



UNSW Course Outline

FINS5590 Finance Research in Practice - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : FINS5590

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : UNSW Business School

Academic Unit : School of Banking and Finance

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

The goal of this course is to help Finance PhD students develop their research ideas and to better prepare them for successful academic careers. This will include advice on selecting research topics, working on their presentations skills, developing strategies for effective student-

faculty interactions, and preparing them for the job market. During our meetings students will have an opportunity to discuss research ideas in an collaborative, non-judgmental environment. The discussion will be centered on topics considered relevant to the Finance research community (e.g., issues being discussed in top Finance journals). There is an emphasis on developing the students' presentation and communication skills as well as some insights on how to sidestep common pitfalls during their transition from students to academic researchers.

Course Aims

This course is intended for Banking & Finance PhD/MPDBS students. This is a core course for all students admitted through the MPDBS program.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes	Program learning outcomes
CLO1 : Formulate a research topic relevant to the Finance research community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL01 : Research Excellence • PL02 : Academic Excellence
CLO2 : Identify and develop the knowledge and skills necessary for effective preparation and delivery of academic presentations. Increase confidence in communicating your research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL01 : Research Excellence • PL02 : Academic Excellence
CLO3 : Demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on your own work and research ideas as well as providing constructive feedback on the research of others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL01 : Research Excellence • PL02 : Academic Excellence • PL03 : Leadership
CLO4 : Identify and avoid mistakes commonly made by graduate students in their transition to academic researchers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL01 : Research Excellence • PL02 : Academic Excellence
CLO5 : Develop critical economic perspectives and analytical skills, and be able to articulate key research results through written reports and oral presentation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL01 : Research Excellence • PL02 : Academic Excellence • PL04 : Global Impact
CLO6 : Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner and be able to defend your economic analysis and statistical approaches in Q&A. Understand how to respond to critiques of your research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL01 : Research Excellence • PL02 : Academic Excellence
CLO7 : Understand trends in research topics, rising econometric and analytical standards and what makes for a significant contribution to the literature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL01 : Research Excellence • PL02 : Academic Excellence • PL04 : Global Impact

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Formulate a research topic relevant to the Finance research community.	• Student Presentation
CLO2 : Identify and develop the knowledge and skills necessary for effective preparation and delivery of academic presentations. Increase confidence in communicating your research.	• Student Presentation
CLO3 : Demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on your own work and research ideas as well as providing constructive feedback on the research of others.	• Student Presentation
CLO4 : Identify and avoid mistakes commonly made by graduate students in their transition to academic researchers.	• Student Presentation
CLO5 : Develop critical economic perspectives and analytical skills, and be able to articulate key research results through written reports and oral presentation.	• Student Presentation
CLO6 : Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner and be able to defend your economic analysis and statistical approaches in Q&A. Understand how to respond to critiques of your research.	• Student Presentation
CLO7 : Understand trends in research topics, rising econometric and analytical standards and what makes for a significant contribution to the literature.	• Student Presentation

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates	Program learning outcomes
Student Presentation Assessment Format: Individual	100%		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PL01 : Research Excellence • PL02 : Academic Excellence • PL03 : Leadership • PL04 : Global Impact

Assessment Details

Student Presentation

Assessment Overview

Students are required to complete a research paper and present their work as part of this assessment.

Assesses: HDR PL01, PL02, PL03, PL04

Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : Formulate a research topic relevant to the Finance research community.
- CL02 : Identify and develop the knowledge and skills necessary for effective preparation and delivery of academic presentations. Increase confidence in communicating your research.
- CL03 : Demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on your own work and research ideas as well as providing constructive feedback on the research of others.
- CL04 : Identify and avoid mistakes commonly made by graduate students in their transition to academic researchers.
- CL05 : Develop critical economic perspectives and analytical skills, and be able to articulate key research results through written reports and oral presentation.
- CL06 : Communicate ideas in a succinct and clear manner and be able to defend your economic analysis and statistical approaches in Q&A. Understand how to respond to critiques of your research.
- CL07 : Understand trends in research topics, rising econometric and analytical standards and what makes for a significant contribution to the literature.

