



ACST2001

Financial Modelling

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2022

Department of Actuarial Studies and Business Analytics

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Sachi Purcal

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Contact via Please refer to iLearn

Deanna Tracy

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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

Gradebook

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

Late submissions of assessments

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, no extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available assessment-task marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24-hour period or part thereof that the submission is late. Late submissions will only be accepted up to 96 hours after the due date and time.

No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g., quizzes, online tests.

Table 1: Penalty calculation based on submission time

Submission time after the due date (including weekends)	Penalty (% of available assessment task mark)	Example: for a non-timed assessment task marked out of 30
< 24 hours	10%	10% x 30 marks = 3-mark deduction
24-48 hours	20%	20% x 30 marks = 6-mark deduction
48-72 hours	30%	30% x 30 marks = 9-mark deduction
72-96 hours	40%	40% x 30 marks = 12-mark deduction
> 96 hours	100%	Assignment won't be accepted

Special consideration

To request an extension on the due date/time for a timed or non-timed assessment task, you must submit a Special Consideration application. An application for Special Consideration does not guarantee approval.

The approved extension date for a student becomes the new due date for that student. The late submission penalties above then apply as of the new due date.

Where a Special Consideration application is approved, the student may be offered an alternative assessment or may receive a mark based on the percentage mark achieved by the student in one or more other assessment tasks, at the Unit Convenor's discretion.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Take-home Quizzes	20%	No	15/3/22 10/5/22
Spreadsheet Project Task	20%	No	3/5/22
Final Exam	60%	No	Exam period

Take-home Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **15/3/22 10/5/22**

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: **3/5/22**

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.

Final Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 28 hours

Due: **Exam period**

Weighting: **60%**

The final examination will be a two-hour written paper with ten minutes reading time, 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

Lectures

Lectures will be held on campus—please refer to the timetable or eStudent for class details. If you have registered to attend the online lecture, please note that there is no real-time live online class. A lecture recording will be available to students after the on-campus lecture is held.

Tutorials and Practicals

Tutorials will be held in week 01, and then in weeks 06 to 13, inclusive. Practical classes will only be held in weeks 02 to 05. Tutorials and practicals never run concurrently—in any week, you attend either a tutorial or practical, but never both.

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 Group Spreadsheet Project.

Unit Schedule

Week 01: Simple interest and short-term financial instruments, compound interest and bonds.

Weeks 02–03: Short-term financial instruments and bond prices.

Week 04: Bond prices, bond yields and zero coupon bonds.

Week 05: Re-investment risk and TRCY

Week 06: Horizon analysis.

Week 07: Horizon analysis, bond duration.

Mid-semester break.

Week 08: Bond duration.

Weeks 09–10: Contingent payments, forward contracts.

Week 11: Forward contracts.

Week 12: Option pricing.

Week 13: Revision.

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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution 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

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)

- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.

Unit information based on version 2022.04 of the [Handbook](#)