



# ACCG8047

## Fundamentals of Forensic Accounting

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

*Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

### Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

Stefan Williams

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Moderator

Jessica Zhang

[jessica.zhang@mq.edu.au](mailto:jessica.zhang@mq.edu.au)

### Credit points

10

### Prerequisites

(Admission to MAdvProfAcc or MCyberSec or GradCertForAccg or GradDipForAccg or MForAccgFinCri or Master of Laws in Corporations, Human Rights, and Sustainability (MLCHRS) or Graduate Certificate of Financial Integrity Law (GCFIL)) or ACCG6011

### Corequisites

### Co-badged status

### Unit description

This unit examines issues relevant to forensic accounting and the role played by the forensic accountant in the legal and business context. It covers various techniques of financial fraud prevention, investigation and detection. Students will develop an understanding of the motivations for, and symptoms of, financial fraud. Topics include processes of evidence collection and evaluation, legal report writing, interviewing witnesses, fraud prevention, and an introduction to financial and data analysis processes. By the conclusion of the unit students will have gained essential forensic accounting skills.

## 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:** Explore the role and character of forensic accounting and its relationship to the legal system including the legal, ethical and professional obligations of forensic

accountants.

**ULO2:** Appraise the nature of, and concepts relevant to, civil, criminal and administrative procedure and articulate the role of forensic accounting in the calculation of commercial and economic damages, and the compiling of business valuation reports.

**ULO3:** Examine and investigate indicators of fraudulent activity and demonstrate knowledge of investigative processes and techniques, and their application.

**ULO4:** Analyse techniques in evidence collection and evaluation and develop the ability to present the results of an investigation in a legal context.

**ULO5:** Review and evaluate the role of governance structures, internal controls and compliance policies for the prevention of financial fraud.

## 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
<a href="#"><u>Professional practice: Forensic accounting</u></a>	40%	No	02/06/2025
<a href="#"><u>Formal and observed learning: Test</u></a>	30%	No	31/03/2025
<a href="#"><u>Skills development: Investigating financial crimes</u></a>	30%	No	26/05/2025

### Professional practice: Forensic accounting

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Essay

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 35 hours

Due: **02/06/2025**

Weighting: **40%**

The purpose of this assessment is for you to gain expertise in an emerging, future-focussed aspect of forensic accounting. You will respond to a scenario and critically engage with the topic

provided. **Skills in focus:** - Research skills - Communication skills **Deliverable:** Written submission [max. 2,000 words] Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine and investigate indicators of fraudulent activity and demonstrate knowledge of investigative processes and techniques, and their application.
- Analyse techniques in evidence collection and evaluation and develop the ability to present the results of an investigation in a legal context.
- Review and evaluate the role of governance structures, internal controls and compliance policies for the prevention of financial fraud.

## Formal and observed learning: Test

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 15 hours

Due: **31/03/2025**

Weighting: **30%**

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate your understanding and knowledge of key topics from the unit covered in Weeks 1-5. You will participate in a formal test. Feedback on this test will help you assess your progress through the unit content.. **Deliverable:** Test Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explore the role and character of forensic accounting and its relationship to the legal system including the legal, ethical and professional obligations of forensic accountants.
- Appraise the nature of, and concepts relevant to, civil, criminal and administrative procedure and articulate the role of forensic accounting in the calculation of commercial and economic damages, and the compiling of business valuation reports.

## Skills development: Investigating financial crimes

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 25 hours

Due: **26/05/2025**

Weighting: **30%**

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate your skills in investigating financial

crime through forensic accounting techniques. You will collaboratively apply theoretical concepts and frameworks to analyse real-world fraudulent schemes. **Skills in focus:** - Critical Thinking - Problem solving - Digital skills **Deliverable:** Written submission Group assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explore the role and character of forensic accounting and its relationship to the legal system including the legal, ethical and professional obligations of forensic accountants.
- Appraise the nature of, and concepts relevant to, civil, criminal and administrative procedure and articulate the role of forensic accounting in the calculation of commercial and economic damages, and the compiling of business valuation reports.
- Examine and investigate indicators of fraudulent activity and demonstrate knowledge of investigative processes and techniques, and their application.
- Analyse techniques in evidence collection and evaluation and develop the ability to present the results of an investigation in a legal context.
- Review and evaluate the role of governance structures, internal controls and compliance policies for the prevention of financial fraud.

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<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

Please refer to the ACCG 8047 iLearn page for information.

## Unit Schedule

Topics	Readings	
Week 1	<p>The field and practice of forensic accounting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction</li><li>• The legal, regulatory, professional environment, and ethics</li><li>• Professional roles of fraud and forensic accounting professionals</li></ul>	Rufus 1, 2

Week 2	<p>Fraud-related services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of fraud</li> <li>• Fraud detection, prevention, deterrence, investigation, remediation</li> <li>• Fraudulent financial reporting</li> </ul>	Rufus 6, 7
Week 3	<p>Fraud-related services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Misappropriation of assets</li> </ul>	Rufus 6, 7
Week 4	<p>Engagement management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and managing an investigation</li> <li>• Case management and communication</li> <li>• Reporting and closure</li> </ul>	Crain 7 Rufus 3
Week 5	<p>Evidence collection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of evidence</li> <li>• Documents</li> <li>• Interviewing</li> <li>• Evidence management</li> </ul>	Rufus 4
Week 6	<p>Transforming Data into Evidence - Data Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial transactions / Islamic finance</li> <li>• The role of data analysis</li> <li>• Data sources</li> <li>• Data analysis tools</li> </ul>	Rufus 8
Week 7	<p>Financial analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Context of financial reporting</li> <li>• Foundations of financial analysis</li> <li>• Methods of financial analysis</li> </ul>	Rufus 5
Week 8	<p>Transforming Data into Evidence - Data and Digital Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Descriptive statistics</li> <li>• Methods for displaying data</li> <li>• Money laundering</li> </ul>	Rufus 8, 9
Week 9	<p>Evidence analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate intelligence</li> <li>• Big data</li> <li>• Digital forensics for accountants</li> </ul>	Rufus 4, 5

Week 10	Commercial and economic damages <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Damages litigation</li><li>• Damages calculation</li></ul>	Rufus, 12
Week 11	Business valuation <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Valuation fundamentals</li><li>• Financial analysis</li><li>• Business valuation reports</li></ul>	Rufus 11
Week 12	Accountant as an expert witness <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Legal frameworks</li><li>• Litigation support from accountants</li><li>• Forensic accountants and the court</li></ul>	Rufus 10
Week 13	Special topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cyber crime</li><li>• Crypto currencies</li></ul>	Rufus 12

## 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](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.

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Unit information based on version 2025.03 of the [Handbook](#)