



AFIN2050

Investments

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

Department of Applied Finance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Fan Yu fan.yu@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites (ACCG1000 and AFIN1002 and ECON1020 and (STAT1250 or STAT1170 or STAT1371)) or ACST2052
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit covers concepts in investment management including asset pricing, fixed income, industry analysis and derivatives contracts. Students will acquire the analytical tools and financial theory necessary for making sound investment decisions and understanding the methodologies by which financial securities are valued. Students learn the principles of modern portfolio theories and apply them to empirical asset pricing models.

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 the fundamentals of investment and asset pricing theory to portfolio management and performance evaluation.
- ULO2:** Source and analyse real financial data as applied to an investment problem and communicate the findings clearly and effectively in a professional environment.
- ULO3:** Apply macroeconomic and industry analysis, and financial statement analysis to the valuation of equity securities.
- ULO4:** Evaluate ethical principles and their application in the investment profession.

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 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
Formal and observed learning: Exam	40%	No	Exam Period	Individual	No	Observed
Skills development: Investments in practice	30%	No	Week 8	Individual	No	Open
Professional practice: Case study	30%	No	Week 10	Group	No	Open

Formal and observed learning: Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

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 exam held during the University Examination period. 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): Formal exam
Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply the fundamentals of investment and asset pricing theory to portfolio management and performance evaluation.
- Source and analyse real financial data as applied to an investment problem and communicate the findings clearly and effectively in a professional environment.
- Apply macroeconomic and industry analysis, and financial statement analysis to the valuation of equity securities.

Skills development: Investments in practice

Assessment Type ¹: Problem-based task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 15 hours

Due: **Week 8**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

The purpose of this assessment is to understand and apply professional ethical principles in practice and complete a finance industry simulation. You will prepare a reflection presentation based on the activities.

Skills in focus:

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

Deliverable(s): Completions of simulation and ethics modules plus presentation

Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Source and analyse real financial data as applied to an investment problem and communicate the findings clearly and effectively in a professional environment.
- Evaluate ethical principles and their application in the investment profession.

Professional practice: Case study

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **Week 10**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open

The purpose of this assessment is for you to draw on unit topics and materials to assess an investment scenario.

You will prepare a report analysing an industry based scenario or problem

Skills in focus:

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

Deliverable(s): Written submission [max. 3,000 words]

Group assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply the fundamentals of investment and asset pricing theory to portfolio management and performance evaluation.
- Source and analyse real financial data as applied to an investment problem and communicate the findings clearly and effectively in a professional 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

Required Text

Bodie, Z., Kane, A. and Marcus, A.J. (2024), Essentials of Investments, McGraw-Hill

Learning and Teaching Activities

There will be four components each week, i.e., lecture, homework, tutorial, and consultation.

Lecture

Students are strongly encouraged to attend the lecture each week. Please read the lecture slides and related textbook chapters before attending a lecture to get the most benefits from the lecture.

Homework

After each lecture, please review the material before attempting the homework. The homework for each lecture is designed to help you understand the lecture on a basic level. It is a good practice to evaluate your review and to prepare for the tutorial in the following week.

Tutorial

The tutorial questions are more challenging than the homework. It is important that you review the lecture and practice the homework questions before attempting the tutorial questions. Your tutor will discuss the tutorial questions during the tutorial to help you understand the material on a deeper level. Please note that your final exam questions will be at a similar difficulty level as the tutorial questions.

Students will need to register for a tutorial. Tutorials are considered compulsory, but no marks are allocated. Tutorial enrolment or change of tutorial must be requested through the Student Portal in the first two weeks of the session. No tutorial changes are allowed after Week 2.

Students should attend their allocated tutorial, but exceptions may occur on a one-off basis. That is, where circumstances prevent you from attending your scheduled tutorial in a given week, you may attend an alternative tutorial if available.

Consultation

Additional learning support will be available in tutor consultation times. The lecturer and tutors have regular weekly consultation hours each week. The schedule will be posted on iLearn. You are free to attend any of them that fit you best when you require extra help.

Unit Schedule

Unit Schedule (Tentative, subjective to change)

Week	Topic	Notes
1	Introduction	No tutorial in week 1

2	Investment vehicles	
3	Risk and return	
4	Efficient diversification	
5	Asset pricing	
6	Market efficiency	
7	Special tutorial	No lecture
8	Fixed income securities	Assessment on skills development is due
9	Industry analysis	
10	Equity securities	
11	Futures contracts	Assessment on professional practice is due
12	Option contracts	
13	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 \(https://students.smq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.smq.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.

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
16/07/2026	Late submission policy added.

Unit information based on version 2026.05 of the [Handbook](#)