FINM8100
Applied Project in Finance

Course Description
This course provides an opportunity for students to work on an applied project in finance. Students will work on one of a range of possible topics, each of which are motivated by recent innovations in financial markets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Delivery</th>
<th>On campus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>As listed in Programs and Courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incompatible Courses</td>
<td>As listed in Programs and Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Convener:</td>
<td>Michelle Sal bona (until April 1) Kathy Walsh (April 2 until end of semester)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Email:           | michelle.salmona@anu.edu.au
                 | kathleen.walsh@anu.edu.au |
| Office hours for student consultation: | By appointment |
| Research Interests | Michelle: Issues of culture and access. Threshold concepts in learning and research Kathy: RMB Internationalisation, Chinese capital markets, Asset pricing |
| Relevant administrator if any (optional) | Maria Lander |
| Phone:           | |
| Email:           | maria.lander@anu.edu.au |

http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/FINM8100

1 | THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
COURSE OVERVIEW

Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of the requirements for this course, students will be able to:
- **L01** Write an academically rigorous research report
- **L02** Communicate arguments, principles and findings using the language and conventions of the finance discipline
- **L03** Apply course work to produce a practitioner-oriented report.

Assessment Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research question and project outline</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Wednesday 2nd March at 5pm</td>
<td>Individual L01, L02, L03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature review</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Friday 18th March at 5pm</td>
<td>Individual L01, L02, L03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Times to be agreed</td>
<td>Individual L02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project report</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Monday 16th May at 5pm</td>
<td>Group L01, L02, L03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry report</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Friday 27th May at 5pm</td>
<td>Individual L02, L03</td>
</tr>
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Research-Led Teaching
Studies show that, when you explicitly link research and teaching, students become more aware of their learning, which can motivate them to learn more deeply. In this course you will become aware of faculty research and its importance; develop your ability to ask questions and answer them in a rigorous way; and engage in your own research project. Students will be provided with some of the basic tools necessary to undertake research in both university, and industry-based settings.

Feedback
Staff Feedback
We use feedback from students, professional bodies and staff to make regular improvements to the course. Students are therefore encouraged to provide feedback in ways described in the “Student Feedback” section of this course outline.

Student Feedback
ANU is committed to the demonstration of educational excellence and regularly seeks feedback from students. One of the key formal ways students have to provide feedback is through Student Experience of Learning Support (SELS) surveys. The feedback given in these surveys is anonymous and provides the Colleges, University Education Committee and Academic Board with opportunities to recognise excellent teaching, and opportunities for improvement.

For more information on student surveys at ANU and reports on the feedback provided on ANU courses, go to
# COURSE SCHEDULE
Seminar: Wednesdays 2:00-4:00pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Starting</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Tutorial Activity</th>
<th>Assessments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>15th Feb&lt;br&gt;Become familiar with course outline. Decide on topic for applied research project</td>
<td>No tutorial</td>
<td>Read course outline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>22nd Feb&lt;br&gt;Selecting a topic and asking questions. Understanding research questions. Outline work to be completed</td>
<td>Finalise topics and group research questions. Prepare presentation rubric</td>
<td>Finalise groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>29th Feb&lt;br&gt;Working with the literature. Writing and presenting strategies</td>
<td>Research question presentations</td>
<td>Research question and project outline due Wed 2nd March at 5pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7th March&lt;br&gt;Literature review</td>
<td>Group literature review</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>14th March&lt;br&gt;Presenting your work – strategies and ideas</td>
<td>Individual presentations</td>
<td>Literature review due Friday 18th March at 5pm Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>21st March&lt;br&gt;Data and method</td>
<td>Individual presentations</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>28th March&lt;br&gt;Analysis</td>
<td>Individual presentations</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mid-Semester Break (Monday 4th April – Friday 15th April)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Starting</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Tutorial Activity</th>
<th>Assessments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>18th April&lt;br&gt;Self-directed work on research project</td>
<td>Lecturer consultation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>25th April&lt;br&gt;Self-directed work on research project</td>
<td>Lecturer consultation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2nd May&lt;br&gt;Self-directed work on research project</td>
<td>Lecturer consultation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>9th May&lt;br&gt;Project report: Lecturer consultation</td>
<td>Project report: Lecturer consultation</td>
<td>Project report due Monday 16th May at 5pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>16th May&lt;br&gt;Industry report: Lecturer consultation</td>
<td>Project report: Lecturer consultation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>23rd May&lt;br&gt;Industry report: Lecturer consultation</td>
<td>No tutorial</td>
<td>Industry report due Friday 27th May at 5pm</td>
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ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

