# ACCG847

**Forensic Accounting**

**S1 Evening 2016**

*Dept of Accounting & Corporate Governance*

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### General Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit convenor and teaching staff</th>
<th>Unit Convenor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tony Prior</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tony.prior@mq.edu.au">tony.prior@mq.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact via Initially via email
4-6 pm Wednesday. The preferred initial contact is via email to confirm a location.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit points</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>ACCG611 or (admission to MAdvProfAcc or (MCorpGvnce prior to 2013))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Corequisites   | |
|----------------||

| Co-badged status | |
|------------------||

| Unit description | This unit examines various techniques of financial fraud prevention, investigation and detection. Topics will include: motivations for financial fraud, symptoms of financial fraud, financial statement fraud, evidence collection and evaluation, legal report writing, interviewing witnesses and perpetrators, and fraud prevention. Case studies will be used. |

### 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](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates)

### Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an ability to respond to issues associated with an allegation of fraud
- Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
- Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
- Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports
- Develop and implement an organisational policy to minimise fraud

### General Assessment Information

To complete this unit satisfactorily, students must attempt all components of the assessments and obtain a minimum aggregate grade of 50%.
Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>In designated seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study/ Report</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>18 May 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Test 1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20 April 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Test 2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>1 June 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Class Participation

Due: In designated seminars

Weighting: 20%

Individuals will be required to actively contribute to assigned class activities and discussions each week. Activities assigned each week will also be submitted online prior to the commencement of the seminar.

Submission:

In your designated seminars.

Extension:

No extension will be granted.

Penalties:

A mark of ZERO will be assigned for non-submission.

On successful completion you will be able to:

• Demonstrate an ability to respond to issues associated with an allegation of fraud

Extensions

You are expected to submit written assessment tasks by the published due date UNLESS you have received written permission to submit your work at a later date from the Unit convenor. No extensions will be granted. There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24 hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for disruption of studies is made and approved. No submission will be accepted after solutions have been posted.

Details of how the University defines serious and unavoidable disruption to studies, and information about the processes involved, are contained in the Disruptions to Studies Policy.
• Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
• Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
• Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports
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Case Study/ Report
Due: 18 May 2016
Weighting: 30%

Case study by a group of 4/5 students.

Submission:
One report for each group is to be submitted online in iLearn by 5pm 18 May 2016. A ten minute presentation by each group will be required in class time on 25 May.

Extension:
No extension will be granted. Please refer to the University's Disruption to Studies Policy.

Penalties:
Students who have not submitted the task prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
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Class Test 1
Due: 20 April 2016
Weighting: 25%

Submission:
A 1 hour written test will be held in class and designed to assess a student's knowledge.

Extension:
No extension will be granted. No supplementary test will be offered except in cases in which an application is made and approved under the University's Disruption to Studies Policy.

Penalties:
A mark of ZERO will be awarded for not sitting the examination.

On successful completion you will be able to:
Demonstrate an ability to respond to issues associated with an allegation of fraud
• Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
• Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
• Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports

Class Test 2
Due: 1 June 2016
Weighting: 25%

Submission:
A 1 hour written test will be held in class and designed to assess a student's knowledge.

Extension:
No extension will be granted. No supplementary test will be offered except in cases in which an
application is made and approved under the University's Disruption to Studies Policy.

Penalties:
A mark of ZERO will be assigned for not sitting the examination.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
• Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
• Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports
• Develop and implement an organisational policy to minimise fraud

Delivery and Resources
CLASSES
Students are required to attend one 3 hours face-to-face seminar per week. This will be held in
W5A 204 on Wednesdays between 6pm and 9pm.

The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at:
http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS

The following text is available from the Co-op Bookshop:
Albrecht, S. W., Albrecht C.C., Albrecht C.O. and Zimbelman M.F., 2011, Fraud Examination,
South Western, 5th Edition,
ISBN: 978-1-305-07914-4
This text will be supplemented with readings available on the unit web site. Also see the seminar discussion and assignments.

The following text is recommended as useful resource:
ISBN 9780078136665

The following Journals are useful as additional references:
Journal of Forensic Accounting, Auditing and Fraud
Journal of Forensic and Investigative Accounting
Managerial Auditing Journal
Auditing: A Journal of Practice and Theory
Computer Fraud and Security
Forensic Science
Forensic Science International
Environmental Forensics

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED
Students are expected to have:
Proficiency in Word, Excel and Powerpoint
Knowledge of Macquarie University ilearn - for downloading lecture materials, etc
Knowledge of the library research databases - for accessing additional research material.
Access to a personal computer to be able to access iLearn and submit completed assessment material online.

