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| **School of Management**  **MN-M584 Finance for Economics**  ***Individual Coursework Assignment 2*** | **Text  Description automatically generated** |

The second coursework assignment for this module is an individual assignment worth 70% of the overall module mark. This assignment has a word limit of 3500 words.

**Coursework Brief**

Write a report for an investor who is considering investing in a tracker fund which tracks the Dow Jones Industrial Average Index. Their alternative investment is a fund which tracks the Russell 2000 stock index. This investor plans to use a long-short strategy that will buy the fund when the index is expected to rise, and short the fund whenever it is expected to fall. Therefore, the investor is particularly interested in the predictability of the index that they will follow. Assume further that this investor does want to know about the academic research that supports your modelling.

Your report should contain the following elements:

1. A brief description of the markets and their key features
2. A summary of the data that has been used in the report
3. Results from logit and probit regressions on the predicted direction of movement of the two indices using macroeconomic data and historic market movements.
4. Results from machine learning classification models on the one month ahead direction of movement of the two indices based on the same macroeconomic data and historic market movements.
5. Appropriate visualisations and evaluation that can guide the decision of the investor

In presenting your report you may consider an executive summary and other formatting elements., such as lists of tables, figures etc. You may also provide appendices to add to the evidence presented to the investor. Any executive summary would be marked as part of the word count, but frontmatter and endmatter are not counted. Appendices are also not counted in the word count. Effective presentation is an important part of the marking criteria.

When constructing your report, you do not need to provide Python code and you should not simply cut and paste Python output into the document unless you believe it is already formatted in a style you are happy with.

All figures and tables must have descriptions below them. It should be possible to interpret any table or figure without reference to the main text. These words are not counted within the word count. Please see Lecture 10 for precise details.

For the highest marks it is essential that you include wider reading from academic journals. There are many works that follow on from those discussed in the class you may wish to use. It is left to you to demonstrate the research skill necessary.

The best answers may also consider more advanced models, such as the multiple classification version instead of binary. We do not cover these models within this module, but a brief introduction will be given in Week 8. You may also consider additional variables matched to the provided dataset using the date. Note that it is not necessary to include additional models to obtain a distinction.

Your work should be submitted as a single Microsoft Word document (or PDF).

**Key Marking criteria will include:**

* Initiative: originality, innovativeness of answer
* Assignment Structure: clarity of aims, objective, structure and presentation
* Quality of Writing: Readability and ability to convey key message(s) concisely
* Quality/Scope of Literature Review: Understanding of established knowledge
* Suitability of Literature: Use of suitable sources, focused to answer key research aims
* Literature Analysis: Quality/level of analytical skill demonstrated
* Insightfulness of Analysis: Interest and usefulness of findings, conclusions drawn.
* Presentation of Tables and Figures: It must be possible to understand without reference to the main text.
* Understanding: Assignment demonstrates students have understood key topics
* Overall Quality of Assignment

**Submission**

The main assignment must be submitted by **2pm on Friday 28th April** via Turnitin. Students can expect to receive individual feedback on their work via Turnitin on Friday 19th May.

Please note:

* The maximum file size that can be uploaded is 20mb. If the file is larger than this it is usually because it includes a lot of images – these should either be removed, if possible, or converted to a more efficient format to reduce the file size (e.g. .png or .gif).
* Students should ensure that their student number is part of the title of the filename for the work submitted/uploaded.
* **IMPORTANT**: Any student submitting an assessment past the published deadline without submitting a request for Extenuating Circumstances (in line with the [Extenuating Circumstances Policy](https://myuni.swansea.ac.uk/academic-life/academic-regulations/aqs-policies/policy-on-extenuating-circumstances/)) will be deemed to have not submitted and receive a mark of 0% for the assessment.

Students who are likely to be prevented from meeting the assessment deadline due to extenuating circumstances should notify the School by emailing [extenuating-management@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:extenuating-management@swansea.ac.uk) as soon as possible before the assessment deadline. Please refer to the [Extenuating Circumstances Policy](https://myuni.swansea.ac.uk/academic-life/academic-regulations/aqs-policies/policy-on-extenuating-circumstances/) for further information.

**Digital Submission of Coursework Instructions**

* Logon to Canvas
* Access the appropriate Course site from your dashboard.
* Click the Assignments menu button which appears on the left of the screen.
* Click on the relevant assignment for submission.
* In this page students will see a file entitled ‘Submission coversheet’.  Students need to complete this form and incorporate it as the first page of their coursework (not two separate files)**.**
* Students should read the statement of originality before clicking cid:image002.jpg@01D68606.9A0D58A0By submitting work they are agreeing to this statement and confirming it to be true.
* Click cid:image003.jpg@01D68606.9A0D58A0to select your assignment file.
* Click cid:image005.jpg@01D68606.9A0D58A0 to upload an assignment.
* Click cid:image006.jpg@01D68606.9A0D58A0to finalise the submission
* A message saying “Submission Complete” will then appear.

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* Students can then download a submission receipt by clicking on this icon cid:image011.png@01D617C8.E21D2FF0 on the Assignment Dashboard.  Students should download and keep this receipt safe as evidence of their submission.

