



AFIN8002

Finance Empirical

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

Department of Applied Finance

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff Tom Smith tom.smith@mq.edu.au
Credit points 10
Prerequisites Admission to GradCertResMQBS or GradDipResMQBS
Corequisites
Co-badged status
Unit description This unit introduces students to the empirical methods of modern finance, and will highlight some of the key concepts involved in current empirical work in finance, such as a review of econometrics, intertemporal asset pricing models, CAPM, data issues, serial dependence, etc. After completing the unit, students should be able to reproduce the results reported in the studies which have been 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: Understand modern multivariate statistical methods.

ULO2: Gain expertise in testing empirical models.

ULO3: Appreciate data acquisition and data issues.

ULO4: Explore what the editors are looking for in terms of endogeneity sample selection and natural experiments.

ULO5: Effectively communicate results to an academic audience.

General Assessment Information

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](#).

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Formal examination: Test	50%	No	05/11/2026	Individual	No	Observed
Skills development: Finance research proposal	20%	No	13/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open AI
Skills Development: Applied empirical analysis	30%	No	1st August; 5th September; 3rd October	Group	No	Open AI

Formal examination: Test

Assessment Type [1](#): Examination

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 30 hours

Due: **05/11/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

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. Feedback on your performance will help you assess your progress through the unit content.

Deliverable(s): Test Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand modern multivariate statistical methods.
- Gain expertise in testing empirical models.

- Appreciate data acquisition and data issues.
- Explore what the editors are looking for in terms of endogeneity sample selection and natural experiments.

Skills development: Finance research proposal

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 10 hours

Due: **13/11/2026**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open AI

The purpose of this assessment is for you to gain expertise in developing a research proposal.

You will apply frameworks and concepts discussed in the unit to develop a research proposal.

Skills in focus:

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

Deliverable(s): Research proposal [max 500 words] Individual assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand modern multivariate statistical methods.
- Gain expertise in testing empirical models.
- Appreciate data acquisition and data issues.
- Explore what the editors are looking for in terms of endogeneity sample selection and natural experiments.
- Effectively communicate results to an academic audience.

Skills Development: Applied empirical analysis

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **1st August; 5th September; 3rd October**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Group

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Open AI

The purpose of this assessment is for you to gain expertise in applications empirical finance.

You will reproduce results from empirical finance studies, applying frameworks and concepts discussed in the unit, and present your findings to the class.

Skills in focus:

- Collaboration and communication
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Discipline knowledge

Deliverable(s): Report [max 2,000 words] and presentation Group assessment

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand modern multivariate statistical methods.
- Gain expertise in testing empirical models.
- Appreciate data acquisition and data issues.
- Explore what the editors are looking for in terms of endogeneity sample selection and natural experiments.
- Effectively communicate results to an academic audience.

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

Textbooks

There are no required texts for this course. The following books are useful references:

- Campbell, Lo and MacKinlay, 1997, *The Econometrics of Financial Markets*, Princeton University Press
- Cochrane, 2005, *Asset Pricing Revised Edition*, Princeton University Press

Venue

Online with a 11-1pm Zoom session the Saturday of each module.

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 2026.04 of the [Handbook](#)