



Leicester Business School

MSc Accounting & Finance

**STUDENT HANDBOOK
2011/2012**

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO DE MONTFORT UNIVERSITY

Professor DAVID WILSON

DEAN OF FACULTY OF BUSINESS & LAW

I should like to take this opportunity to welcome you to De Montfort University and, more specifically, to the Faculty of Business and Law. The Faculty comprises Leicester Business School and Leicester De Montfort Law School and offers a wide range of postgraduate courses, a number of which incorporate professional qualifications. The Faculty is proud of its excellence in teaching and research. Our postgraduate courses are noted for combining academic rigour with practical application. We ensure that courses are relevant to the professional world and our graduates are highly valued by employers in both the private and public sectors.

Courses at postgraduate level are both exciting and challenging. They require great diligence from you if you are to achieve a high level of success. The priority of our academic and administrative staff is to help you to produce your best work; to gain as much as possible from your course and to obtain the qualifications you are seeking. Both Leicester De Montfort Law School and Leicester Business School staff will do all they can to make your stay here in Leicester both enjoyable and rewarding. They are easily approachable and will be happy to help at any time.

Enjoy your stay here: Leicester is a vibrant, exciting and welcoming city. I hope you will find your time here at DMU not only worthwhile but also an enjoyable learning experience.

All good wishes



Professor David Wilson

Dean of Faculty of Business and Law/Deputy Vice-Chancellor

PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Introduction to the Programme

The MSc Accounting and Finance is considered to be a career development programme. It aims to further your studies in your first degree and / or professional qualification. Graduates from this programme will be conversant with the critical aspects of a spectrum of accounting and finance subject areas, and specialist in a specific area of your choice.

To enable such knowledge to be developed, the programme is split into three distinct semesters. The first semester will focus on four core modules, providing an essential underpinning in financial and management accounting, corporate finance and research methods. This ensures that all students are exposed to critical analysis of the foundations of the discipline. In semester two students choose three electives from a suite of six. The choice may reflect a desire to focus on a particular area or to maintain a broader knowledge in a variety of areas. During semester two students will also begin preparing for their dissertation. This provides an opportunity to research the literature and decide upon a chosen methodology. Finally during the summer, designated as “Semester Three”, students will complete their dissertation submission under the guidance of an individual supervisor. The dissertation will be a critical piece of research that offers some utility to the chosen subject area. The programme will be challenging both in terms of academic level and the critical analysis of the discipline.

The programme is designed with an international application, both in terms of its content and participants. It is anticipated that graduates from the programme will move into senior business management roles.

This Programme Handbook provides a complete introduction to the programme and the regulations that govern its operation. It details how the programme is managed and by whom, and the administrative and academic teams responsible for its delivery.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

MSc Accounting and Finance

Stage	Modules	
Induction Period	Financial Accounting Management Accounting International Taxation Policies Corporate Finance (All induction modules carry zero credits)	
Semester One September – January	ACFI5005 An Evaluation of Financial Accounting & Reporting (15 credits)	ACFI5006 An Evaluation of Management Accounting (15 credits)
	ACFI5009 Corporate Finance (15 credits)	ACFI5010 Research Methods (15 credits)
Semester Two January – May	ACFI5027 Dissertation Preparation Project A (Literature Review) (15 credits)	Choice of three from the following (each 15 credits): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACFI5007 International Taxation Policies • ACFI5018 Risk Management • ACFI5021 International Finance • ACFI5022 Strategic & Financial Decision Making • ACFI5026 Mergers & Acquisitions • ACFI5031 Internal Control & Audit
May – September	ACFI5028 Project B ~ Dissertation (60 credits)	

AIMS AND OUTCOMES

The Programme

This programme is designed to complement a student's undergraduate or professional studies to produce graduates who are proficient in one of the following areas, but conversant with the wider aspects of them all:

- Financial Accounting
- Management Accounting
- Corporate Finance

Subject Specific Learning Outcomes

The subject specific learning outcomes of the programme include the following:

- To understand the role and function of modern financial accounting and reporting and to critically appraise the adequacy of the audit function
- To critically review the role and interdisciplinary nature of management accounting
- To critically appraise the techniques and underlying theories of corporate finance, in the context of strategic management processes
- To evaluate a variety of research methods available and be able to select those appropriate to a particular research topic, and to propose a relevant research design
- To demonstrate research informed by a critical discussion of the discipline, relevant issues and evidence, the conclusions from which have some contribution to the discipline of accounting and finance

