AFCX6016
Finance Principles
Term 1, Online-flexible 2024

Department of Applied Finance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Guy Schofield
guy.schofield@mq.edu.au

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
Admission to GradCertFin (OUA)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit provides students with the key building blocks of finance within a single unifying conceptual framework. Students will be introduced to three of the key ideas in finance: the analysis of trade-offs over time, asset valuation and risk management. These concepts will then be applied to the following sub-fields of finance: corporate finance, investments, and financial markets and institutions.

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: Explain the role of financial institutions and markets in the economy and evaluate their effectiveness in allocating resources over time and transferring risk.

ULO2: Explain and demonstrate how time value of money concepts and discounted cash flow techniques are used in the analysis of financial decisions of individuals and firms.

ULO3: Explain and assess the key theories, concepts and models used in asset valuation, risk management, and portfolio theory.

ULO4: Apply key theories, concepts and models to develop solutions to problems in asset valuation, risk management, and portfolio theory.

ULO5: Explain and assess the key theories and concepts used in the analysis of a firm's
financing decision.

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>Assignment</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Refer to iLearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Refer to iLearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Refer to iLearn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Refer to iLearn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assignment

Assessment Type 1: Case study/analysis
Indicative Time on Task 2: 50 hours
Due: Refer to iLearn
Weighting: 30%

Assignment on a unit topic set by the unit convenor.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain and demonstrate how time value of money concepts and discounted cash flow techniques are used in the analysis of financial decisions of individuals and firms.
- Explain and assess the key theories, concepts and models used in asset valuation, risk management, and portfolio theory.
- Apply key theories, concepts and models to develop solutions to problems in asset valuation, risk management, and portfolio theory.
- Explain and assess the key theories and concepts used in the analysis of a firm’s financing decision.
Online Participation

Assessment Type 1: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task 2: 10 hours
Due: Refer to iLearn
Weighting: 10%

Participation in online discussion forums.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Explain the role of financial institutions and markets in the economy and evaluate their effectiveness in allocating resources over time and transferring risk.
• Explain and assess the key theories, concepts and models used in asset valuation, risk management, and portfolio theory.
• Apply key theories, concepts and models to develop solutions to problems in asset valuation, risk management, and portfolio theory.

Final exam

Assessment Type 1: Examination
Indicative Time on Task 2: 12 hours
Due: Refer to iLearn
Weighting: 40%

A two hour online exam on all topics.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Explain the role of financial institutions and markets in the economy and evaluate their effectiveness in allocating resources over time and transferring risk.
• Explain and demonstrate how time value of money concepts and discounted cash flow techniques are used in the analysis of financial decisions of individuals and firms.
• Explain and assess the key theories, concepts and models used in asset valuation, risk management, and portfolio theory.
• Apply key theories, concepts and models to develop solutions to problems in asset valuation, risk management, and portfolio theory.
• Explain and assess the key theories and concepts used in the analysis of a firm’s financing decision.

Online Quizzes

Assessment Type 1: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task 2: 3 hours
Due: **Refer to iLearn**  
Weighting: **20%**  

A number of short online topic quizzes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain and demonstrate how time value of money concepts and discounted cash flow techniques are used in the analysis of financial decisions of individuals and firms.
- Explain and assess the key theories, concepts and models used in asset valuation, risk management, and portfolio theory.
- Apply key theories, concepts and models to develop solutions to problems in asset valuation, risk management, and portfolio theory.

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**

Recommended texts and reading are provided on iLearn. Weekly online webinar to review the week's work - note: this webinar is not a lecture per se of new material.

**Unit Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Delivery Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic 0: Essential pre-work</td>
<td>Prior to 9-Jan-24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 1: Introduction to finance</td>
<td>Tuesday, 9 January 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 2: Financial markets and institutions</td>
<td>Tuesday, 16 January 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 3: Time value of money</td>
<td>Tuesday, 23 January 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 4: Valuation of financial assets (first half)</td>
<td>Tuesday, 30 January 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 4: Valuation of financial assets (second half)</td>
<td>Tuesday, 6 February 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 5: Analysing the firm's investment decision</td>
<td>Tuesday, 13 February 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 6: Analysing the firm's financing decision</td>
<td>Tuesday, 20 February 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic 7: Risk management</td>
<td>Tuesday, 27 February 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/162523/unit_guide/print](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/162523/unit_guide/print)
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 an
Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](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 Advocacy provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

**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/](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>22/01/2024</td>
<td>Participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/12/2023</td>
<td>Still has the wrong weighting. Correction came through on AFCP but not AFCX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13/12/2023</td>
<td>Still has wrong weighting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unit information based on version 2024.02 of the [Handbook](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offers/162523/unit_guide/print)