<a href="#"><u>Delivery and Resources</u></a>	5
<a href="#"><u>Unit Schedule</u></a>	5
<a href="#"><u>Policies and Procedures</u></a>	6
<a href="#"><u>Changes from Previous Offering</u></a>	7
<a href="#"><u>Changes since First Published</u></a>	8

#### **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 activities on campus, and most will keep an online version available to those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face 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

Lindesay Brine

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Contact via Email

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(AFCP8101 or AFCP8004) and (AFCP8102 or AFCP8003) and (AFCP8103 or AFCP8005)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines a range of topical real-world issues in applied finance. The issues will depend on current financial and economic market conditions. Potential areas of interest are to be drawn from the fields of investment management, the financial system, corporate financial strategy and risk management. The focus will be on current and likely future conditions, and will seek to combine underlying theory, research skills and a strong practical emphasis. Personal communication, negotiation and collaborative skills will be further developed. This Capstone unit will be undertaken towards the end of the program of study.

## 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:** Synthesise knowledge of advance finance theories, models and concepts and recent research issues and apply it to a practical research-based project in applied finance.

**ULO2:** Design and execute a major project that solves a current business challenge in

applied finance, in a practical and well-justified manner.

**ULO3:** Effectively communicate complex information, decisions and recommendations to a professional audience.

**ULO4:** Reflect on skills and knowledge gained and recognise common preconceptions and assumptions within the finance profession.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#"><u>Assessment 1A: Proposal for Research Project</u></a>	10%	No	Due week 2. Further details in iLearn
<a href="#"><u>Assessment 2: Reflection</u></a>	30%	No	Due week 6. Further details in iLearn
<a href="#"><u>Assessment 1B: Research Presentation</u></a>	10%	No	Due week 7. Further details in iLearn
<a href="#"><u>Assessment 1C: Research Project</u></a>	50%	No	Due Week 10. Further details in iLearn

### Assessment 1A: Proposal for Research Project

Assessment Type **1**: Plan

Indicative Time on Task **2**: 0 hours

Due: **Due week 2. Further details in iLearn**

Weighting: **10%**

Initial Proposal for Research Project. Prepared in class. Maximum of 1,000 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Synthesise knowledge of advance finance theories, models and concepts and recent research issues and apply it to a practical research-based project in applied finance.
- Design and execute a major project that solves a current business challenge in applied finance, in a practical and well-justified manner.

### Assessment 2: Reflection

Assessment Type **1**: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task **2**: 20 hours

Due: **Due week 6. Further details in iLearn**

Weighting: **30%**

Reflect on knowledge and skills gained and recognise common preconceptions and assumptions

made within the finance profession. Group discussion and individual presentation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Synthesise knowledge of advance finance theories, models and concepts and recent research issues and apply it to a practical research-based project in applied finance.
- Effectively communicate complex information, decisions and recommendations to a professional audience.
- Reflect on skills and knowledge gained and recognise common preconceptions and assumptions within the finance profession.

## Assessment 1B: Research Presentation

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 5 hours

Due: **Due week 7. Further details in iLearn**

Weighting: **10%**

Presentation of Research Project. Approximately 2-3 minutes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Design and execute a major project that solves a current business challenge in applied finance, in a practical and well-justified manner.
- Effectively communicate complex information, decisions and recommendations to a professional audience.

## Assessment 1C: Research Project

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Professional writing

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 55 hours

Due: **Due Week 10. Further details in iLearn**

Weighting: **50%**

An individual assessment of up to 5,000 words on an agreed research topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Synthesise knowledge of advance finance theories, models and concepts and recent

research issues and apply it to a practical research-based project in applied finance.

- Design and execute a major project that solves a current business challenge in applied finance, in a practical and well-justified manner.
- Effectively communicate complex information, decisions and recommendations to a professional audience.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

### Learning and Teaching Activities

**Strategy:** Programs in the Applied Finance Centre adopt a deep teaching and learning strategy. Students acquire and retain knowledge and can make sense of the issues and concepts and apply them in the “real world”. The program relies heavily on student engagement and participation by: (a) Continuous learning throughout the term. This is encouraged through a combination of students undertaking prescribed reading throughout the units and/or completion of practice problems, online activities, case studies, assignments, class discussions, etc and interaction via forums; and (b) Assessments, which enable the student to demonstrate his/her understanding of the learning objectives achieved through the continuous learning.

**Student Participation:** This is a blended unit where students need to complete assigned activities before live Zoom sessions and weekend sessions. Students participate in this unit by: (a) Actively engaging with the videos and required readings of this unit; (b) Working systematically through and completing online activities; (c) Interacting in forums and face-to-face/online sessions, and (d) Completing all assessment tasks.

## Unit Schedule

Topic	Live Session / Class
1. Bringing it all together and research topic considerations	Zoom Session
2. Research methods and topic presentations	Zoom Session
3. Sustainable Development Goals and Applied Finance	Zoom Session

4. Skills development   Weekend Session 1	Attendance options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CBD / City Campus, Room TBA</li><li>• Zoom</li></ul>
5. Self-study	No session
6. SDGs and Applied Finance   Presentations	Zoom session
7. Research project presentations   Weekend Session 2	Attendance options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CBD Campus, Room TBA</li><li>• Zoom</li></ul>
8. Self Study	No session
9. Tips and Guidance, Research Paper Q&A	Zoom Q&A
10. Finalise Research paper	No session

## 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](http://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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](http://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](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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/](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

First offering of this unit

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
11/06/2021	Changes made to Assessment Task numbers