Cognitive and Non-Subject Specific Learning Outcomes

The cognitive and non-subject specific skills developed by each student should include:

- A capacity for independent and self-managed learning
- Analytical skills for critical evaluation and critical appraisal
- Communication skills
- Ability to analyse and draw reasoned conclusions
- Group centred learning and group presentations
- Critical appraisal
- Numeracy skills and appreciation of statistical concepts

Assessment Requirement

The assessment for the MSc Accounting and Finance programme will comprise:

- 7 modules (4 core modules and 3 elective modules. Each module being worth 15 credits) and a
- 75 credit dissertation (Project A 15 credits plus Project B 60 credits) founded on a research project.

The method of assessment for each module is set out in the syllabus section of this handbook.

FACULTY SERVICES AND SUPPORT

Student Advice Centre (SAC)

Where are we and what do we do?

The Student Advice Centre is located on the ground floor of the Hugh Aston building (0.37) next to the Café. The primary function of the Centre is to provide advice on a wide range of student issues as well as take in coursework.

We hold leaflets detailing University procedures and protocols in respect of all areas as well as copies of the University Regulations and all of the standard forms. We are able to give you contact numbers, email addresses and surgery hours of all academic members of staff.

In short we should be your first port of call if you require any help or advice; if we are not able to help you we will know who can! Although we do not offer counselling we do have a separate room available should your problem be of a private or confidential nature.

The Postgraduate Suite

Postgraduate and professional programmes from both the Law School and the Business School are accommodated primarily in a dedicated area within the Hugh Aston building – a suite of rooms on the 4th and 5th floors – which has access control (to restrict use to PG students) and can be entered by a separate staircase/lift on the Oxford Street side of the building as well as the other main entrances. For larger classes, use is also made of the spacious lecture theatres housed on the floors below the suite.

The Postgraduate Suite is open from 9 am – 9 pm during term time and 9 am – 7 pm during the vacation. **The suite is not open at weekends.** Students wishing to use IT facilities at the weekends can use the Kimberlin Library which has both fixed PCs and wireless access. Please check on the library website for more information: www.library.dmu.ac.uk.

The suite provides a modern, comfortable learning environment conducive to study at postgraduate level and comprises:

Fourth floor – rooms 4.09 – 4.15

- 6 x classrooms/seminar rooms
- Common Room with vending machines, sofas, tables & chairs
- Meeting room

Fifth floor – rooms 5.08 – 5.17

- 6 x classrooms/seminar rooms
- Resources Room (housing PCs and the Dissertation Reference Library)
- 3 x syndicate rooms for group working and meetings (see below for booking information)

Resources Room

The Resources Room has 35 PCs for casual use all day long. There is one black and white and one colour printer, a scanner and a print kiosk for topping up printing credits. Students will be issued with a personal log on during enrolment week to allow them to use these facilities. The Technical Support Team is located on the second floor in room 2.01 and should be contacted with all queries of a technical nature.

All formal lab based classes will take place in one of the Faculty's five computer labs, all of which can be found on the second floor.

Syndicate Rooms

The suite has three small syndicate rooms (HU5.15PG, HU5.16PG & HU5.17PG) which are available to staff and students for activities such as meetings, group work, interviews etc. Bookings can be made as follows:

- By emailing your Programme Administrator, stating clearly the date and time that you require the space, the activity being undertaken and number of people involved.
- Your Programme Administrator will email to confirm the booking or otherwise
- On Monday morning each week a printout of bookings per room for that week will be placed on each door. Students/staff can then 'self book' themselves into any empty slots that remain for the week
- As this is a self managed resource, you are asked to respect the bookings system, vacating promptly at the end of your booked slot.

Support for International Students

The International Student Support Officer provides ongoing specialist support, including advice and guidance on issues such as working in the UK and opening a bank account, as well as lots of general information about living and studying in Leicester. We know that you will have lots of questions about life in a new city and we're here to try and give you as much help as we can.

