



MMBA8035

Finance for Business Leaders: Steering Growth and Performance

Term 4, Online-scheduled-weekday 2026

Department of Applied Finance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Lindesay Brine

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Contact via Email / Teams

Peter Kavalamthara

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Contact via Email

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to GradCertBusAdmin or GradDipBusAdmin or MMBA8040

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Unlock the essential principles of financial management through the lens of a firm's finance manager. This unit offers comprehensive insights into investment, financing, and dividend decisions, empowering you to navigate complex financial landscapes confidently. We will use finance theory to construct a robust framework for informed decision-making, supported by practical case studies and financial planning models that provide real-world context. Explore a range of methodologies for evaluating investment projects, assessing risk across competing initiatives, and conducting valuation and capital structure analyses. By mastering these strategic tools and techniques, you'll be equipped to drive sustainable growth and optimise performance in any organisational setting.

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: Apply finance theory, frameworks and methods to form evidence-based and strategic investment solutions for a range of problems.

ULO2: Evaluate and communicate the implications of a firm's finance and investment decisions/strategies for stakeholders both as an individual and a group.

ULO3: Analyse and employ models of business finance performance to measure and track the firm's value creation across the firm's operations both as an individual and a group.

General Assessment Information

Late Submission Penalties (written assessments)

If you submit your assessment late, 5% of the total possible marks will be deducted for each day (including weekends), up to 7 days. Submissions more than 7 days late will receive a mark of 0.

Example 1 (out of 100):

If you score 85/100 but submit **20 hours late**, you will lose **5 marks** and receive **80/100**.

Example 2 (out of 30):

If you score 27/30 but submit **20 hours late**, you will lose **1.5 marks** and receive **25.5/30**.

Extensions

Automatic short extension: Some assessments are eligible for automatic short extension. You can only apply for an automatic short extension before the due date.

Special Consideration: If you need more time due to serious issues and for any assessments that are not eligible for Short Extension, you must apply for Special Consideration. Need help? Review the [Special Consideration page](https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration) for further details: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Skills Development: Quiz and Reflection	20%	No	18/10/2026	Individual	No	Open
Professional Practice: Company Valuation	40%	No	09/11/2026	Individual and Group	No	Open
Formal and Observed Learning: Exam	40%	No	Exam Period (30/11 - 2/12)	Individual	No	Observed

Skills Development: Quiz and Reflection

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **18/10/2026**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

The purpose of this assessment is for you to understand key finance concepts and their application in practice.

You will solve a set of finance problems based on content covered in class and then reflect on how these concepts can apply to your personal and professional life.

Skills in focus:

- Discipline Knowledge
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Communication

Deliverable(s): Online Quiz (10%) and reflection [max. 750 words] (10%)

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply finance theory, frameworks and methods to form evidence-based and strategic investment solutions for a range of problems.
- Evaluate and communicate the implications of a firm's finance and investment decisions/strategies for stakeholders both as an individual and a group.

Professional Practice: Company Valuation

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **09/11/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

The purpose of this assessment is for you to work with peers to demonstrate your capability in valuing a company and communicating the recommendations based on that analysis.

You will create a complete financial model of a specified company and potential strategies, a

company valuation and presentation of the recommendations and rationale.

Skills in focus:

- Work Readiness
- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Collaboration
- Communication

Deliverable(s): Written Group report [max: 2,500 words - 20%] & Group Presentation [max: 3 mins per person marked individually 20%]

Individual and Group assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply finance theory, frameworks and methods to form evidence-based and strategic investment solutions for a range of problems.
- Evaluate and communicate the implications of a firm's finance and investment decisions/ strategies for stakeholders both as an individual and a group.

Formal and Observed Learning: Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Exam Period (30/11 - 2/12)**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

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 online open-book exam held during the University Examination period, including an oral component. 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(s): Open-book online & oral exam

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply finance theory, frameworks and methods to form evidence-based and strategic investment solutions for a range of problems.

- Evaluate and communicate the implications of a firm's finance and investment decisions/strategies for stakeholders both as an individual and a group.
 - Analyse and employ models of business finance performance to measure and track the firm's value creation across the firm's operations both as an individual and a group.
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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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

This unit is delivered in person at the City Campus and online simultaneously.

Sessions 1 & 2 will be facilitated by Peter Kavalanthara. Remaining sessions will be facilitated by Lindesay Brine

Unit Schedule

In Weeks 1 & 2, classes will be from 6 pm until 10 pm on Thursday. From Week 3, classes are held weekly from 6 pm to 9 pm each Thursday, plus an additional 1-hour online session to be scheduled. Week 4 and Week 5 sessions will be online only. Please check iLearn for details.

Week 1: Introduction/Time Value of Money

Week 2: Financial Mathematics

Week 3: Capital Budgeting and Investment Evaluation

Week 4: Capital Budgeting and Investment Evaluation (continued)

Week 5: Business Valuation: Part 1

Week 6: Business Valuation: Part 2

Week 7: Risk & Return

Week 8: Capital Structure Decisions

Week 9: Management of Equity: Dividend Decisions and Equity Buybacks

Week 10: Revision

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.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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 2026.04 of the [Handbook](#)