Detailed Assessment Description

Assessment Task	Weighting	Due Date
- Class Participation	30%	Weekly
- Final term project	70%	

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Satisfactory

Requirements to pass course

In order to pass this course students must:

- Achieve a composite mark of at least 50 out of 100
- Engage actively in course learning activities and attempt all assessment requirements
- Meet any additional requirements specified in the assessment details
- Meet the specified attendance requirements of the course (see Schedule section)

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	Project Development and Management and How to Critique a Finance Research Paper (Lecture and Discussion)
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	Project Development and Management and the Importance of Replication and Understanding Natural Experiments and Instruments and Generalized IVs Weisbach Ch 11
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Lecture	Project Development and Management and Review Matching Procedures in Empirical Work: Propensity Score Matching and Extensions (Coarsened Exact Matching (CEM), Mahalanobis distance matching (MDM), Fine Stratification by propensity score (FS) and Entropy Balancing)
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Basic and Advanced Difference in Difference Techniques
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Advanced Econometrics: Discontinuity Design Regressions, Bunching Estimators and Bin Scatters
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Lecture	Student Practice in Critiquing Corporate Governance Articles
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Research Strategies – How to Find a Promising Topic (Lecture and Discussion) Weisbach Ch 1 and 2
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	How to Structure a Research Article and Organize a Set of Empirical Findings Weisbach Ch 4-5
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	How to Write an Introduction and to Motivate a Paper Weisbach Ch 6-7 and Project Proposals Due, Cochrane "Writing Tips for PhD Students"
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Presentation	Extra Class Periods for Student Presentations
Week 11 : 5 August - 11 August	Presentation	Extra Class Periods for Student Presentations
Week 12 : 12 August - 18 August	Other	Term Papers Due at the end of exam week

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Resources

Course Evaluation and Development

Feedback is regularly sought from students and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. At the end of this course, you will be asked to complete the myExperience survey, which provides a key source of student evaluative feedback. Your input into this quality enhancement process is extremely valuable in assisting us to meet the needs of our students and provide an effective and enriching learning experience. The results of all surveys are carefully considered and do lead to action towards enhancing educational quality.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Ronald Masulis		BUS 354		Available by appointment and immediately after class.	No	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

COURSE POLICIES AND SUPPORT

The Business School expects that you are familiar with the contents of this course outline and the UNSW and Business School learning expectations, rules, policies and support services as listed below:

- Program Learning Outcomes
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Student Responsibilities and Conduct
- Special Consideration
- Protocol for Viewing Final Exam Scripts
- Student Learning Support Services

Further information is provided on the [key policies and support](#) page.

Students may not circulate or post online any course materials such as handouts, exams, syllabi or similar resources from their courses without the written permission of their instructor.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) – under the Outcomes tab – are what you should be able to demonstrate by the end of this course, if you participate fully in learning activities and successfully complete the assessment items.

CLOs also contribute to your achievement of the Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), which are developed across the duration of a program. PLOs are, in turn, directly linked to [UNSW graduate capabilities](#). More information on Coursework PLOs is available on the [key policies and support](#) page. For PG Research PLOs, including MPDBS, please refer to the [UNSW HDR Learning Outcomes](#).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To

assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

You can apply for special consideration when illness or other circumstances beyond your control interfere with your performance in a specific assessment task or tasks, including online exams. Students studying remotely who have exams scheduled between 10pm and 7am local time, are also able to apply for special consideration to sit a supplementary exam at a time outside of these hours.

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

Special consideration applications will be assessed centrally by the Case Review Team, who will update the online application with the outcome and add any relevant comments. The change to the status of the application immediately sends an email to the student and to the assessor with the outcome of the application.