Email: Internationalsupport@dmu.ac.uk

Advice and assistance on immigration, housing and a range of other issues is also provided by the **Welfare and Education Team** who are based within Student Union on the first floor in the Campus Centre building. The team can also assist you in applying to extend your student visa. Call in for an appointment or telephone (0116) 257 6307.

MODULE INFORMATION

CORE MODULES

ACFI5005

An Evaluation of Financial Accounting & Reporting

ACFI5006

An Evaluation of Management Accounting

ACFI5009

Corporate Finance

ACFI5010

Research Methods

ACFI5027

Literature Review

ACFI5028

Dissertation

ELECTIVE MODULES

ACFI5007

International Taxation Policies

ACFI5018

Risk Management

ACFI5021

International Finance

ACFI5022

Strategic & Financial Decision Making

ACFI5026

Mergers & Acquisitions

ACFI5031

Internal Control & Audit

Handbook Descriptor

The module will introduce the appraisal of the broader aspects of financial accounting and reporting. Rather than examining technical aspects of reporting, the module will appraise the theoretical developments in the topic and place financial accounting and reporting in a social and political context so that students can appreciate the implications of accounting practice.

Assessment Components

Essay 1 - Coursework

Weighting 50%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%.

Seen Examination 1 - SEEN1

Weighting 50%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%. The Duration is 180 minutes.

Assessment Rationale

The assessment will consist of two elements, both comprising 50% of the final grade:

- An essay of a maximum 5,000 words
- An examination

Reassessment Requirements

In accordance with DMU postgraduate regulations a student may be given one opportunity to be reassessed in a failed element through an equivalent element of reassessment.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - To establish a thorough understanding of financial accounting developments and practice in the context of current theoretical developments (Subject Related).
- 2 - To evaluate contemporary financial accounting techniques and practices (SR)
- 3 - To critically analyse the significance and value of financial accounting standards (SR)
- 4 - To understand and appraise the adequacy of the audit function
- 5 - To develop skills required for independent and self-managed learning (non SR)
- 6 - To develop analytical skills required for critical evaluation (non SR)
- 7 - To develop the capacity to convey reasoned conclusions via logical and critical analysis (non SR)
- 8 - To enhance communication skills (non SR)
- 9 - To evaluate contemporary financial accounting techniques and practices

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Handbook Descriptor

This module will examine the application of management accounting within a coherent theoretical framework. The module will analyse the fundamentals of costing within a multi-product business environment and contextualise the same through the use of case studies. Control, evaluation and performance measurement techniques will also be critiqued. The module will make use of contemporary research literature in the field of management accounting.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 - Simulation game

Weighting 30%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%.

Seen Examination 1 - Seen/closed examination

Weighting 70%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%. The Duration is 180 minutes.

Assessment Rationale

To integrate the Business Simulation Exercise in the module assessment. This will entail the replacement of the current module group assignment with the group Business Simulation Exercise. The module weighting will be 30:70 coursework: examination.

Students will be assessed via a group assignment comprising 30% of the overall module grade, and an examination comprising 70% of the overall module grade.

Reassessment Requirements

Reassessment of the group assignment will be substituted by an appropriate individual assignment. Reassessment of the examination, may at the tutors discretion be to rework the original examination.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - To examine, illustrate and develop theories and concepts concerning management accounting (Subject Related).
- 2 - To critically analyse how the management accounting function influences aspects of control, evaluation and performance measurement (SR).
- 3 - To appreciate the context of management accounting within a strategic framework (SR).
- 4 - To critique contemporary research literature in the field of management accounting (SR).
- 5 - To develop skills required for independent and self-managed learning (non Subject Related).
- 6 - To develop analytical skills required for critical evaluation contemporary or controversial issues (non SR).
- 7 - To critically evaluate contemporary or controversial issues (non SR).
- 8 - To develop the capacity to convey reasoned conclusions via logical and critical analysis (non SR).
- 9 - To enhance group presentation skills (non SR).

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Handbook Descriptor

This is a core module provides an introduction to key topics in Corporate Finance and provides the necessary tools, techniques and basic quantitative research methodology to undertake further modules in Accounting and Finance at Masters Level.

