



AFIN3010

PACE: Issues in Applied Finance

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

Department of Applied Finance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Keith Woodward

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

10cp in ACST or AFIN units at 3000 level

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit gives students the opportunity to test how their finance skills can be applied in practice by exposure to leading industry professionals. The topics selected go beyond traditional corporate and investment finance, and include coverage of the latest issues and real world scenarios. Students will learn first hand from practitioners on current and future trends and skills required in finance to prepare them as they embark on their careers in the industry. The projects completed in the unit are carefully set in conjunction with the industry professionals, giving students the opportunity to show evidence of demonstrated learning and the application of finance knowledge from a broader perspective. Visit [Employability Connect](#) for important information on this unit.

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: Synthesise financial theory with real-world practice.

ULO2: Apply critical thinking to complex financial problems.

ULO3: Demonstrate effective teamwork and communication skills.

ULO4: Reflect on the impact of financial decisions on various stakeholders and the wider community.

ULO5: Integrate technology and sustainability considerations into financial decision-

making.

General Assessment Information

Late Assessment Submission Penalty (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.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Professional practice: Communicating financial strategies	30%	No	Scheduled starting Wednesday 19 August	Group	No	Open AI
Professional practice: Industry analysis	40%	No	26/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open AI
Skills development: Applied finance case analysis	30%	No	09/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open AI

Professional practice: Communicating financial strategies

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Scheduled starting Wednesday 19 August**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open AI

The purpose of this assessment is for you to work with an industry partner and collaborate with peers to showcase your ability to communicate complex financial concepts and strategies effectively.

You will apply frameworks and concepts discussed in the unit to produce a presentation.

Skills in focus:

- Communication and collaboration
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Global, ethical and environmental citizenship
- Work readiness

Deliverable(s): Presentation+Live Q&A [max 16 minutes]

Group assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate effective teamwork and communication skills.
- Integrate technology and sustainability considerations into financial decision-making.

Professional practice: Industry analysis

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **26/10/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open AI

The purpose of this assessment is for you to work in collaboration with an industry partner on a significant project that reflects real-world challenges and practices in the finance industry.

You will conduct in-depth analysis of a real-world finance industry issue and produce a business report in line with industry expectations.

Skills in focus:

- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Communication
- Discipline knowledge
- Global, ethical, and environmental citizenship
- Work readiness

Deliverable(s): Business report [max 3,000 words] Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Synthesise financial theory with real-world practice.
- Apply critical thinking to complex financial problems.

Skills development: Applied finance case analysis

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **09/11/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open AI

The purpose of this assessment is for you to develop expertise in current issues in applied finance.

You will apply frameworks and concepts discussed in the unit to a case study.

Skills in focus:

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

Deliverable(s): Written submission [max 2,000 words] Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Synthesise financial theory with real-world practice.
- Reflect on the impact of financial decisions on various stakeholders and the wider community.

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

All subject materials are provided on ilearn.

Unit Schedule

Week	Week date (Wednesday)	Lecture topic
1	29-Jul	Lecture 1
2	5-Aug	Lecture 2
3	12-Aug	Lecture 3
4	19-Aug	Lecture 4, 30% In-lecture group presentations due from this class onwards
5	26-Aug	Lecture 5
6	2-Sep	Lecture 6
7	9-Sep	Lecture 7
8	16-Sep	Lecture 8
Mid-session break from Monday 21 September to Friday 2 October.		
9	7-Oct	Lecture 9
10	14-Oct	Lecture 10
11	21-Oct	Lecture 11, 40% industry analysis due 23:55 Monday 26 October
12	28-Oct	Lecture 12
13	4-Nov	Lecture 13, 30% case analysis due 23:55 Monday 9 November.

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 2026.05 of the [Handbook](#)