

Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2019/20 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

Module name	Introduction to Finance
Module code	BM2102
School	Cass Business School
Department or equivalent	Undergraduate Programme
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	5

MODULE SUMMARY

Module outline and aims

This is an introductory module providing you with an understanding of the role financial analysis in decision making. Embedded in the syllabus are examples demonstrating how the role of finance is applicable to almost all business decisions and showing the range of major financial instruments used by businesses and investors. The module provides a basis for concentrating in finance.

The broad objective of this module is to provide a basic level of financial literacy (i.e. the core principles of corporate finance, markets and investments). Specifically, at the end of this module you should

- 1) be able to read and with a basic level of understanding The Financial Times Companies & Markets news sections
- 2) be prepared for basic finance questions at intern type job interviews, and
- 3) understand more of how finance fits in with our culture and society.

Content outline

To enhance your learning experience modules are designed to reflect contemporary issues in the business and financial world. As such, a degree of flexibility is expected in the exact content in terms of scope and coverage to ensure relevance to current circumstances.

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- Corporations & Markets
- Corporate Governance, Stewardship & Agency
- Compounding & Present Values & Annuities & Perpetuities
- Indebtedness & Bonds & Leasing
- Equities & Shares
- Dividends
- Net Present Value, Internal Rate of Return & Investment Evaluation
- Portfolio Diversification
- Risk & Return
- Efficient Market Theory & Behavioural Finance

Pre-requisites

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

Learning outcomes should capture what the student is expected to know or be able to demonstrate by the end of the module and should:

- *be written at threshold level and at the credit level to be studied*
- *be styled so as to complete the sentence below*
- *be matched to specific content and/or assessment tasks*

On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

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- Demonstrate an understanding of a) key financial markets and what is meant by 'efficient markets' and b) how business and investors observe, quantify and measure risk.
- Discuss core financial theory (.e.g. agency, valuation, diversification) underlying the determination of key financial variables and appreciate how it fits into all aspects of business.
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic financial instruments and the users and uses of such instruments.
- Demonstrate a foundation for future finance courses

Skills:

- Apply financial theory in order to debate, formulate and solve practical problems in finance.
- Calculate a) the values and understand the basic risk of bonds and b) the values and understand the basic risks of shares (equities).
- Calculate basic lease, annuity (pension type), and mortgage structures and appreciate how they can be used practically by businesses and investors.

Values and attitudes:

- Demonstrate critical understanding cultural differences on financial issues.
- Appreciate the societal conflicts that can influence finance and financial structures
- Assess how conflicts of interest can influence financial decision-making.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of ethical issues as they relate to both the subject matter and the wider business world.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

A variety of learning and teaching methods will be used in this course.

Lectures are used to introduce context, concepts and techniques illustrated with practical and current examples. You will also have the opportunity to participate in class discussions and work

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through examples and exercises with the support of the lecturer. It is strongly recommended that you attend ALL lectures.

Key learning and teaching resources will be put on the module website on Moodle.

In the independent study time you are encouraged to read widely and in depth around particular topics in preparation for lectures. You may also spend time working through sample exercises and questions. In addition you will be preparing and undertaking your coursework assignments and preparing for your final examination.

Teaching pattern:

Teaching component	Teaching type	Contact hours (scheduled)	Self-directed study hours (independent)	Placement hours	Total student learning hours
Lecture	Lecture	30	120		150
Totals		30	120		150

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessments

This module is assessed by two substantial tests at approximately weeks 5 and 8 (equating to the coursework element) and a final examination.

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At the end of the module you will sit one final 135 minute exam during the University exam period.

Assessment pattern:

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Test 1	Set Exercise	15%	40*	N/A
Test 2	Set Exercise	15%	40*	N/A
Final Exam	Written exam	70%	40	N/A

*the two tests must be passed with an aggregate mark of 40

Assessment criteria

Assessment criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully and Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria for module assessments will be made available to you prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available in the UG Assessment Handbook and from the module leader.

Feedback on assessment

Following an assessment, you will be given your marks and feedback in line with the University's Assessment Regulations and Policy. More information on the timing and type of feedback that will be provided for each assessment will be available from the module leader.

Assessment Regulations

The Pass mark for the module is 40%. Any minimum qualifying marks for specific assessments are listed in the table above. The weighting of the different components can also be found



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above. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component or the module.

INDICATIVE READING LIST

Brealey R, Myers S, and Allen F (2010). *Principles of corporate finance*. 10th edition, New York: McGraw-Hill

Version: 1.0

Version date: December 2016

For use from: 2018-19