'Corporate' reflects the private-sector profit-making organisations that are listed on the UK FT/SEI stock exchange. The interaction of the entity within the markets imposes disciplines on the senior management concerning their existing and future operations and overall strategies. Unlike private companies (UK), senior management are increasingly having to meet expectations of existing and potential shareholders. These expectations will vary according to the risk and return investment decisions undertaken by the senior management on the shareholders behalf. Many of the major investors in corporate enterprises are themselves large enterprises, for example, insurance companies, pension funds, investment, hedge funds and unit trusts, etc. Representatives of these groups of investors are seeking ongoing income streams and/or capital growth. It is implicit that any corporate strategy should reflect the component business strategies but supported by an overall financial strategy for the company as a whole.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 - Coursework 1

Weighting 50%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%.

Other Coursework 2 - Coursework 2

Weighting 50%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%.

Assessment Rationale

The module introduces a number of fundamental finance concepts that will need to be assimilated by the student. The most appropriate method for this is via a three part individual assessment, of some 3,000-4,000 words in total excluding diagrams, calculations and appendices which will test the student to:

Access, obtain and apply secondary financial data the development of additional quantitative skills the development of written communication skills apply key financial concepts and interpret them.

The submission will be in two parts: the first will be 50% of the total assessment with a deadline before the Xmas vacation; the second of 50% after the conclusion of module inputs.

Reassessment Requirements

In accordance with DMU postgraduate regulations a student may be given one opportunity to be reassessed in a failed element through an equivalent element of reassessment.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - Cognitive and Non-Subject Specific Skills:- Capacity for independent and self managed learning
- 2 - Develop thorough understanding of financial modelling techniques and their overall pervasiveness in Corporation Finance 1 and subsequently (SR)
- 3 - Demonstrate an ability to interpret the outcomes of models and contextualise to the shareholder wealth concept
- 4 - Demonstrate an ability to identify, collate and apply financial data to modelling situations (SR)
- 5 - Engender awareness of contemporary financial and corporate issues related to the module
- 6 - Undertake personal initiative to acquire suitable source material and references (non SR)
- 7 - Apply wider sources of literature to support/challenge existing concepts and techniques
- 8 - Develop an ability to apply raw financial data to well understood statistical measures of risk and return (non SR)

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Handbook Descriptor

Research training is an essential part of every UK masters degree and this module aims to introduce students to the basic elements of research methodology and the complete range of research methods suitable for research in finance, accounting and business. It also aims to assist students in defining a research topic and the production of a suitable research proposal for their dissertation (ACFI5027 and ACFI5028).

Assessment Components

Essay 1 - ESSAY1

Weighting 40%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%.

Other Coursework 1 - OTHERCWK1

Weighting 60%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%.

Assessment Rationale

The assessment will consist of two elements:

- Production of a written research proposal.
- An essay critiquing research methodologies.

Reassessment Requirements

Students may be re-examined or re-submit each component once only.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - To evaluate the broad range of research methods available in Accounting (Subject Related).
- 2 - To select and clearly articulate an appropriate dissertation topic in Accounting (SR).
- 3 - To develop a research methodology to suit a particular research topic
- 4 - To critically appraise suitable sources of literature and empirical data to support a dissertation in Accounting (SR).
- 5 - Cognitive and Non-Subject Specific Skills:- Critical evaluation of arguments and evidence
- 6 - Capacity for independent and self-managed learning (non SR).
- 7 - Numeracy skills and appreciation of statistical concepts
- 8 - Communication skills, including the ability to present a reasoned proposal (non SR).

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Handbook Descriptor

This module is intended to complement students' studies from the semester one Research Methodology core module. It is anticipated that students will build upon their research proposal beginning with the preparation of a literature review, which may inform their chosen research area.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 - OTHERCWK1

*Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.
The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 50%.*

Assessment Rationale

Students must demonstrate competence in the preparation of their dissertation literature review, which may ultimately inform their research instrument. This assessment is intended to be a preparatory paper for the final dissertation submission (ACFI5028 Project B).

Reassessment Requirements

Students required to be reassessed in this module will be required to either rework their original submission or in extreme circumstances, change research topic entirely. This will be determined by the Supervisor and Assessment Board.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - To demonstrate the ability to locate, identify and critically review appropriate literature (Subject Related).
- 2 - To appropriately summarise a range of literature pertaining to a critical area of accounting and/or finance (SR).
- 3 - Cognitive and Non-Subject Specific Skills : Clarity of thought and exposition
- 4 - To develop capacity for independent self-managed learning (non SR).
- 5 - To develop analytical skills required for critical evaluation (non SR).