UNIT WEB PAGE
Course material is available on the learning management system (iLearn). The web page for this unit can be found at:
http://mq.edu.au/iLearn/index.htm
## Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>Overview and introduction to nature of fraud</td>
<td>Albrecht 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>KPMG Fraud Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 March</td>
<td>Why People Commit Fraud</td>
<td>Albrecht 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Fraud Prevention</td>
<td>Albrecht 3 &amp; 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 March</td>
<td>Fraud Detection</td>
<td>Albrecht 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 March</td>
<td>Financial Investigation</td>
<td>Albrecht 7 &amp; 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 April</td>
<td>Inquiry Methods and Fraud Reports</td>
<td>Albrecht 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 April and 13</td>
<td>Mid-Session break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 April</td>
<td>Financial statement fraud - overview</td>
<td>Albrecht 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Class Test 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 April</td>
<td>Financial statement fraud - revenue and inventory related</td>
<td>Albrecht 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>Financial statement fraud - liability, asset and inadequate disclosure</td>
<td>Albrecht 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 May</td>
<td>Fraud Against Organisations</td>
<td>Albrecht 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>Consumer Fraud and Fraud in E-Commerce</td>
<td>Albrecht 15 &amp; 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group Case Study due online</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 May</td>
<td>Current Issues in Fraud</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Group Case Study Presentations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>Class Test 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Results**

Results shown in *iLearn*, 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 ask.mq.edu.au.

**Grades**

Macquarie University uses the following grades in coursework units of study:

- HD - High Distinction
- D - Distinction
- CR - Credit
- P - Pass
- F - Fail

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Grading Policy which is available at:


**Grading Appeals and Final Examination Script Viewing**

If, at the conclusion of the unit, you have performed below expectations, and are considering lodging an appeal of grade and/or viewing your final exam script please refer to the following website which provides information about these processes and the cut off dates in the first
Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- **Workshops**
- **StudyWise**
- **Academic Integrity Module for Students**
- **Ask a Learning Adviser**

**Student Services and Support**

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/disability_service/) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

**Student Enquiries**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

**IT Help**

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University’s IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](https://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/acceptable_use). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

**Graduate Capabilities**

**PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills**

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate an ability to respond to issues associated with an allegation of fraud
- Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective

• Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
• Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports
• Develop and implement an organisational policy to minimise fraud

**Assessment tasks**

• Class Participation
• Case Study/ Report
• Class Test 1
• Class Test 2

**PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability**

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

• Demonstrate an ability to respond to issues associated with an allegation of fraud
• Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
• Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
• Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports
• Develop and implement an organisational policy to minimise fraud

**Assessment tasks**

• Class Participation
• Case Study/ Report
• Class Test 1
• Class Test 2

**PG - Effective Communication**

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

• Demonstrate an ability to respond to issues associated with an allegation of fraud
• Identify and analyse risk management weaknesses from a fraud perspective
• Appreciate the social / legal context of fraud
• Conduct preliminary examination of documents, assemble evidence and write reports
• Develop and implement an organisational policy to minimise fraud

**Assessment tasks**

• Class Participation
• Case Study/ Report
• Class Test 1
• Class Test 2

**Research and Practice, Global and Sustainability**

Students are expected to spend 150 hours working on this unit. As a guide a student should spend these approximate amounts of time on each of the following activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Seminars</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Test 1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Test 2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study Report</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study Presentation</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings and Self Study</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>150</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The unit gives you opportunities to conduct your own research and gives you practice in applying research findings in your assessment tasks. Students will be required to use library resources to research beyond these materials in undertaking research to complete their tasks.

The unit introduces addresses global and sustainability issues as direct areas of study and as necessary implications arising from the materials, assessment and academic discussion and debate in seminars. We promote sustainability by developing ability in students to research and locate information within the Forensic Accounting discipline. We aim to provide students with an opportunity to obtain skills that will benefit them throughout their career.

The unit materials have a reference list at the end of each chapter in the prescribed text containing all references used by the authors. These provide some guidance to references that could be used to research particular issues.