



AFCP8104

Contemporary Issues in Applied Finance

Term 1, Online-scheduled-weekday 2025

Department of Applied Finance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Lurion De Mello

lurion.demello@mq.edu.au

Brendon Harper

brendon.harper@mq.edu.au

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

(AFCP8101 or AFCP8004) and (AFCP8102 or AFCP8003) and (AFCP8103 or AFCP8005)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines a range of topical real-world issues in applied finance. The issues will depend on current financial and economic market conditions. Potential areas of interest are to be drawn from the fields of investment management, the financial system, corporate financial strategy and risk management. The focus will be on current and likely future conditions, and will seek to combine underlying theory, research skills and a strong practical emphasis.

Personal communication, negotiation and collaborative skills will be further developed. This Capstone unit will be undertaken towards the end of the program of study.

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: Synthesise knowledge of advance finance theories, models and concepts and recent research issues and apply it to a practical research-based project in applied finance.

ULO2: Design and execute a major project that solves a current business challenge in applied finance, in a practical and well-justified manner.

ULO3: Effectively communicate complex information, decisions and recommendations to

a professional audience.

ULO4: Reflect on skills and knowledge gained and recognise common preconceptions and assumptions within the finance profession.

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 apply for [Special Consideration](#).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Assessment 1A: Proposal for Research Project	15%	No	26 Jan 2025
Assessment 2: Reflection	30%	No	17 Feb 2025
Assessment 1B: Research Presentation	15%	No	9 March 2025
Assessment 1C: Research Project	40%	No	21 March 2025

Assessment 1A: Proposal for Research Project

Assessment Type ¹: Plan

Indicative Time on Task ²: 5 hours

Due: **26 Jan 2025**

Weighting: **15%**

Initial Proposal for Research Project. Prepared in class. Maximum of 1,000 words.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Synthesise knowledge of advance finance theories, models and concepts and recent research issues and apply it to a practical research-based project in applied finance.
- Design and execute a major project that solves a current business challenge in applied

finance, in a practical and well-justified manner.

Assessment 2: Reflection

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **17 Feb 2025**

Weighting: **30%**

Reflect on knowledge and skills gained and recognise common preconceptions and assumptions made within the finance profession. Group discussion and individual presentation.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Synthesise knowledge of advance finance theories, models and concepts and recent research issues and apply it to a practical research-based project in applied finance.
- Effectively communicate complex information, decisions and recommendations to a professional audience.
- Reflect on skills and knowledge gained and recognise common preconceptions and assumptions within the finance profession.

Assessment 1B: Research Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task ²: 5 hours

Due: **9 March 2025**

Weighting: **15%**

Presentation of Research Project. Approximately 2-3 minutes.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Design and execute a major project that solves a current business challenge in applied finance, in a practical and well-justified manner.
- Effectively communicate complex information, decisions and recommendations to a professional audience.

Assessment 1C: Research Project

Assessment Type ¹: Professional writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **21 March 2025**

Weighting: **40%**

An individual assessment of up to 5,000 words on an agreed research topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Synthesise knowledge of advance finance theories, models and concepts and recent research issues and apply it to a practical research-based project in applied finance.
- Design and execute a major project that solves a current business challenge in applied finance, in a practical and well-justified manner.
- Effectively communicate complex information, decisions and recommendations to a professional audience.

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 see ilearn

Unit Schedule

Unit Schedule

Topic	Week	Session	Time
1. Bringing it all together and research topic	1	Tuesday, 14 Jan 2025	6:30 - 8:00 pm
2. Research methods and topic presentations	2	Tuesday, 21 Jan 2025	6:30 - 8:00 pm
3. Sustainable Development Goals and Applied Finance; group formation	3	Tuesday, 28 Jan 2025	6:30 - 8:00 pm

4. Problem solving, negotiations, communications and presentation skills Weekend Session 1	4	Saturday, 8th Feb 2025	10.00am -3pm
		Sunday, 9th Feb 2025	10.00am -3pm
5. Finalise Group SDG Presentations	5	Tuesday, 11 Feb 2025	6:30 - 8:00 pm
6. Sustainable Development Goals presentations + Q&A	6	Tuesday, 18 Feb 2025	6:30 - 8:00 pm
7. Work on Research paper & presentations	7	Tuesday, 25 Feb 2025	6:30 - 8:00 pm
8. Research Presentations Weekend Session 2	8	Saturday, 8 March 2025	10am -3pm
		Sunday, 9 March 2025	10am -3pm
9. Tips and Guidance, Research Paper Q&A	9	Tuesday, 11 March 2025	6.30- 8:00 pm
10. Finalise Research Paper	10	Tuesday, 18 March 2025	6:30 - 8:00 pm

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 connect.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 Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), 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 2025.04 of the [Handbook](#)