ACST1052
Introduction to Actuarial Studies
Session 1, Online-scheduled-In person assessment, North Ryde 2023
Department of Actuarial Studies and Business Analytics

Contents

General Information .................................................. 2
Learning Outcomes .................................................. 2
General Assessment Information ................................. 3
Assessment Tasks ...................................................... 3
Delivery and Resources .............................................. 6
Policies and Procedures .............................................. 6
Changes since First Published ...................................... 8

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https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/159952/unit_guide/print 1
## General Information

**Unit convenor and teaching staff**  
Unit Convenor and Lecturer  
Guillaume Boglioni Beaulieu  
g.boglioni@mq.edu.au

**Credit points**  
10

**Prerequisites**  
Admission to BActStud or BActStudBSc or BAppFinBActStud or BActStudBProfPrac or BActStudProfPrac(Hons)

**Corequisites**  
STAT1371

**Co-badged status**

**Unit description**  
This unit provides an introduction to the important underlying aspects of actuarial work. It looks at the development of actuarial techniques in the context of life insurance, general insurance, superannuation, and investment. The aim is to develop problem-solving and communication skills and give students some of the basic tools for risk management and financial modelling. The unit shows how studies in related disciplines (such as accounting, demography, economics, statistics, computing and mathematics) are essential to the education of an actuary. The unit works through the control cycle approach to insurance: business objectives, product design, risk assessment, modelling of insurance and financial risks (including claim frequency and claim size of individual claims and on a portfolio basis), pricing, reserving, investment and asset liability matching, claims management, legal requirements, solvency, profitability and responding to experience. This unit is relevant for students who want to become actuaries or risk managers. Students are assumed to have studied mathematics in high school up to at least HSC Extension 1 level or equivalent.

## 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](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates)

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

**ULO1**: Comprehend how the actuarial control cycle is used to identify and manage
ULO2: Construct simple cash flow models which can be used for decision making and implement these in Excel or other softwares.

ULO3: Apply demographic data and statistical models to price policies, determine ruin probabilities and implement simulation models in Excel or other softwares.

ULO4: Explain why legislation, accounting standards, codes of conduct, and professional requirements are necessary and how the business environment affects the management of the financial services business.

ULO5: Identify and discuss the tools which can be used to manage risk, including the impact of diversification and leverage, capital, risk pooling and risk transfer.

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>9 in total (TBC which weeks they are due)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Test</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Final Exams Period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Online Quizzes**

Assessment Type \(^1\): Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task \(^2\): 10 hours

Due: **9 in total (TBC which weeks they are due)**

Weighting: **20%**
Online quizzes will be held weekly.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Comprehend how the actuarial control cycle is used to identify and manage financial risks.
- Construct simple cash flow models which can be used for decision making and implement these in Excel or other softwares.
- Apply demographic data and statistical models to price policies, determine ruin probabilities and implement simulation models in Excel or other softwares.
- Explain why legislation, accounting standards, codes of conduct, and professional requirements are necessary and how the business environment affects the management of the financial services business.
- Identify and discuss the tools which can be used to manage risk, including the impact of diversification and leverage, capital, risk pooling and risk transfer.

Class Test
Assessment Type 1: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task 2: 10 hours
Due: Week 7
Weighting: 15%

The test will be approximately 90 minutes with 10 minutes reading time, to be held during class time.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Comprehend how the actuarial control cycle is used to identify and manage financial risks.
- Construct simple cash flow models which can be used for decision making and implement these in Excel or other softwares.
- Apply demographic data and statistical models to price policies, determine ruin probabilities and implement simulation models in Excel or other softwares.
- Explain why legislation, accounting standards, codes of conduct, and professional requirements are necessary and how the business environment affects the management of the financial services business.
• Identify and discuss the tools which can be used to manage risk, including the impact of diversification and leverage, capital, risk pooling and risk transfer.

**Assignment**

Assessment Type ¹: Quantitative analysis task  
Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours  
Due: **Week 12**  
Weighting: **20%**

Students will be asked to undertake a project which will include a numerical component (using a spreadsheet) and a written component.

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Comprehend how the actuarial control cycle is used to identify and manage financial risks.
- Construct simple cash flow models which can be used for decision making and implement these in Excel or other softwares.
- Apply demographic data and statistical models to price policies, determine ruin probabilities and implement simulation models in Excel or other softwares.
- Explain why legislation, accounting standards, codes of conduct, and professional requirements are necessary and how the business environment affects the management of the financial services business.
- Identify and discuss the tools which can be used to manage risk, including the impact of diversification and leverage, capital, risk pooling and risk transfer.

**Final Exam**

Assessment Type ¹: Examination  
Indicative Time on Task ²: 28 hours  
Due: **Final Exams Period**  
Weighting: **45%**

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:
• Comprehend how the actuarial control cycle is used to identify and manage financial risks.
• Construct simple cash flow models which can be used for decision making and implement these in Excel or other softwares.
• Apply demographic data and statistical models to price policies, determine ruin probabilities and implement simulation models in Excel or other softwares.
• Explain why legislation, accounting standards, codes of conduct, and professional requirements are necessary and how the business environment affects the management of the financial services business.
• Identify and discuss the tools which can be used to manage risk, including the impact of diversification and leverage, capital, risk pooling and risk transfer.

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
Please consult the iLearn site for information on Delivery and Resources.

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
• 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). 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:
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.

Changes since First Published

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>06/02/2023</td>
<td>Minor adjustments</td>
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</tbody>
</table>