MMBA8014

FinTech and Innovation: Transforming the Industry and Unleashing Creative Solutions

Term 4, Online-scheduled-weekday 2026

Department of Applied Finance

Contents

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Di Bu di.bu@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites Admission to MBA or GradCertDigFin or MAppFin or GradDipAppFin
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description The finance industry is undergoing a profound transformation driven by technology, promising to disrupt traditional practices and reshape industry dynamics. This forward-looking unit explores the foundational elements of Financial Technology (FinTech), including blockchain, big data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence (AI). Through compelling real-world case studies and cutting-edge examples, we explore how these groundbreaking technologies are revolutionising industry structures and practices. Together, we uncover transformative solutions to fundamental financial challenges, tackle economic complexities, and overcome psychological barriers, while sparking disruptive innovations in the finance sector. Join us on this exciting journey to prepare for a new era in 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: Identify fundamental economic and psychological issues in the current financial system.

ULO2: Evaluate in teams and individually major advances in blockchain, machine learning, and artificial intelligence that are applicable to finance problems.

ULO3: Analyse recent developments in FinTech and its impact in transforming the finance industry.

ULO4: Assess the risks arising from FinTech and understand the dynamics between the innovations and regulations.

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 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: Online quiz	20%	No	23/10/2026	Individual	No	Open
Professional practice: FinTech case study	40%	No	06/11/2026	Individual	No	Open
Professional practice: FinTech strategic pitch	40%	No	23/11/2026	Individual	No	Open

Skills development: Online quiz

Assessment Type [1]: Problem-based task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 15 hours
Due: **23/10/2026**
Weighting: **20%**
Groupwork/Individual: Individual
Short extension [3]: No

AI Approach: Open

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate the expertise you have gained on theory and application of FinTech and Innovation.

You will participate in an online multiple-choice and short answer quiz, covering all topics discussed in session 1 to 6.

Deliverable(s): Open-book online exam

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify fundamental economic and psychological issues in the current financial system.
- Evaluate in teams and individually major advances in blockchain, machine learning, and artificial intelligence that are applicable to finance problems.

Professional practice: FinTech case study

Assessment Type [1]: Problem-based task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 25 hours
Due: **06/11/2026**
Weighting: **40%**
Groupwork/Individual: Individual
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach: Open

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate your understanding of FinTech ecosystem and your ability to conduct market research and industry analysis on a FinTech startup.

You will conduct market research and industry analysis of one FinTech startup of choice and develop a written business report discussing the insights from your research.

Skills in focus:

- Discipline knowledge
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Communication skills
- Work readiness

Deliverable(s): Written submission [max 2000 words]

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify fundamental economic and psychological issues in the current financial system.
- Evaluate in teams and individually major advances in blockchain, machine learning, and

artificial intelligence that are applicable to finance problems.
- Analyse recent developments in FinTech and its impact in transforming the finance industry.

Professional practice: FinTech strategic pitch

Assessment Type [1]: Problem-based task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 15 hours
Due: **23/11/2026**
Weighting: **40%**
Groupwork/Individual: Individual
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach: Open

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate your understanding of theories and concepts of FinTech ecosystem discussed in the unit and your ability to think critically and apply relevant theories, concepts and frameworks to identify investment recommendations of the chosen FinTech startup.

You will develop a presentation to address (1) an overview of the chosen FinTech startup, (2) key research findings of this company and (3) investment recommendation for the company. You will also be required to provide feedback on other learner's presentations.

Skills in focus:

- Discipline knowledge
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Communication skills
- Work readiness

Deliverable(s): Presentation (max 5 minutes; 8 slides)

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:
- Identify fundamental economic and psychological issues in the current financial system.
- Evaluate in teams and individually major advances in blockchain, machine learning, and artificial intelligence that are applicable to finance problems.
- Analyse recent developments in FinTech and its impact in transforming the finance industry.
- Assess the risks arising from FinTech and understand the dynamics between the innovations and regulations.

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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

No prescribed textbook is required. The unit will utilize various library resources, including research papers, book chapters, case studies, etc. All materials will be provided via iLearn or during the lecture.

We will supplement the lecture materials with readings from journals and other textbooks. A list of relevant material will be provided via iLearn.

Unit Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Why FinTech? Financial Frictions, Trust and the Australian FinTech Landscape
2	Data as Financial Infrastructure: Open Banking, Open Finance, Digital Identity and Privacy
3	AI, Alternative Data and Predictive Analytics in Finance
4	Digital Consumer and SME Credit: Alternative Finance and Financial Inclusion
5	From Software to an AI Finance Workforce: SME Financial Operations and FinTech Entrepreneurship
6	Sustainable and Climate FinTech: Can Technology Make Finance Better, Not Just Faster?
7	Personalised Finance: WealthTech, and Behavioural Design
8	Technology and the Future of Investment Management: AI, Alternative Data and Quantitative Investing
9	Responsible FinTech: AI Governance, Model Risk, Consumer Protection and RegTech
10	in-class presentation

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central (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). 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) 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 2026.05 of the Handbook