

School of Economics and Finance

## **FINA430 RESEARCH PROJECTS IN FINANCE**

Trimester 1, 2013

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

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#### **Names and Contact Details**

Coordinator:

Dr. Chia-Ying Chang  
Office: RH308, Rutherford House  
Phone: (04) 463-6146  
E-mail: [chia-ying.chang@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:chia-ying.chang@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office hours: by appointment.

Administrator:

Bonnie Riley  
Office: RH 321, Rutherford House  
Phone: (04) 463-5380  
E-mail: [Bonnie.Riley@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Bonnie.Riley@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office hours: M-F 9am-midday and 1-4pm

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

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

#### **Trimester Dates**

Teaching Period: Monday 4 March – Friday 18 October.

#### **Withdrawal from Course**

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 15 March 2013.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 17 May 2013. 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 Times and Room Numbers**

Lecture time:

1. There will be Research Workshops in weeks 1 and 2 in Trimester one, and one in week 1 of Trimester two. Times and venues are as follows and will be announced on Blackboard:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time start</b>	<b>Time finish</b>	<b>Room</b>
Friday 8 March	14:40	16:30	RWW315
Wednesday 13 March	14:40	16:30	RWW313

2. All students are expected to meet their supervisor on weekly or fortnightly basis.

### **Course Delivery**

Students are expected to attend the workshop and the lecture when scheduled (weeks 1-3 in Trimester one and week 1 in Trimester two), to meet with their supervisor on a weekly basis, and to attend and present in two symposia (week 7 of Trimesters one and two).

### **Expected Workload**

It is expected students will spend approximately 300 hours on their research. These hours are spread evenly over 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.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

1. To provide students with an opportunity to study in-depth, a topic area of interest.
2. To provide students with the experience of completing a significant research paper in an intellectually independent and largely self-directed fashion.
3. 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 Content**

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

### **Readings**

It is expected that all students will read and cite extensively the academic literature in their chosen area of research. The university library has extensive online access to journals.

### **Assessment Requirements**

The assessment is 100% based on the final submitted project, which has to be uploaded to FINA430 Blackboard no later than 5pm, Friday 18 October. Any extension must be negotiated with the course coordinator before Friday 4 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 FComm programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

### **Penalties**

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

### **Use of Turnitin**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked 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. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and submitted to Turnitin. A copy of submitted materials will be retained 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.

## **Examinations**

There is no examination for this course.

## **Mandatory Course Requirements**

1. Students must attend and present in both symposia on week 7 of both Trimesters one and two. The details of attendance requirements will be posted on Blackboard.
2. Students must submit an acceptable research proposal to your supervisor on week 8 of Trimester one. The proposal should be less than 2 pages, and must contain a summary of the research project and a plan for completion.
3. Students must attend at least 3 SEF seminars within the period 4 March – 18 October. The schedule of SEF seminars can be found <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sef/about/events/sem-latest>.

## **Class Representative**

A class representative will be elected for the entire class of Honours, and that person's name and contact details 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 or information on changes will be conveyed to students in class or via Blackboard.

## **Link to general information**

For general information about course-related matters, go to

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/vbs/studenthelp/general-course-information>

## **Note to Students**

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

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