



ACCG2051

Governance, Business and Corporations Law

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Michael Quilter michael.quilter@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites 40cp at 1000 level or above
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit introduces students to the Australian legal system, including contract law, and focuses on corporate law and regulation. The relationship between the law and the role of accounting and business professionals is an underlying theme and students are encouraged to develop critical thinking skills as they analyse and evaluate legal issues in a commercial context. The unit will provide students with perspectives on a range of commercially important legal issues such as forming a business, management responsibilities, investor/shareholder protection, and insolvency. Topics include contract law, agency, partnerships, characteristics of companies, director's duties, rights of shareholders, voluntary administration, and liquidation. At the conclusion of the unit students will be aware of legal regulation applicable to different types of business organisations, particularly companies, and be able to identify and evaluate a range of corporate legal issues.

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 the features of the Australian legal system including the law of contract and distinguish business organisations based on their legal characteristics.

ULO2: Explain how companies are formed, differentiate between types of companies, and analyse and evaluate the role and obligations of directors.

ULO3: Examine how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act

regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.

ULO4: Analyse insolvency mechanisms and issues, and critically assess corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.

ULO5: Apply data protection and privacy regulations when using or sharing data and information in the business environment.

General Assessment Information

Late Submission Penalties

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 may receive a mark of 0.

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. Review the [Special Consideration page](#) for further details.

Tests

The Week 13 Test will be taken by all students on campus – if you are in an on-campus tutorial you will sit the test at your usual tutorial time in your usual tutorial room – if you are in an online tutorial you will sit the test in an allocated room on campus at your usual tutorial time (subject to room availability).

More information about assessment, including the timing and location of the tests, will be available on iLearn at the start of session.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Skills development: Quiz	30%	No	Week 7	Individual	No	Open AI
Professional practice: Legal issues today	40%	No	17/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open AI
Formal examination: Test	30%	No	Week 13	Individual	No	Observed

Skills development: Quiz

Assessment Type [1](#): Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 25 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open AI

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate your understanding and knowledge of key topics from the unit.

You will participate in an online quiz.

Skills in focus: Discipline knowledge

Deliverable(s): Online quiz

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify the features of the Australian legal system including the law of contract and distinguish business organisations based on their legal characteristics.
- Explain how companies are formed, differentiate between types of companies, and analyse and evaluate the role and obligations of directors.
- Examine how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.
- Analyse insolvency mechanisms and issues, and critically assess corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.
- Apply data protection and privacy regulations when using or sharing data and information in the business environment.

Professional practice: Legal issues today

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **17/09/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open AI

The purpose of this assessment is for you to apply the expertise you have gained in this unit to current issues in the Australian corporate context.

You will evaluate and analysis legal issues found in a current media article.

Skills in focus:

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

Deliverable(s): Written analysis [2000 words]

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain how companies are formed, differentiate between types of companies, and analyse and evaluate the role and obligations of directors.
- Examine how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates acquisition and disposal of shares.
- Analyse insolvency mechanisms and issues, and critically assess corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.

Formal examination: Test

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

The purpose of this assessment is for you to demonstrate your understanding and knowledge of key topics from the unit.

You will participate in a formal test.

Skills in focus: Discipline knowledge

Deliverable(s): Test

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain how companies are formed, differentiate between types of companies, and analyse and evaluate the role and obligations of directors.
- Examine how shareholders rights are protected and how the Corporations Act regulates

acquisition and disposal of shares.

- Analyse insolvency mechanisms and issues, and critically assess corporate insolvency in the current regulatory environment.

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

Classes and Assessment will take place in accordance with this Unit Guide where applicable. If required there may be some reorganisation to accommodate assessment timing, holiday scheduling, unit structure, delivery or class management.

Lectures begin in Week 1 and Tutorials begin in Week 2.

Required Text: *Company Law Perspectives*, 6th edition, 2025 by Michael Quilter and Juliette Overland. Published by Thomson Reuters.

Unit Schedule

UNIT TOPIC SCHEDULE

Note that Lectures start in Week 1 and Tutorials start in Week 2

The required text is *Company Law Perspectives*, 6th edition, 2025 (CLP 6th ed)

Classes will take place in accordance with this Unit Schedule where applicable. If required there may be some reorganisation to accommodate assessment, holiday scheduling, unit structure, delivery or class management.

TOPICS

1

Legal framework

Law of tort

CLP 6th ed: Chapter 1 and 3

2

Contract law

CLP 6th ed: Ch. 2

3

Contract law

Agency

Consumer protection

Privacy

Comparison of business structures

Partnership

CLP 6th ed: Ch. 2, 4, 5, 34 and 35

4

Registration of companies – the role of ASIC

Types of companies

Consequences of registration

Directors and corporate management

CLP 6th ed: Ch. 6, 7, 8, 18 and 24

5

The nature of Trusts and the role of corporate trustees

The company constitution and the relationship between the company and outsiders – the role of directors as agents and company liability in contract, tort and crime

Financing - Share capital and fundraising; loan capital

Dividends

CLP 6th ed: Ch. 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17

6

Directors' fiduciary and statutory duties

CLP 6th ed: Ch. 19, 20 and 21

7

Directors' duties - Care and diligence

Corporate governance

Financial reporting and auditors

CLP 6th ed: Ch. 20, 21, 22 and 23

8

Members' rights

Company meetings

CLP 6th ed: Ch. 25 and 26

9

Takeovers

Regulation of financial services and markets

Insider trading

CLP 6th ed: Ch. 27 and 28

10

The concept of insolvency and insolvency regulation

Restructuring

CLP 6th ed: Ch. 29, 30, 31 and 32

11

Liquidation

The role of liquidators

Insolvent trading

CLP 6th ed: Ch. 33

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Summary and revision

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.smq.edu.au) (<https://policies.smq.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](#)