



ACST2001

Financial Modelling

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2022

Department of Actuarial Studies and Business Analytics

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Unit Schedule</u>	6
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	6

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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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

Late Assessment Submission Penalty (written assessments)

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for [Special Consideration](#).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Spreadsheet Project Task	20%	No	4/10/22
Take-home Quizzes	20%	No	16/8/22 and 11/10/22
Final Exam	60%	No	University Examination Period

Spreadsheet Project Task

Assessment Type ¹: Quantitative analysis task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **4/10/22**

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.

Take-home Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **16/8/22 and 11/10/22**

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.

Final Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 28 hours

Due: **University Examination 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

Reference books

You do NOT have to buy a printed textbook. You may find these books useful as additional references for some topics in ACST2001:

- Knox, D M, Zima, P & Brown, R L (1999) *Mathematics of Finance* (Second edition), Irwin/McGraw-Hill
- Sherris, M (1996) *Money & Capital Markets* (Second Edition), Allen & Unwin (available in library only)
- Viney C (2011) *Financial Market Essentials*, McGraw-Hill
- Valentine, T, Ford, G & Copp, R (2006) *Financial Markets & Institutions in Australia*, Prentice Hall

The recommended texts are available in the reserve section of Macquarie University Library.

For those wishing useful reference material on using Microsoft Excel, you may wish to buy a SIMnet online account <http://mq.simnetonline.com>.

Technology Used and Required

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 Spreadsheet quizzes and the Group Spreadsheet Project. In addition, students in ACST2001 will be given access to the financial industry data platform, FactSet. This can be accessed through a web browser. You will use the data from FactSet to complete a number of the assessment tasks in the unit.

PDF file

You might need to electronically submit your solutions (using iLearn) as PDF files for some of your assessments. Some possibilities to produce these files are: scan your handwritten solutions

to a PDF file; use WORD (or similar software) to type out your solutions and save your work as a PDF file. For each assessment you can only submit one PDF file; it must contain all the pages of your solution (so make sure, if your scanner produces separate PDF pages, that you can combine them into one file).

Unit Schedule

1	Simple interest and short-term financial instruments, compound interest and bonds
2–3	Short-term financial instruments and bond prices
4	Bond prices, bond yields and zero coupon bonds
5	Re-investment risk and TRCY
6	Horizon analysis
7	Horizon analysis, bond duration
	Session break
8	Bond duration
9–10	Contingent payments, forward contracts
11	Forward contracts
12	Option pricing
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 \(https://students.mq.edu.au/su\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/su)

[upport/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

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.