# BBA 315
## Business Forecasting
### S1 Day 2016
#### Dept of Marketing and Management

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor
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Contact via hume.winzar@mq.edu.au
E4A 633
Wednesday 11:00 to 13:00

Tutor
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TBA

Salut Muhidin
salut.muhidin@mq.edu.au

Credit points
3

Prerequisites
39cp including (STAT150 or STAT170 or MKTG216)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit explores business forecasting by considering the planning process of the organisation, the environment in which business forecasts are made, prediction of key variables using qualitative and quantitative information, and the practical considerations of forecast implementation. Quantitative predictions will generally make use of spreadsheets and simple statistical procedures that can be easily applied in the business environment.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes

1. To gain an understanding of the need for, and uses of, forecasting in a business context
2. To gain an understanding of simple quantitative forecasting techniques used in business
3. To gain an understanding of qualitative forecasting techniques in a business environment
4. To learn the application of a number of forecasting techniques using Spreadsheets and other statistical programs

Assessment Tasks

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<td>10%</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
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<td>Week 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>University Examination Period</td>
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Quiz
Due: Week 8
Weighting: 10%
A within-semester test held in tutorials in week 8. The test will cover all material from weeks 1-7 inclusive and will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- To gain an understanding of the need for, and uses of, forecasting in a business context
- To gain an understanding of simple quantitative forecasting techniques used in business
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The Reading Game contribution
Due: Weekly
Weighting: 20%
This semester we will be using The Reading Game as a place for you to create, share and evaluate assessment questions with your classmates.

Twenty (20) marks are awarded for contribution to the Reading Game service by writing, answering, commenting on questions that are related with Business Forecasting.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
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Case Study/Report
Due: Week 13
Weighting: 30%

This report is written document reporting on the comprehensive business forecasting project. You will provide and analyse empirical data and form an argument based on academic and business literature.

This is a group assignment. Groups will be of three (3) or four (4) participants. You may not do this assignment individually. The number of people in the group will not be a consideration for the awarding of marks in the assignment.

• No extensions will be granted.
• There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks (3 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%, 6 marks, 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.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
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Final Examination
Due: University Examination Period
Weighting: 40%

• Three-hour examination
• 10% Multiple Choice Questions, 30% Short Answer Questions
• All material in the unit is examinable
Most complex formulae, and statistical tables, will be provided with the examination. Simpler formulae will not be provided.

Students may bring into the examination:
- A non-programmable calculator (not a smart-phone) and
- A single A4 page of notes on both sides in any format.

Further details about the final examination will be given later in the semester.

The Macquarie university examination policy details the principles and conduct of examinations at the University. The policy is available at: [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/examination/policy.htm](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/examination/policy.htm)

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
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**Delivery and Resources**

**Classes**
Number and length of classes: 3 hours face-to-face teaching per week, consisting of 1 x 2 hour lecture and 1 x 1 hour tutorial. The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at: [http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/](http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/)

**Prizes**
Prizes for this unit (if applicable). [http://www.businessandeconomics.mq.edu.au/undergraduate_degrees/prizes_scholarships](http://www.businessandeconomics.mq.edu.au/undergraduate_degrees/prizes_scholarships)

**Recommended Texts and/or Materials**
You do not need to buy these books. Occasionally, handouts thereof might be distributed in class.


Also available as a Kindle book.

**Additional readings**
Hyndman, Rob J and Athanasopoulos, George (2014), *Forecasting: principles and practice*, OTexts Online: [https://www.otexts.org/fpp/](https://www.otexts.org/fpp/)
Technology Used and Required
Students will learn to use spreadsheet (MS-Excel) and MINITAB.

Unit Web Page
The web page for this unit can be found at: iLearn http://ilearn.mq.edu.au

Teaching and Learning Strategy
This unit is lecture- and tutorial-based. Typically, the class-time structure will be like this:

- **Lectures**: Business Forecasting theory and concepts will be discussed. We will establish links between theory and your personal knowledge in a business strategic planning setting during class discussions.

- **Tutorials**: students are required to work on some tasks of business forecasting solutions using several models and techniques. Student participation and meaningful contribution are essential to understand business forecasting concepts and calculations.

Lecture notes will be posted before each lecture on iLearn

Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics Covered</th>
<th>Chapter(s)</th>
<th>Other Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | · Introduction Forecasting in management  
     | · The philosophy of forecasting | Hanke & Wichern Ch. 1 and 11  
     |                               | Hyndman & Athanasopoulos Ch. 1 and 2 |               |
| 2    | · Exploring Data Patterns and Introduction to Forecasting Techniques | Hanke & Wichern Ch. 3 | Tutorial – Introduction to the Data Environment |
| 3    | · Judgmental Forecasting | Hyndman & Athanasopoulos Ch. 3 | Tutorial – Exploring data pattern |
| 4    | · Moving Averages and Smoothing Methods: Simple Exponential Smoothing | Hanke & Wichern Ch. 4 | Tutorial – Elementary smoothing |
| 5    | · Exponential Smoothing Methods: Holt's and Winter's Method | Hanke & Wichern Ch. 5  
     |                               | Hyndman & Athanasopoulos Ch. 7 | Tutorial – Trend Models |

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/59432/unit_guide/print
### Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/policy_central). 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.

**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 Enquiry Service**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

**Equity Support**

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

**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. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.
Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• To gain an understanding of the need for, and uses of, forecasting in a business context
• To gain an understanding of simple quantitative forecasting techniques used in business
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• To learn the application of a number of forecasting techniques using Spreadsheets and other statistical programs

Assessment tasks

• The Reading Game contribution
• Case Study/Report

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• To gain an understanding of the need for, and uses of, forecasting in a business context
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Assessment tasks

• Quiz
• The Reading Game contribution
Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills
Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**
- To gain an understanding of simple quantitative forecasting techniques used in business
- To learn the application of a number of forecasting techniques using Spreadsheets and other statistical programs

**Assessment tasks**
- Quiz
- The Reading Game contribution
- Case Study/Report
- Final Examination

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking
We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**
- To gain an understanding of the need for, and uses of, forecasting in a business context
- To gain an understanding of qualitative forecasting techniques in a business environment

**Assessment tasks**
- Quiz
- The Reading Game contribution
Changes from Previous Offering
Judgement-based forecasting has been given some extended treatment over previous offerings, and we present some additional methods of customer-based and sales-based forecasting techniques.

As a result, there is a slight reduction to the previous focus on time-series extrapolation.

Global Contexts & Sustainability
This unit teaches Business Forecasting principles that can be applied in a global context.
Sustainability issues are embedded in our discussions of equity, privacy and ethics throughout the progress of this unit.

Research and Practice
• This unit includes research by the unit convenor and other Macquarie University researchers
• This unit uses research from external sources. This unit gives you opportunities to learn how to critique current research at the frontiers of your discipline as a prelude to later conducting your own research.

• Journal of Forecasting
• Foresight: the international journal of applied forecasting
• International Journal of Forecasting
• Journal of International Business Studies
• Journal of Marketing Research