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Handbook Descriptor

This module will enable students to produce an individual and sustained piece of original work that addresses a specific area in the field of accounting and finance.

The module will culminate in the writing of a dissertation, supported by appropriate background research and the application of theoretical knowledge. The dissertation will demonstrate the student's intellectual and conceptual skills and their ability to link academic discourse with empirical research using appropriate analytical and critical techniques.

The module aims to ensure that students leave the programme with the proven ability to engage in research informed by a critical discussion, relevant issues and evidence, and conclusions, all of which significantly contribute to the discipline.

Assessment Components

Project 1 - Individual dissertation 15000 - 18000 words
*Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.
The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 50%.*

Assessment Rationale

Students must demonstrate competence in their research topic, evidenced through their dissertation.

Reassessment Requirements

Students required to be reassessed in this module will be required to either rework their original submission or if necessary change research topic entirely. This will be determined by the Supervisor and Assessment Board.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - Subject Specific Knowledge and Skills:
To evaluate the variety of research methods available and be able to select those appropriate to a Particular Research topic, and to propose a relevant research design
- 2 - Through private study and independent work to produce a sophisticated research dissertation which focuses on an area within accounting and finance
- 3 - To demonstrate the ability to locate, identify, critically review and appropriately summarise a range of literature pertaining to a critical area of accounting and finance
- 4 - To evidence the ability to undertake empirical research and analyse the results appropriately
- 5 - Cognitive and Non-Subject Specific Knowledge:
to be able to analyse information and produce a critical discourse where appropriate
- 6 - To develop the capacity for independent and self-managed learning
- 7 - To demonstrate skills of critical analysis, evaluation and appraisal
- 8 - To develop the ability to analyse, reflect and draw reasonable conclusions
- 9 - To employ numeric skills and appreciation of the current DMU policy statement on Human Research Ethics

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Handbook Descriptor

The module will cover appraisal of the broader aspects of taxation and fiscal policy using international case studies.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 - OTHERCWK1 30 minute max group presentation & 5000 word max report
Weighting 50%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%.

Seen Examination 1 - SEEN1

Weighting 50%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%. The Duration is 180 minutes.

Assessment Rationale

The assessment will consist of two elements:

- Group presentation and report – 30 minute presentation (max) and 5,000 word report (max)
- A seen closed book examination – 3 hours

Reassessment Requirements

Students may be re-examined or re-submit once only in an equivalent element.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - To develop thorough understanding of developments in UK tax policy.
- 2 - To understand the differing international contexts of fiscal policy (SR).
- 3 - To be aware of methods of national and local tax collection.
- 4 - Understand the use of tax as an instrument of social and political policy (SR).
- 5 - To appreciate the effects on quantum and structure of business investment, employment and reports.
- 6 - Capacity to convey reasoned conclusions (non Subject Related).
- 7 - To develop skills required for independent and self managed learning
- 8 - To develop analytical skills required for critical evaluation (non SR).

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Handbook Descriptor

This module has been designed in order to provide a thematic study of 'Risk Management' within an interdisciplinary context.

The rationale for the module is driven by the extremely topical nature of the subject matter and the increased recognition that it is essential to manage corporate risks in order to enhance stakeholder value. It is now recognised that the business agenda has moved away from risk avoidance towards the recognition that risk, if correctly managed, may provide opportunities leading to competitive advantage.

The study of Risk Management is particularly appropriate, within the context of a postgraduate Business/Management Programme, due to the emphasis on strategic decision-making within such programmes, where risk is likely to be a particular issue.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 - Other Coursework 1
*Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.
The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 50%.*

Assessment Rationale

The generic MBA assessment criteria will apply.

The case study will be designed in order to enable students to demonstrate the skills of critical analysis, and insight and originality in responding to the assignment. It is also expected that students will provide evidence of the ability to select and order content in order to present a sound academic and practical argument.

Reassessment Requirements

Students will be offered the opportunity to resubmit assignments in accordance with standard DMU regulations.

