ACCG3015

Accountants in the Profession

Session 1, Special circumstances 2021

Department of Accounting & Corporate Governance

Contents

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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
Unit Convener
Professor Rahat Munir
rahat.munir@mq.edu.au
Contact via via email

Teaching Administrator
Ying Lu
Contact via via email

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
160cp including ACCG200 or ACCG2000 or ACCG224 or ACCG2024 or ACCG250 or ACCG2050 or ACCG2065

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This is an accounting PACE and Capstone unit. The unit integrates the materials that are covered in first- and second-year accounting and business law units, applying these materials to an environment where accounting graduates become professionals. The unit is reflective and integrative and future-focused, offering opportunities for 'real world' preparatory experience in the accounting profession. The class is conducted through workshops and discussions where students learn to develop personal and professional skills in sustaining a professional profile in business and the profession. It provides opportunities for students to engage with the community through panels from professional accounting bodies, community groups, NGO's, MQ alumni, public sector and commercial organisations, and others. The unit requires students to interact with the industry partners in order to complete a major research project under the supervision of a faculty member. Students are also exposed to case studies which present realistic, complex, and contextually rich situations and involve dilemmas, conflicts, and problems accountants face in the profession, which allows to understand emergent issues for the accounting professionals.

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: Analyse the environments in which an accountant works.

ULO2: Integrate the interests of different stakeholders in an organisation or/and professional environment, including customers, competitors, collaborators, and other external forces.

ULO3: Develop personal, professional skills and group work capabilities through the identification and application of tools and strategies that take into account the opportunities and constraints of the professional environment.

ULO4: Formulate and communicate strategic responses to problem areas in the accounting profession.

ULO5: Critique the accounting profession's contribution to society through discussion of ethical and professional conduct.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Essay	30%	No	Please see iLearn
Group Report and Presentation	40%	No	Please see iLearn
Reflective task	30%	No	Please see iLearn

Essay

Assessment Type [1]: Essay
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **Please see iLearn**
Weighting: **30%**

Students are required to submit two 1,000-word essays. One essay will be on a presented ethical issue/dilemma and the other essay on a sustainability challenge, both relating to contemporary issues faced by the accounting profession. Both essays will require students to critique the accounting profession's contribution to society and formulate an opinion and an informed response to these topical matters.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Integrate the interests of different stakeholders in an organisation or/and professional environment, including customers, competitors, collaborators, and other external forces.

- Develop personal, professional skills and group work capabilities through the identification and application of tools and strategies that take into account the opportunities and constraints of the professional environment.
- Formulate and communicate strategic responses to problem areas in the accounting profession.
- Critique the accounting profession's contribution to society through discussion of ethical and professional conduct.

Group Report and Presentation

Assessment Type [1]: Case study/analysis
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 38 hours
Due: **Please see iLearn**
Weighting: **40%**

Students will be required to research and identify a pressing issue/question/challenge relevant to the accounting profession, analyse and synthesise factors relevant to their identified matter and formulate a recommended response to this matter. Students will be required to present their analysis and recommendations via a 3000-3500-word group report (20%) and a 10-minute professional presentation to an industry panel and their peers (20%).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse the environments in which an accountant works.
- Integrate the interests of different stakeholders in an organisation or/and professional environment, including customers, competitors, collaborators, and other external forces.
- Develop personal, professional skills and group work capabilities through the identification and application of tools and strategies that take into account the opportunities and constraints of the professional environment.
- Critique the accounting profession's contribution to society through discussion of ethical and professional conduct.

Reflective task

Assessment Type [1]: Reflective Writing
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 12 hours
Due: **Please see iLearn**
Weighting: **30%**

Students are required to reflect on their personal understanding of the accounting profession and submit a total of six (500-700 word each) personal reflections on the unit's provided stimulus. The purpose of this assessment is to provide students with an opportunity to explore their experiences of learnings, events, thoughts and feelings and allow them to make sense of and form an opinion from this inquiry.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Analyse the environments in which an accountant works.

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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

This unit is structured as a participation subject as part of the PACE program and as Capstone unit. It integrates the materials that are covered in first and second year accounting and business law units, applying this material to an environment where accounting graduates become a professional in an environment that is contemporary, global and technologically driven.

The objectives of the unit are to consolidate and investigate the factors and contextual issues that influence the competitive business environment for an accountant. It addresses the role of an accounting professional in the application of governance structures, accountability regimes, professional development, skill enhancements, and a continuous awareness of self-positioning and self-renewal in terms of professional and personal competency. The unit is not only reflective and integrative, but also future-focused, offering opportunities for 'real world' preparatory experience in the accounting profession. The class is conducted through workshops and discussions where students learn to develop personal and professional skills in sustaining a professional profile in business and the profession.

The unit provides opportunities for students to engage with the community through panels from professional accounting bodies, community groups, NGO's, MQ alumni, public sector and commercial organisations, and others. The unit requires students to interact with the industry partners in order to complete a major research project under the supervision of a faculty member. The project includes topics that are valued by industry partners and are mutually beneficial to both Macquarie University students and industry partners. While the project attempts to bridge the gap between students and the accounting profession, it also provides an opportunity for students to clarify and refine their understanding of the accounting profession through discussion with industry partners and peers. Group work engages students in the challenges of interpersonal communication, task allocation, coordination and control. Cohesive and systematic presentations from a range of industry partners also provide students an opportunity to think critically about the accounting profession. Through these presentations students will gain an insight into organisations and be able to contextualise their graduate capabilities into the main project. By reflecting on industry partners' presentations students will be able to identify what they have learned about the accounting profession and how they have learned. This will result in a greater sense of ownership which, in return, will help students to

develop valuable career and leadership skills, improve their job prospects and make a difference to business and the community for which they work. Further, students are exposed to case studies which present realistic, complex, and contextually rich situations and involve dilemmas, conflicts, and/or problems accountants face in the profession, which will allow students to understand emergent issues for the accounting professionals.