The ANU is using Turnitin to enhance student citation and referencing techniques, and to assess assignment submissions as a component of the University’s approach to managing Academic Integrity. For additional information regarding Turnitin please visit the ANU Online website.

Students may choose not to submit assessment items through Turnitin. In this instance you will be required to submit, alongside the assessment item itself, copies of all references included in the assessment item.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment 1: Research question and project outline (individual work)
This assessment is designed to ensure that students have a viable research project that can be completed in the required time. It is an individual assignment and must be written in the form of a project brief that would be acceptable in the workplace and clearly outline the area of interest and the importance of the research question/s to be answered. Each brief must clearly identify the different elements of your project and how investigation of these areas will be helpful when brought together in the final report. Reference should be made to relevant literature which you will investigate in the next assignment. This brief will outline the work you will complete this semester and include the proposed completion dates for different section of your research work – this is to help you plan for the semester.

Students will be graded on their ability to justify a valid research question and design an appropriate method for investigation. Make sure that your work plan for the semester is clearly described.
Suggested length for this assignment is no more than 4 pages. Assignment to be submitted via Wattle link by due date and time.

Assessment 2: Literature review (individual work)
The purpose of this assessment is to ensure that students have positioned their research question in the existing literature. Students should clearly outline the research question and provide justification for the research using relevant and current literature.

Students will be graded on their ability to synthesise themes in the literature and demonstrate a credible argument to justify their valid research question. Literature presented will be from credible journals and no more than five years old, unless an argument is made that older work is necessary for the argument made in your paper. Suggested length for this individual assignment is no more than 6 pages. Assignment to be submitted via Wattle link by due date and time.
**Assessment 3: Presentations**
This assessment will ensure that each student is fully aware of the elements of the group research project. Each student will present twice during the semester at times to be agreed. Students will be graded individually on their presentations. Allocation of presentations, and the presentation rubric, will be finalised in Week 2.

**Assessment 4: Project report**
The purpose of this assessment is to produce an original, relevant and rigorous piece of individual research. This academic report will highlight the original, relevant and rigorous research of the group. **Groups of 4-5 students will submit one academic project report** with a clear outline of the research question, literature, method and data, results and conclusions. Full analysis will be completed, and results presented and discussed, with conclusions drawn. The writing style should be polished and fluid, and present a clear picture of the research question and findings. A 100 word abstract must also be included. Students may use the Financial Analyst journal as a style guide.

Students will be graded on their ability to frame their paper with the relevant literature, justify a valid research question, design an appropriate method for investigation, present preliminary analysis and discuss results with conclusions drawn.

Suggested length for this assignment is no more than 30 pages including tables, figures, appendices and references. Assignment to be submitted via Wattle link by due date and time.

**Assessment 5: Industry report**
The purpose of this task is to produce an industry report highlighting the original, relevant and rigorous research of your group. Each student will prepare an industry report to highlight the important findings of the project report and what these findings mean to decision makers. The report needs to capture the important findings and include a broad overview of the topic area. This final report is a summary and synthesis of the underlying paper and as such should NOT contain any tables, regressions etc. from the original paper. Readers will be referred to the original working paper for further detail. The use of colour, diagrams and persuasive language will be essential in this submission.

Students will be graded on their ability to ‘sell’ the individual research to practitioners while preserving academic integrity.

Suggested length for this industry report is no more than 6-8 pages including tables, figures, appendices and references. Assignment to be submitted via Wattle link by due date and time.

