AFIN3052

Applied Portfolio Management

Session 2, Online-scheduled-In person assessment, North Ryde 2026

Department of Applied Finance

Contents

General Information

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Credit points 10
Prerequisites AFIN2050 and (ACST2001 or ACST2002 or AFIN2070)
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit provides students with the analytical skills and techniques required to effectively construct diversified portfolios of securities. The unit prepares students for asset allocation management and performance assessment of diversified portfolios. Issues relating to the management of portfolios containing options, futures and other derivatives will also be examined.

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: Examine the investment decision making processes from the perspective of the portfolio manager.

ULO2: Define and critique various approaches to asset allocation.

ULO3: Compare and contrast the alternative asset allocation tools to construct portfolios and its role in industry practice.

ULO4: Source and analyse real financial data as applied to portfolio management and work in groups and individually to communicate the findings clearly and effectively in a professional 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 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: Quantitative market making	20%	No	Week 8	Individual	No	Open AI
Professional practice: In-depth analysis	30%	No	Week 11	Individual and Group	No	Open AI
Formal examination	50%	No	University's formal examination period	Individual	No	Observed

Professional practice: Quantitative market making

Assessment Type [1]: Presentation task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 15 hours
Due: **Week 8**
Weighting: **20%**
Groupwork/Individual: Individual
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach: Open AI

The purpose of this assessment is for you to develop expertise in quantitative market making.

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

Skills in focus:

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

Deliverable(s): Presentation [7 min] Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine the investment decision making processes from the perspective of the portfolio manager.
- Define and critique various approaches to asset allocation.

Professional practice: In-depth analysis

Assessment Type [1]: Professional task
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 20 hours
Due: **Week 11**
Weighting: **30%**
Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach: Open AI

The purpose of this assessment is for students to practice delivering in-depth analyses that inform Portfolio Management. You will work in teams to conduct background research and both quantitative and qualitative analysis. **Skills in focus:**

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

Deliverable(s): Written submissions [2500 words] Group assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Define and critique various approaches to asset allocation.
- Compare and contrast the alternative asset allocation tools to construct portfolios and its role in industry practice.

- Source and analyse real financial data as applied to portfolio management and work in groups and individually to communicate the findings clearly and effectively in a professional environment.

Formal examination

Assessment Type [1]: Examination
Indicative Time on Task [2]: 35 hours
Due: **University's formal 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:

- Examine the investment decision making processes from the perspective of the portfolio manager.
- Define and critique various approaches to asset allocation.
- Compare and contrast the alternative asset allocation tools to construct portfolios and its role in industry practice.

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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

Learning and Teaching Activities

The content for each week will comprise of a lecture (in-person and via livestream) and a set of tutorial questions (Problem Sets).

Lectures

A lecture recording will be uploaded each week. Lecture slides will be available on iLearn.

Tutorials

Students will need to register for a tutorial. Tutorials are considered compulsory but no marks are allocated. Tutorials will be available for most, but not all weeks of the session. In weeks where there aren't any live (on-campus or online) tutorials, a recording will be provided to cover the relevant material.

The tutorial schedule will be made available on iLearn.

Tutorial enrolment or change of tutorial can be made through *eStudent* 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 own tutorial in a given week, you may attend an alternative tutorial if room available.

Students are expected to complete the '*Tutorial Questions*' as a self-directed study activity before attending a tutorial. Additional learning support will be available in tutor consultation times.

Timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at: https://timetables.mq.edu.au

Textbooks

Students are strongly recommended to purchase the following textbook:

- *'Efficiently Inefficient: How Smart Money Invests & Market Prices are Determined', Lasse Heje Pedersen, Princeton University Press*

The above book can be accessed via the following link

https://multisearch.mq.edu.au/permalink/61MACQUARIE_INST/1c87tk9/alma99245519479702171

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