Please note the following:

1. Applications can only be made through Online Services in myUNSW (see the UNSW [Current Students](#) page). Applications will not be accepted by teaching staff. The lecturer-in-charge/course coordinator will be automatically notified when your application is processed.
2. Applying for special consideration does not automatically mean that you will be granted a supplementary exam or other concession.
3. If you experience illness or misadventure in the lead up to an exam or assessment, you must submit an application for special consideration, either prior to the examination taking place, or prior to the assessment submission deadline, except where illness or misadventure prevent you from doing so.
4. If your circumstances stop you from applying before your exam or assessment due date, you

must apply within 3 working days of the assessment or the period covered by your supporting documentation.

5. Under the UNSW Fit To Sit/Submit rule, if you sit the exam/submit an assignment, you are declaring yourself well enough to do so and are cannot subsequently apply for special consideration.
6. If you become unwell on the day of – or during – an exam, you must stop working on your exam, advise your course coordinator or tutor and provide a medical certificate dated within 24 hours of the exam, with your special consideration application. For online exams, you must contact your course coordinator or tutor immediately via email, Moodle or chat and advise them you are unwell and submit screenshots of your conversation along with your medical certificate and application.
7. Special consideration requests do not allow the awarding of additional marks to students.

Further information on Business School policy and procedure can be found under “Special Consideration” on the [key policies and support](#) page.

LATE SUBMISSION PENALTIES

For assessments other than examinations, late submission will incur a penalty of 5% per day or part thereof (including weekends) from the due date and time. An assessment will not be accepted after 5 days (120 hours) of the original deadline unless special consideration has been approved. An assignment is considered late if the requested format, such as hard copy or electronic copy, has not been submitted on time or where the ‘wrong’ assignment has been submitted.

For assessments which account for 10% or less of the overall course grade, and where answers are immediately discussed or debriefed, the LIC may stipulate a different penalty. Details of such late penalties will be available on the course Moodle page.

FEEDBACK ON YOUR ASSESSMENT TASK PERFORMANCE

Feedback on student performance from formative and summative assessment tasks will be provided to students in a timely manner. Assessment tasks completed within the teaching period of a course, other than a final assessment, will be assessed and students provided with feedback, with or without a provisional result, within 10 working days of submission, under normal circumstances. Feedback on continuous assessment tasks (e.g. laboratory and studio-based, workplace-based, weekly quizzes) will be provided prior to the midpoint of the course.

Faculty-specific Information

PROTOCOL FOR VIEWING FINAL EXAM SCRIPTS

UNSW students have the right to view their final exam scripts, subject to a small number of very specific exemptions. The UNSW Business School has set a [protocol](#) under which students may view their final exam script. Individual schools within the Faculty may also set up additional local processes for viewing final exam scripts, so it is important that you check with your School.

If you are completing courses from the following schools, please note the additional school-specific information:

- Students in the **School of Accounting, Auditing & Taxation** who wish to view their final examination script should also refer to [this page](#).
- Students in the **School of Banking & Finance** should also refer to [this page](#).
- Students in the **School of Information Systems & Technology Management** should also refer to [this page](#).

COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Feedback is regularly sought from students and continual improvements are made based on this feedback. At the end of this course, you will be asked to complete the [myExperience survey](#), which provides a key source of student evaluative feedback. Your input into this quality enhancement process is extremely valuable in assisting us to meet the needs of our students and provide an effective and enriching learning experience. The results of all surveys are carefully considered and do lead to action towards enhancing educational quality.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Business School is actively monitoring student learning and quality of the student experience in all its programs. A random selection of completed assessment tasks may be used for quality assurance, such as to determine the extent to which program learning goals are being achieved. The information is required for accreditation purposes, and aggregated findings will be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of Business School programs. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential.

TEACHING TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Please note that teaching times and locations are subject to change. Students are strongly

advised to refer to the [Class Timetable website](#) for the most up-to-date teaching times and locations.