

School of Economics and Finance
ECON430 RESEARCH PROJECT IN ECONOMICS
Trimesters One and Two 2011
COURSE OUTLINE

Coordinator: John Randal, RH331, 463-5558, john.randal@vuw.ac.nz

Administrator: Suzanne Freear, RH321, 463-5380, suzanne.freear@vuw.ac.nz

Lecturers: Staff in the School of Economics and Finance will act as supervisors

Lecture times: Tuesday, 1540-1730, RWW128

Students are expected to meet with their supervisor for 30 minutes per week, or equivalent.

Course website: <http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz/>

Trimester Dates

Monday 28 February to Friday 14 October

Course content

This is a supervised research project that provides students with the opportunity to undertake independent research in a specific area of economics or econometrics.

Course Learning Objectives

- To provide students with an opportunity to study in-depth, a topic area of interest.
- To provide students with the experience of completing a significant research paper, in an intellectually independent and largely self-directed fashion.
- To develop students' skills of critical inquiry and ability to write an academic paper that demonstrates an in-depth understanding of an area of research.

Course delivery

Students are expected to attend lectures when scheduled (weeks 1-3, 13), to meet with their supervisor on a weekly or fortnightly basis, and to attend and present in two symposia (weeks 8 and 18).

Expected workload

Overall it is expected that you will spend approximately 300 hours on completing this course. Where possible this should be spread evenly over the 24 teaching-weeks, the two mid-trimester breaks and the mid-year break, averaging roughly 10 hours per week from the start of the course until the submission date of the project.

Group work

There is no group work for this course.

Readings

It is expected that all students will read and cite extensively the academic literature in their chosen area of research. The university has extensive online access to journals. See <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/library/> and select "Journal Finder".

Materials and Equipment

None.

Assessment Requirements

The assessment is 100% based on the final submitted project, due no later than 5pm, Friday 14 October. Any extension must be negotiated with the course coordinator no later than Friday 7 October. Extensions cannot be granted by the supervisor.

Your project may be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

Examinations

There is no exam for this course.

Penalties

Late submission of the project must be discussed well in advance of the deadline with the course coordinator. Penalties may apply, but will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

Mandatory course requirements

- attend and present in both symposia (weeks 8 and 18)
- submit an acceptable research proposal to your supervisor in week 8 (this should be no longer than 2 pages, should contain a summary of the research project and a plan for completion)
- attend at least three SEF seminars

Use of Turnitin

Projects must be checked prior to submission for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection

of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party. Instructions will be made available no less than four weeks before the due date.

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before 11 March 2011. (Note that this course is a compulsory requirement for BCA(Hons) students in Economics or Finance.)
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is 19 August. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an '*Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late*' including supporting documentation.

The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

Class representative

A class representative will be elected in the first week, whose name and contact details will be made available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of additional information

Additional information will be conveyed to students via Blackboard and/or email.

Emails may be sent to the address that you supplied with your enrolment; but they may also be sent to your SCS email address, which is your official university email address. You should keep an eye on both email addresses.

For the following important information follow the links provided:

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

General University Policies and Statutes

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study>

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress>

The University's statutes and policies are available at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>,
except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home.study/calendar> (See Section C)

Further information about the University's academic processes can be found on the website of the Assistance Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at
http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/default.aspx

**AVC (Academic)Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances,
Students with Impairments, Student Support**

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcadademic/Publications.aspx

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/>

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/mentoring