

School of Economics and Finance

**ECON430-FINA430 RESEARCH PROJECTS IN  
ECONOMICS/FINANCE**

Trimester 1 and 2, 2015

**COURSE OUTLINE**

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**Names and Contact Details**

Coordinator:

Dr. Chia-Ying Chang  
Office: RH308, Rutherford House  
Phone: (04) 463-6146  
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Office hours: by appointment.

Administrator:

Debbie Turner  
Room 321, Rutherford House, Pipitea campus, Wellington  
Phone: (04) 463-5380  
E-mail: [debbie.turner@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:debbie.turner@vuw.ac.nz)  
Office hours: Mondays-Fridays 9am-3pm

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 2nd March – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Study Period: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June

Examination Period: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 1st July (inclusive).

**Withdrawal from Course**

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2015.
1. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 21 August 2015. 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 or [online](#).

2.



## **Class Times and Room Numbers**

Lecture time:

1. There will be a brief meeting on week 1 of both Trimester one and 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>
6 March	12.10pm	1.10pm	GB117

## **Course Delivery**

Students are expected to attend the meetings when scheduled (weeks 1 in both Trimester one and two), to meet with their supervisor on a weekly basis, and to attend and present in two symposia, commenced during the week after each mid-trimester break (week 6 of Trimesters one and week 7 of Trimester 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.

## **Prescription**

A supervised research project that provides students with the opportunity to undertake independent research in a specific area of economics/finance.

## **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 economics or econometrics or 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 Handbook will apply to all VUW courses: see

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf>.

The assessment is 100% based on the final submitted project, which has to be uploaded to ECON430 Blackboard no later than 5pm, Friday 16 October. Any extension must be negotiated with the course coordinator before Friday 2 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.

## **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 6 of trimester one and on week 7 of trimester two. The details of attendance requirements will be posted on Blackboard.
2. Students must submit an acceptable research proposal to your supervisor on week 7 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 2 March – 16 October. The schedule of SEF seminars can be found <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/sef/about/events/sem-latest>.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

### **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.

### **Student feedback**

Student feedback on University courses may be found at [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php)

### **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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