



# AFCP8145

## Advanced Investment Management

Term 1, Online-scheduled-weekday 2025

*Department of Applied Finance*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Dr Tano Pelosi

[tano.pelosi@mq.edu.au](mailto:tano.pelosi@mq.edu.au)

Aaron Minney

[aaron.minney@mq.edu.au](mailto:aaron.minney@mq.edu.au)

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MAppFin or GradDipAppFin

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit connects the "Why" to the "How" of investment Management. It applies strategies and techniques employed by successful investment managers for investing to match the required outcomes for these investments, particularly in the accumulation and retirement phases of the superannuation and retirement industry.

## 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 tools and techniques used by industry participants to construct investment portfolios to meet long term objectives.

**ULO2:** Critically evaluate investment management strategies and solutions and their impact on objectives over time.

**ULO3:** Develop and defend recommended investment management strategy solution(s) and judgement(s).

## 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
<u>Investment Management Case Study</u>	35%	No	Week 5
<u>Lifecycle advice assignment</u>	35%	No	Week 10
<u>Final assessment</u>	30%	No	Week 11

### Investment Management Case Study

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 30 hours

Due: **Week 5**

Weighting: **35%**

A case study report of up to 2,000 words including both quantitative and qualitative analysis.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the tools and techniques used by industry participants to construct investment portfolios to meet long term objectives.
- Critically evaluate investment management strategies and solutions and their impact on objectives over time.
- Develop and defend recommended investment management strategy solution(s) and judgement(s).

## Lifecycle advice assignment

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Quantitative analysis task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **Week 10**

Weighting: **35%**

Prepare and submit a report based on analysis of the data submitted using the lifecycle framework

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the tools and techniques used by industry participants to construct investment portfolios to meet long term objectives.
- Critically evaluate investment management strategies and solutions and their impact on objectives over time.
- Develop and defend recommended investment management strategy solution(s) and judgement(s).

## Final assessment

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **Week 11**

Weighting: **30%**

A time-constrained task based on scenarios. Open book.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain the tools and techniques used by industry participants to construct investment portfolios to meet long term objectives.
- Critically evaluate investment management strategies and solutions and their impact on objectives over time.
- Develop and defend recommended investment management strategy solution(s) and judgement(s).

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

See ilearn

## Unit Schedule

Weekly lectures commencing on Wednesday 15 January, 2025

Week 0 Overview of Investment Principles - Pre-reading

Week 1: The Investment Management Process

Week 2: Factor Models & Quant Investing

Week 3: Asset Selection & Frontier Asset Classes

Weekend Block Class - 1 & 2 February): Asset Allocation & Portfolio Construction

Week 4: Performance Measurement & Risk Management

Week 5: Institutional Investment & AI

Week 6: Lifecycle Investment Concepts

Week 7: Lifecycle Investment Modelling

Weekend Block Class (1 & 2 March): Case Studies

Week 8: Life Stage Case Studies

Week 9: Retirement Challenge

Week 10: Solutions to Retirement Challenge

Week 11: Exam

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.s.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.s.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](https://connect.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto: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/](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
18/12/2024	Changes in Lecture topics and sequence

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Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)