

School of Economics and Finance

**ECON-FINA530 RESEARCH PROJECTS IN
ECONOMICS/FINANCE**

Trimester 1, 2015

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Coordinator:

Dr. Chia-Ying Chang
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Office hours: by appointment.

Administrator:

Debbie Turner
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E-mail: debbie.turner@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: Monday-Friday 9am-3pm.

Pre-requisites: ECON-FINA 430.

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 5th June

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday, 13 March 2015.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday, 15 May 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](#).

Class Times and Room Numbers

All students are expected to meet their supervisors on regular basis.

Course Delivery

Students are expected to meet with their supervisors on regular basis and deliver the final project on time.

Expected Workload

It is expected students will spend approximately 300 hours on their research. These hours are spread evenly over 12 teaching weeks and the mid-trimester break, averaging roughly 22 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 project 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

The student will agree on a research topic with supervisor and undertake independent research in a specific area of economics, econometrics or finance. The final report should include an in-depth analysis of research question.

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 ECON-FINA530 Blackboard no later than **5pm, Friday 5 June 2015**. There will be no negotiation about deadline.

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

For late submissions of the project, 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

The project must be submitted on time. .

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to

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

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.