Please direct any assessment related queries to [assessment-management@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:assessment-management@swansea.ac.uk)

**Notes on Style and Word Count**

Assignments are a critical part of the learning experience and development for scholars at Swansea University. Practice will pay dividends when it comes to honing your skills in report and essay writing. Students are therefore encouraged to submit the highest quality work they can to reach their maximum potential. Students with concerns about how to present their work can consult with the Module Co-ordinator for guidance in addition to the notes listed below:

The maximum word limit for the main assignment (excluding tables, contents page, footnotes, charts, graphs, figures*, reference lists* *but including in-text references*) is **3500 words**. The word count must be stated in the assignment cover sheet.

Students are required to adhere to the maximum word limits and should note their final assignment/examination word count in the space provided on the accompanying cover sheet. Students will incur a 5-mark penalty for exceeding the word limit. Please note that word counts should not include cover sheets, bibliographical footnotes, or bibliographies.

Students who submit work that is below the word limit will not be penalised. This is because students will not have taken full advantage of the word limit available to them, which in itself may constitute a penalty.

The assignment should be in extended essay format (i.e. use headings/sub-headings). Full academic referencing using the Harvard APA (7th Edition) referencing style should be used throughout the assignment. Guidance on how to reference using the APA style can be found at:

APA Referencing Guide: <https://libguides.swansea.ac.uk/APA7Referencing>

To gain higher marks students are required to show analysis and reflection rather than simple description. They should use **multiple sources** of academic literature to frame and justify their analysis. All sources should be correctly identified - students are reminded the University enforces strict penalties for plagiarism (up to and including withdrawal from the University).

Correct English spelling and grammar should be used at all times. Students who have been formally diagnosed with specific learning difficulties (SpLD) will be contacted by the disability office and will be supplied with a specific cover sheet.

**Video, Audio or other Assessment Types**

For some assessments students may be required to submit a video, audio or other digital media item. The University’s overarching privacy policy advises students that the University will collect photographs and video recordings for the purpose of recording lectures, student assessment and examinations. This processing and storage of this information is lawful as it is necessary for the performance of a contract with the student and will apply to any personal data that we process for the purposes of administering and delivering their course of study.

[Student Privacy Notice - Swansea University](https://www.swansea.ac.uk/about-us/compliance/data-protection/student-privacy-notice/)

**Proof Reading**

Please be aware of the university’s Proof Reading policy which sets outs what the university considers to be good academic practice in relation to proof reading. Further information can be found by accessing the [proof reading policy](https://myuni.swansea.ac.uk/academic-life/academic-regulations/aqs-policies/proof-reading-policy/)

**Good Academic Practice**

Academic integrity is fundamental to the values promoted by Swansea University. It is important that all students are judged on their ability, and that no student is allowed unfairly to take an advantage over others, to affect the security and integrity of the assessment process, or to diminish the reliability and quality of the qualification awarded.

Academic misconduct is to commit any act where a student may obtain an unpermitted advantage for themselves or another. This can relate to any form of assessed work including:

* Open book examination taken on-line
* A piece of coursework
* Any form of assessment undertaken in pursuit of an academic or professional qualification at Swansea University.

Academic misconduct can be committed on an individual or group basis.

There are different types of academic misconduct including:

* [**Plagiarism**](https://myuni.swansea.ac.uk/academic-success/understanding-plagiarism/)
* **Collusion**
* **Commissioning**

The University takes academic misconduct very seriously and it can have a detrimental effect on your results as where academic misconduct is found to have taken place penalties will be applied.

Students should note that a claim of ignorance of the University’s expectations on good academic practice is not an acceptable defence to an allegation of academic misconduct.

**Self-plagiarism** is the copying of work that was originally completed and submitted by the

student and resubmitted for another purpose, without acknowledgement. While self-plagiarism is not considered as academic misconduct by the University it is treated as poor academic practice by the School and this is reflected in the marks awarded.

**How can students learn about good academic practice?**

Help with correct referencing is available from the School’s Library Subject Team – you can make an [**appointment**](https://swansea-uk.libcal.com/appointments/)with a subject librarians for help with referencing. Access [The library online referencing guide](https://libguides.swansea.ac.uk/Management/Referencing) for the School of Management. At the start of term the library offers induction sessions for new and continuing students and targeted sessions throughout the academic year. You can also access information on good academic practice through the Swansea Academy of Academic Success More information on their services can be found on their [web pages](https://myuni.swansea.ac.uk/academic-success/e-learning-resources/academic-success-course/).

Swansea Academy of Academic Success also provide a short online course on good academic practice which can be access through the [Academic Success pages](https://myuni.swansea.ac.uk/academic-success/e-learning-resources/academic-success-course/). Following completion of the self-directed learning, there is an online quiz (takes about 5 minutes), which assesses your level of understanding of the learning material. You can revisit the training material and retake the quiz as many times as you wish.

Full information on Academic Misconduct can be found in the [Academic Misconduct Procedure](https://myuni.swansea.ac.uk/academic-life/academic-regulations/assessment-and-progress/academic-misconduct-procedure/)