



AFIN3053

Advanced Corporate Finance

Session 1, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2025

Department of Applied Finance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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See ilearn

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

20cp at 2000 level or above including AFIN2050 or AFIN2053

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit challenges the student to consider a comprehensive set of factors that influence organisations in raising equity, payout policy, investment and finance decisions within a dynamic framework. Students need to be able to appreciate the theoretical and practical implications of the multifaceted nature of corporate finance; the different issues (including flexibility) to be considered, and the different approaches available, in valuing project cash flows; determining capital structure; assessing the costs and benefits of mergers and acquisitions, real options; and the link between corporate governance and finance.

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: Interpret market data and accounting reports and identify suitable valuation techniques to conduct asset valuation.

ULO2: Examine alternative quantitative approaches available in corporate finance in valuating companies and/or projects.

ULO3: Analyse the factors that influence companies in their financial decisions.

ULO4: Investigate the cost and benefits of mergers and acquisitions and real options.

ULO5: Work collaboratively within a team to prepare a business valuation.

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
Professional practice: Finance industry databases	35%	No	21 April individual, 26 May group presentation recording
Formal and observed learning: Test	15%	No	9:30am Thursday 8 May on-campus in-lecture
Formal and observed learning: Exam	50%	No	See central exam timetable

Professional practice: Finance industry databases

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **21 April individual, 26 May group presentation recording**

Weighting: **35%**

The purpose of this assessment is for you to deepen your expertise in working with databases commonly used in the finance industry. You will analyse and value a listed company of your choice. **Skills in focus:** - Digital skills - Work Readiness - Problem-solving - Analytical skills - Communication skills **Deliverable:** Spreadsheet submission and presentation Individual and Group assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Interpret market data and accounting reports and identify suitable valuation techniques to conduct asset valuation.
- Examine alternative quantitative approaches available in corporate finance in valuating companies and/or projects.
- Analyse the factors that influence companies in their financial decisions.
- Investigate the cost and benefits of mergers and acquisitions and real options.
- Work collaboratively within a team to prepare a business valuation.

Formal and observed learning: Test

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **9:30am Thursday 8 May on-campus in-lecture**

Weighting: **15%**

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate your understanding and knowledge of key topics from the unit. You will participate in a formal test. Feedback on your performance will help you assess your progress through the unit content. **Deliverable:** Test Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Interpret market data and accounting reports and identify suitable valuation techniques to conduct asset valuation.
- Examine alternative quantitative approaches available in corporate finance in valuating companies and/or projects.
- Analyse the factors that influence companies in their financial decisions.

Formal and observed learning: Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **See central exam timetable**

Weighting: **50%**

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate the expertise you have gained in this unit. You will participate in a 2-hour exam held during the University Examination period. Important information about the exam will be made available on the unit iLearn page. You should also review the [MQ Exams website](#) for general tips. **Deliverable:** Formal exam Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Interpret market data and accounting reports and identify suitable valuation techniques to conduct asset valuation.
- Examine alternative quantitative approaches available in corporate finance in valuating companies and/or projects.
- Analyse the factors that influence companies in their financial decisions.
- Investigate the cost and benefits of mergers and acquisitions and real options.

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

Learning and Teaching Activities

The content for each week will comprise a live lecture which will be recorded, a set of readings and tutorial questions.

Lectures

A lecture recording will be uploaded each week where readings and case studies are discussed.

Tutorials

Students will need to register for a tutorial. Tutorials are considered compulsory but no marks are allocated. Tutorials will be available for most, but not all weeks of the session. In weeks where there aren't any live (on-campus or online) tutorials, a recording will be provided to cover the relevant material.

The tutorial schedule will be made available on iLearn.

Tutorial enrolment or change of tutorial can be made through *eStudent* in the first two weeks of the session. No tutorial changes are allowed after Week 2. Students should attend their allocated tutorial, but exceptions may occur on a one-off basis. That is, where circumstances prevent you from attending your own tutorial in a given week, you may attend an alternative tutorial if room available.

Students are expected to complete the tutorial questions as a self-directed study activity before attending a tutorial. Additional learning support will be available in tutor consultation times.

Timetable for classes can be found on the University web site.

Recommended Text (not compulsory to buy)

Berk J. and P. DeMarzo. 2019. *Corporate Finance. Global Edition, 5th Edition*, Harlow, Pearson Higher Ed USA. ISBN 9781292304151

Communication Channels

For discussion of subject materials please speak to the lecturer and tutors on iLearn or in consultation.

Academic Consultation

Staff will be available for academic consultation throughout the session in teaching weeks. A schedule of consultation times and locations will be available on iLearn from Week 2.

Technology Used and Required

The unit will use an online learning and teaching facility known as iLearn, accessed through the following link <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/login/>

Students should monitor iLearn content frequently to ensure timely access to announcements, unit material, and assessment information.

To complete the assignment, students will be required to use Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word software.

Calculators will be allowed in the class tests and the final examination but a clear indication of the steps involved in every calculation must be shown. Non-programmable calculators with no text-retrieval capacity are allowed. Financial calculators are allowed. Calculators that have a full alphabet on the keyboard are not allowed. Graphics calculators are not allowed.

Unit Schedule

Week	Week date (Thursday)	Lecture topic	Lectures	Tutorials
1	27-Feb	Topic 1: Terminal values using multiples and perpetuities. Inflation-linked bonds (ILB's) and other market-based valuation inputs.	Yes	No
2	6-Mar	Topic 2: Bottom-up analysis: cash flows, profits and balance sheets. Integrated pro-forma financial statement modeling using spreadsheets.	Yes	Yes
3	13-Mar	Topic 3: Debt, taxes, capital budgeting and valuation with leverage.	Yes	Yes
4	20-Mar	Topic 4: Examples of analysts' models and reports.	Yes	Yes
5	27-Mar	Topic 5: Top-down analysis.	Yes	Yes
6	3-Apr	Topic 6: Raising equity.	Yes	Yes
7	10-Apr	Topic 7: Payout policy.	Yes	Yes
Mid-session break from Monday 14 April to Sunday 27 April. Individual spreadsheet valuation worth 20% due 23:55 Monday 21 April.			No	No
8	1-May	Topic 8: Mergers and acquisitions.	Yes	Yes
9	8-May	Mid session on-campus in-lecture test worth 15% on Thursday 8 May, start at 9:30am, finish at 10:30am. Tutorials run as normal.	Yes	Yes
10	15-May	Topic 9: Options.	Yes	Yes
11	22-May	Topic 10: Real options. Group presentation recording worth 15% due 23:55 Monday 26 May.	Yes	Yes
12	29-May	Topic 11: Corporate governance.	Yes	Yes
13	5-Jun	Final exam revision.	Yes	Yes

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/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) 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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
21/02/2025	Fixed spelling mistake.

Unit information based on version 2025.04 of the [Handbook](#)