ACST8050
Research Essay in Actuarial Studies

This course requires students to complete a research essay or “mini-thesis” in the field of Actuarial Studies. The course is available to excellent students enrolled in the Master of Actuarial Studies or the Master of Actuarial Practice who wish to gain research experience. Students will undertake independent research under the guidance of a supervisor. At completion of this research essay course, students will have developed the capacity to perform quality independent research, and have an in-depth knowledge of their chosen research topic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Delivery</th>
<th>On campus</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>You will need to contact the Research School of Finance, Actuarial Studies and Statistics to request a permission code to enrol in this course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Convener</td>
<td>Gen Nowak</td>
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<td>CBE Building (26C) Rm 3.66</td>
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</tr>
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SEMESTER 2
2017
COURSE OVERVIEW

Learning Outcomes
At completion of this research essay course, students will have developed the capacity to perform quality independent research, and have an in-depth knowledge of their chosen research topic.

Assessment Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Task</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Research Proposal Discussion</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>25 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Research Thesis</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>27 October</td>
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Research-Led Teaching
This course provides students with the opportunity to undertake supervised research under the guidance of a staff member.

Feedback

Staff Feedback
Students will be given feedback (through both verbal and written comments) from their supervisor.

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
http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/students/ and
http://unistats.anu.edu.au/surveys/selt/results/learning/

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 Rule before the commencement of their course.

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

Contact hours for the course will take the form of periodic meetings between student and supervis-
or.

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.

As a further academic integrity control, students may be selected for a 15 minute individual oral
examination of their written assessment submissions.

Any student identified, either during the current semester or in retrospect, as having used ghost
writing services will be investigated under the University’s Academic Misconduct Rule.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task 1: Research Proposal Discussion
Details of task: Discussion with the supervisor of a research proposal outlining the aims, meth-
ods, data and timeline for the research project.
Value: 10%
Due date: On or before 25 August (timing to be determined with supervisor).

Assessment task 2: Research Thesis
Details of task: Submission of final research report, structured as a mini-thesis.
Word limit: 30-50 pages (double spaced).
Value: 90%
Due date: 27 October
Estimated return date: 10 November

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.
Referencing requirements

Harvard referencing style should be used.

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.

PRIVACY NOTICE

The ANU has made a number of third party, online, databases available for students to use. Use of each online database is conditional on student end users first agreeing to the database licensor’s terms of service and/or privacy policy. Students should read these carefully.

In some cases student end users will be required to register an account with the database licensor and submit personal information, including their: first name; last name; ANU email address; and other information.

In cases where student end users are asked to submit ‘content’ to a database, such as an assignment or short answers, the database licensor may only use the student’s ‘content’ in accordance with the terms of service including any (copyright) licence the student grants to the database licensor.

Any personal information or content a student submits may be stored by the licensor, potentially offshore, and will be used to process the database service in accordance with the licensors terms of service and/or privacy policy.

If any student chooses not to agree to the database licensor’s terms of service or privacy policy, the student will not be able to access and use the database. In these circumstances students should contact their lecturer to enquire about alternative arrangements that are available.

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/.