**Assignment submission**
**Online Submission:** Assignments are submitted using Turnitin in the course Wattle site. You will be required to electronically sign a declaration as part of the submission of your assignment. Please keep a copy of the assignment for your records.
Extensions and penalties

Extensions and late submission of assessment pieces are covered by the Student Assessment (Coursework) Policy and Procedure.

The Course Convener may grant extensions for assessment pieces that are not examinations or take-home examinations. If you need an extension, you must request it in writing on or before the due date. If you have documented and appropriate medical evidence that demonstrates you were not able to request an extension on or before the due date, you may be able to request it after the due date.

No submission of assessment tasks without an extension after the due date will be permitted. If an assessment task is not submitted by the due date, a mark of 0 will be awarded.

Returning assignments

All assignments will be returned to students within 10 days of submission. Assignment marks and feedback will be uploaded to the Wattle gradebook feature for the course. It is the responsibility of students to keep copies of their work and check their marks on Wattle.

Referencing requirements

Students may use the Financial Analyst journal as a style guide – please do not present work in column format. See [http://www.cfapubs.org/loi/faj](http://www.cfapubs.org/loi/faj) for examples of work in the journal. Make sure that any work presented for grading has consistent referencing throughout the paper.

Scaling

Your final mark for the course will be based on the raw marks allocated for each of your assessment items. However, your final mark may not be the same number as produced by that formula, as marks may be scaled. Any scaling applied will preserve the rank order of raw marks (i.e. if your raw mark exceeds that of another student, then your scaled mark will exceed the scaled mark of that student), and may be either up or down.

Communication

Students must use their official ANU student email for this course.

Please only use email to set up a one-on-one meeting with me and use the subject line “Meeting request.” Your message must include at least two times when you would like to meet and a brief (one-two sentence) description of the reason for the meeting. Emails sent for any other reason may not be considered or acknowledged.

I strongly encourage you to ask questions about the syllabus and assignments during class time. For more in-depth discussions (such as guidance on assignments) please contact me to arrange a time to meet in person. Chatting together in person allows us to get to know each other better and foster a more collegial learning atmosphere.

Email

If necessary, the lecturers and tutors for this course will contact students on their official ANU student email address. Information about your enrolment and fees from the Registrar and Student Services’ office will also be sent to this email address.
Announcements
Students are expected to check the Wattle site for announcements about this course, e.g. changes to timetables or notifications of cancellations. Notifications of emergency cancellations of lectures or tutorials will be posted on the door of the relevant room.

Policies
ANU has educational policies, procedures and guidelines, which are designed to ensure that staff and students are aware of the University’s academic standards, and implement them. You can find the University’s education policies and an explanatory glossary at: http://policies.anu.edu.au/

Students are expected to have read the Academic Misconduct Rules 2014 before the commencement of their course.

Other key policies include:
- Student Assessment (Coursework)
- Student Surveys and Evaluations

Recommended Resources
Students are required to have internet access to the course Wattle site, and use MS Word (PC compatible version) for their assignments.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS
The University offers a number of support services for students. Information on these is available online from http://students.anu.edu.au/studentlife/

Tutorial and/or Seminar Registration
Enrolment in tutorials will be completed online using the CBE Electronic Teaching Assistant (ETA). To enrol, follow these instructions:

1. Go to http://eta.fec.anu.edu.au
2. You will see the Student Login page. To log into the system, enter your University ID (your student number) and password (your ISIS password) in the appropriate fields and hit the Login button.
3. Read any news items or announcements.
4. Select "Sign Up!" from the left-hand navigation bar.
5. Select your courses from the list. To select multiple courses, hold down the control key. On PCs, this is the Ctrl key; on Macs, it is the ⌘ key. Hold this key down while selecting courses with the mouse. Once courses are selected, hit the SUBMIT button.
6. A confirmation of class enrolments will be displayed. In addition, an email confirmation of class enrolments will be sent to your student account.
7. For security purposes, please ensure that you click the LOGOUT link on the confirmation page, or close the browser window when you have finished your selections.
8. If you experience any difficulties, please contact the School Office (see page 1 for contact details).
9. Students will have until 5pm February 25 to finalise their enrolment in tutorials. After this time, students will be unable to change their tutorial enrolment.