In cases of reassessment the students will be required to undertake a different case study which will cover similar learning outcomes.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - Understand the all encompassing nature and importance of risk management
- 2 - Evaluate the external and internal influences on corporate management approaches to risk management (SR).
- 3 - Appreciate the importance of disaster scenario planning in today's economic environment
- 4 - Use both quantitative and qualitative techniques in order to evaluate and manage risk. (QAA i, ii, iv) (SR).
- 5 - Recognise and utilize individuals contributions in group processes and apply ethical and organisational values to scenarios and choices. (QAA viii, x) (non SR).
- 6 - Provide evidence of the ability to select and order content in order to present a sound academic and practical argument (QAA xi) (non SR).

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Handbook Descriptor

This module provides students with a broad exposure to the political, economic and technical dimensions of the international finance regime. The regime is described - its institutions, markets and players - and the key adjustment mechanisms are explained - balance of payments, exchange rate systems, relative interest and inflation rates.

The role of finance in the competitive struggle between nation states and between multinational corporations to generate economic value is explored. Financial and risk appraisal of foreign trade and direct investment projects is demonstrated.

This module is ideally suited toward those who wish to specialise in international studies or finance. It develops investment and funding decisions in 'Accounting for Strategic and Financial Decisions' and complements the market-based hedging mechanisms taught in 'Risk Management'.

Assessment Components

Group Report 1 -

Weighting 50%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%.

Unseen Examination 1 - Unseen examination

Weighting 50%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%. The Duration is 120 minutes.

Assessment Rationale

The individually assessed examination is closed book.

The group written assignment will be a real-life case study aiming to challenge students' intellect and ensure their understanding of the relationship between theory and real-life practice.

As the analysis of real life international financial problems, requires a mixture of skills and capabilities, students will be required to demonstrate their ability to combine analytical skills, critical thinking and IT knowledge so as to correctly evaluate and solve the problem presented in the case study.

Reassessment Requirements

Normally students will be given an opportunity to be reassessed on every failed module/component in accordance with standard De Montfort University Postgraduate Regulations.

Failure of the group assignment component will result in a reworking of the original submission and/or additional primary research as guided by the Module Leader's feedback.

For the exam component, a pass in a fresh unseen paper will be required.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - Comprehend the political & economic power of the international financial regime. (SS)
- 2 - Demonstrate a systematic understanding of complex foreign investment decisions. (SS)
- 3 - Recommend appropriate financing strategies for Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)
- 4 - Undertake simple market-based transactions to hedge the risk of currency movement. (SS)
- 5 - Challenge received wisdom on sovereign, OECD & IMF policy (SS)
- 6 - Capacity to convey reasoned conclusions. (NSS)
- 7 - Capacity to Convey reasoned conclusions
- 8 - Develop skills required for independent and self managed learning. (NSS)
- 9 - Capacity to convey reasoned conclusions

- 10 - Develop skills required for independent and self managed learning
- 11 - Apply academic literature and theoretical models in a reflective and critical manner to real world Context

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Handbook Descriptor

This elective module is designed specifically to consider corporate strategic investment decisions and the underlying financial management issues relevant to these decisions. The module will focus on the allocation of funds within the business and the financial appraisal techniques used in evaluating strategic options. The financing of investment opportunities will then be considered and particular attention will be paid to sources of funds, the cost of those funds and alternative financing strategies. The module will be considered within the context of adding shareholder value.

As the module is concerned with long-term planning and control it is particularly suited to the strategic theme of a masters business programme.

The module can operate as either a self-contained, coherent unit of study, or as part of an overall accounting and finance framework for those students who wish to pursue a degree of specialisation.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 - Case Study

Weighting 50%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%.

Other Coursework 2 - Report

Weighting 50%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 45%.

Assessment Rationale

The coursework is designed to enable students to demonstrate a high level of learning in terms of analysis, evaluation and synthesis. The students will be expected to use academic literature and texts in order to analyse key issues, within an accounting and financial perspective of strategic decision-making.

Reassessment Requirements

Normally students will be given an opportunity to be reassessed on any failed module or component in accordance with standard DMU postgraduate regulations.

