AFIN8018

Investments

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

Department of Applied Finance

Contents

General Information

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Credit points 10
Prerequisites (Admission to MCom or MBkgFin (1 year)) or ACST6003 or ACCG6003 or ACST8052
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit introduces concepts of investment analysis and their practical application. With an international approach, the unit covers fundamentals in asset classes and financial trading, portfolio theory and practices, equilibrium in capital markets including modern asset pricing models and behavioural finance, fixed-income securities, and security analysis and selection.

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: Demonstrate an integrated understanding of modern investment theories and practices.

ULO2: Illustrate the theory and empirical applications of modern portfolio theory and asset pricing models.

ULO3: Construct optimal portfolios applying the principles of modern portfolio theory.

ULO4: Conduct independent research to explore different investment strategies and solutions, addressing emerging challenges and opportunities.

General Assessment Information

Late Assessment Submission Penalty (written assessments)

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of ‘0’ will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

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: Financial markets career insights	20%	No	18/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open AI
Skills development: Investment strategy insights	30%	No	23/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open AI
Formal examination	50%	No	University Examination Period	Individual	No	Observed

Professional practice: Financial markets career insights

Assessment Type [1]: Professional task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 10 hours
Due: **18/09/2026**
Weighting: **20%**
Groupwork/Individual: Individual
Short extension [3]: Yes
AI Approach: Open AI

The purpose of this assessment is for you to develop a deeper understanding of the roles of market makers and asset managers, helping you identify which role aligns best with your career goals.

You will complete an individual finance simulation activity and generate insights from the scenario.

Skills in focus:

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

Deliverable(s): Reflection report [max 1,000 words] Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an integrated understanding of modern investment theories and practices.
- Construct optimal portfolios applying the principles of modern portfolio theory.

Skills development: Investment strategy insights

Assessment Type [1]: Professional task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 15 hours
Due: **23/10/2026**
Weighting: **30%**
Groupwork/Individual: Individual
Short extension [3]: Yes
AI Approach: Open AI

The purpose of this assessment is for you to gain expertise in constructing, analyzing and recommending an investment portfolio.

You will be required to construct a portfolio, conduct analysis and compile a report on that.

Skills in focus:

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

Deliverable(s): Business report [max 2,000 words] Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an integrated understanding of modern investment theories and practices.
- Illustrate the theory and empirical applications of modern portfolio theory and asset pricing models.
- Construct optimal portfolios applying the principles of modern portfolio theory.
- Conduct independent research to explore different investment strategies and solutions, addressing emerging challenges and opportunities.

Formal examination

Assessment Type [1]: Examination
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 30 hours
Due: **University Examination Period**
Weighting: **50%**
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:

- Demonstrate an integrated understanding of modern investment theories and practices.
- Illustrate the theory and empirical applications of modern portfolio theory and asset pricing models.
- Construct optimal portfolios applying the principles of modern portfolio theory.

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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

Required Text: It is essential to have the unit textbook. The textbook for the unit is Bodie, Z., Kane, A. and Marcus, A.J. (2024), Investments, 13th edition, McGraw-Hill (denoted BKM on the reading list). The e-textbook can be accessed online from here. Textbook material will be supplemented by articles and handouts. Chapters from the textbook and specified articles should be read prior to attending the scheduled lecture on that topic.

Unit Web Page: Important handouts can be downloaded from the unit's iLearn site. iLearn (https://ilearn.mq.edu.au) provides the main online learning support. It is essential that you log in regularly to keep abreast of unit-wide announcements and use the resources to supplement your learning. Lecture slides are available by before each lecture for you to download from iLearn. Solutions to homework problems are made available online after the problems are discussed in class.

Delivery Format and Other Details: Students are required to enrol in a two-hour lecture plus a one-hour seminar. Lectures are used to set the scene and show how the topic fits into the overall unit of study aims. You will be expected to have read the required reading before that week's class. Seminars are essential for helping address any misunderstandings and to apply concepts to more difficult problems. Participation is strongly encouraged so students can check their understanding of concepts. Students should be prepared to present their homework solutions in the tutorials and/or to discuss the related conceptual issues.

Other Course Materials: Homework will be assigned at the end of lectures and these should be completed before coming to the following week's tutorial where students get to discuss their homework solutions.

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