The unit comprises 13 x 3 hour seminars that include lectures, presentations by industry partners, students' presentations, discussions and a feedback session. The components of the unit are structured as follows:

Introduction/Orientation: One 3 hour seminar to provide students with strong orientation to the University expectations and academic requirements for this PACE unit and addresses pragmatic concerns (group formation, communication and other logistical requirements). The first seminar includes a session on "Skills Audit". This session uses QUT's Self Understanding Module along with other skills audit activities that are available. This is embedded in the iLearn for ACCG315 and also includes a workbook that students need to print and fill in as part of the audit. The objective of this session is to make students rate themselves on a variety of key employability skills and also find evidence to support their ratings. (Skills include: Creativity and Innovation, Relationship Building, Problem Solving, Technology, Communication, Teamwork, Planning & Organising, Research). In order to give this skills audit context within the framework of the course structure, each industry partner will discuss 3 to 5 skills they feel are essential for the accountants to possess. Further, the first seminar also includes a session on "Personality Profiling/Career Matching" tools. Students are required to do a short online personality assessment: http://www.preludecharacteranalysis.com/explore/yourself and are given a personality type. With each personality type they are then given more details about the character traits of this personality type, career options they may be more suited to, their likely behaviour in the workplace.

The experience: Students are required to complete a session long "Accounting Profession" project. The project expects that students identify information needs, acquire the necessary information by consulting the information provided by industry participants, interpret the information and use it as the basis for recommendations. In order to complete this project students are required to attend five 3 hour seminars presented by industry partners including: professional accounting bodies; Big4 accounting firms; Commercial, financial and manufacturing firms; NFP; public sector and SMEs. The presentations from industry partners will help students become familiar (from multiple perspectives and viewpoints) with regulatory, cultural, technological and business environment issues that affect accounting and the accounting profession.

Assessment tasks: Knowledge and understanding are assessed by a mixture of assignments and presentations. The assessments include weekly individual reflective journals, essay and a group project report with an oral presentation. Oral presentations will take place in four 4 hour seminars judged by a panel comprising industry partners and academics.

Final Wrap-up/Debrief: One 3 hour seminar to review conclusions from the projects and evaluate findings. Industry partners will provide feedback on the students' findings. This seminar will also provide an opportunity for students to network with industry partners and discuss around

a specific and current accounting themes, which will further their understanding of the actual work context of their studies and enhance their skills. This seminar will also give an opportunity to network with students who can help tackle challenging projects. Through this seminar industry partners will also gain recognition for involvement in education, collaborate with academics, develop new networks with other organisations and gain access to potential future graduates.

EXPECTATIONS AND WORKLOAD

Students are expected to spend 150 hours working on this unit.

There is no prescribed text for this unit. Students will be provided the following supplementary reading (Web links of these readings will be uploaded on the unit web):

· A Changing Profession? - Association of Chartered Certified Accountants

· Developments in the global accountancy sector - Chartered Institute of Management Accountants

· The diverse roles of professional accountants in business - International Federation of Accountants

REFERENCE TEXTS/MATERIALS

Other journals and publications of interest include the following:

Accounting, Auditing and Accountability Journal

Accounting, Organisation and Society

Journal of Management Accounting Research

Management Accounting Research

Higher Education Research and Development

Journal of Accounting Education

Accounting Education: An International Journal

Journal of Business Research

Harvard Business Review

Accounting Horizons

Journal of Change Management

Journal of Organisational Change

Academy of Management Journal

Managerial Auditing Journal

Other publications

Australian Financial Review

The Australian

Business Review Weekly

Financial Management Magazine (Published by CIMA UK)

INTHEBLACK (Published by CPA Australia)

Charter Magazine (Published by ICAA Australia)

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

The principal technology used in this unit comprises web based access to resource materials (see above) and the learning management system called 'iLearn'.

Regular access to iLearn is strongly encouraged so that you have access to:

o   Resources developed for each class

o   Additional recommended reading and research resources

o   Additional information regarding assessment items that may be required

o   Any new information that may arise in relation to contingencies – including in relation to any changes in dates, timetables or class details

o   iLearn communication and discussion tools as an effective means to enhance learning for all students and staff.

UNIT WEB PAGE

The unit's logon iLearn address is: http://ilearn.mq.edu.au

To log on, students must first obtain a log on password from IT services or the library then click through to ACCG315. Students are required to check this site each week for lectures/industry partners slides (available for downloading and printing). In addition, other notes will be posted on the site from time to time. It is incumbent upon each student to regularly check **iLearn** (i.e. at least once a week).

PREPARATION FOR SEMINARS

It is essential that you prepare for each seminar by reading all materials and references carefully. This will include working through the relevant presentation notes of the industry partner carefully, noting any issues which you might like to discuss in-class and, of course, contributing to in-class discussions and overall 'group learning'.

You may download additional relevant class materials required each week from iLearn – login at https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/MQ/.   Additional class materials will be placed on iLearn prior to class time. It is your responsibility to ensure that you access and have copies of relevant material prior to classes. You should allow time for thorough reading of all materials before each class.

Unit Schedule

Please refer to iLean for weekly schedule

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (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). 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) 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.