Reassessment will involve students responding to a new assignment brief which will assess similar learning outcomes.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - Recognise the role of accounting and finance within the strategic planning process.
- 2 - Consider the importance of risk assessment at all stages of the investment process and the application of a variety of risk management techniques.
- 3 - Recognise the implications of divisionalisation for strategic formulation, implementation and Performance measurement.
- 4 - Appreciate the importance of the cost of capital, and the influences upon it, within the strategic investment appraisal process.
- 5 - Cognitive and Non-Subject Specific Skills:
Demonstrate problem solving and decision-making skills through the selection and application of appropriate tools, and control processes, for strategic project appraisal.
- 6 - To develop skills required for independent and self-managed learning.
- 7 - To develop skills required for independent and self-managed learning

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Handbook Descriptor

This module is designed specifically to consider merger and acquisition activity from both a strategic and financial management perspective. It provides an opportunity for considering and evaluating merger activity from an organisational, behavioural and regulatory viewpoint, as well as financial. The module will also be approached from both the context of creating shareholder value and that of multiple stakeholders who may have similar or conflicting aims. Whilst the regulatory framework will be considered mainly from a UK and EU perspective, the increasingly cross-border nature of merger activity will also be considered.

Within this remit the module will also analyse the increasing importance of strategic alliances between large corporations and national governments.

As the module is concerned specifically with an issue of a long-term nature it is particularly suited to the strategic theme of a business-related Masters programme.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 - OTHERCWK1 Summative report 4000 words
*Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.
The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 50%.*

Assessment Rationale

The coursework will be designed to enable students to demonstrate a high level of learning in terms of analysis, evaluation and synthesis. The students will be expected to investigate a practical contemporary issue within the scope of the module by collecting and analysing data and also relating the issues to academic literature where appropriate.

Reassessment Requirements

Students will be offered the opportunity to resubmit the assignment in accordance with standard programme regulations. In cases of reassessment the students will be required to correct deficiencies on their initial assignment. This is because the assignment will involve the collection of large amounts of data, and therefore it would not be practical to set a totally different assignment.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - To recognise merger and acquisition activity as an element of the overall strategic growth process (SR).
- 2 - To critically analyse the rationale and results of merger and acquisition activity from a multiple stakeholder perspective (SR).
- 3 - To demonstrate a thorough understanding of company valuation
- 4 - To appreciate the management processes involved in merger activity from the viewpoint of both corporations (SR).
- 5 - To appraise the drive towards, and the operation of, strategic alliances between MNEs and state organisations
- 6 - To develop decision-making and problem solving ability using appropriate analysis techniques (non Subject Related).
- 7 - To critique and analyse received opinion in a reflective manner (non SR).
- 8 - To undertake effective research within an appropriate time frame (non SR).
- 9 - To communicate using ITC in an effective and appropriate manner

Please note that assessment information is subject to change

Handbook Descriptor

This module aims to develop the knowledge and understanding of the role of internal control and audit within a corporate governance framework. It is aimed to, within an international environment, develop an understanding and critical evaluation of:

- Internal control risks and organisational responses within a corporate governance framework
- Internal audit processes and their application within the context of financial reporting frameworks
- The significance of internal control and audit in fraud prevention and detection

The rationale for this module is to expose students to the crucial role internal control mechanisms and the internal audit function play in organisations' efficiency and effectiveness. Recent cases of corporate failures and scandals, especially in the US and the UK, have heightened public interest in how organisations are being governed and how the management tackles business risks.

Assessment Components

Other Coursework 1 - Report

Weighting 100%. The component receives a mark.

The Component is Essential with a Threshold of 50%. The word limit is 4000.

Assessment Rationale

Candidates will work on a chosen scenario which offers scope for the application and assessment of the knowledge and skills learnt in the module's topics. There will be the opportunities for feedback throughout the module and the assessment will culminate in a management report allowing students to integrate the subjects covered.

Reassessment Requirements

Students will be re-assessed in the same manner as the original management report.

Learning Outcomes

- 1 - Critically evaluate the nature, purpose and scope of internal control audit processes within Business organisations as tools to reduce business risks.
- 2 - Explain and evaluate accounting and internal control risks and systems.
- 3 - Appraise and critically review control risks and procedures necessary to mitigate such risks.
- 4 - Explain and evaluate internal control procedures.
- 5 - Explain and evaluate internal audit procedures.
- 6 - Explain and be aware of the extending internal audit horizons.
- 7 - Use both quantitative and qualitative techniques in order to analyse and evaluate issues relating to Internal Controls and audit.

Please note that assessment information is subject to change