



AFCX6016

Finance Principles

Term 1, Online-flexible 2025

Department of Applied Finance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Guy Schofield

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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 apply for [*Special Consideration*](#).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Online Participation</u>	10%	No	See iLearn
<u>Assignment</u>	30%	No	See iLearn
<u>Online Quizzes</u>	20%	No	See iLearn
<u>Final exam</u>	40%	No	Saturday 22 March 25

Online Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **See 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.

Assignment

Assessment Type ¹: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **See 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 Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 3 hours

Due: **See 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.

Final exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **Saturday 22 March 25**

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.

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

Weekly webinar

See iLearn for further details.

Unit Schedule

Week	Topic	Weekly webinar 6.30pm (complete all weeks work prior to this)

0	Topic 0: Essential pre-work	
1	Topic 1: Introduction to finance	Tuesday, 14 January 2025
2	Topic 2: Financial markets and institutions	Tuesday, 21 January 2025
3	Topic 3: Time value of money	Tuesday, 28 January 2025
4	Topic 4.1: Valuation of financial assets (first half - Bonds)	Tuesday, 4 February 2025
5	Topic 4.2: Valuation of financial assets (second half - Stocks)	Tuesday, 11 February 2025
6	Topic 5: Analysing the firm's investment decision	Tuesday, 18 February 2025
7	Topic 6: Analysing the firm's financing decision	Tuesday, 25 February 2025
8	Topic 7: Risk management	Tuesday, 4 March 2025
9	Topic 8: Portfolio theory	Tuesday, 11 March 2025
10	Review & Revise	Tuesday, 18 March 2025

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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
06/12/2024	.

Unit information based on version 2025.01R of the [Handbook](#)