

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

School:	Business
Programme:	BA (Hons) Finance and Investment
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Quantitative Models in Finance
Course Code:	FNN 6205
Course Leader:	Ivan K. Cohen
Student Engagement Hours:	120 (standard 3- credit BA course)
Lectures:	30
Seminar /Tutorials:	15
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Spring
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description

This is a comprehensive course that focuses on model-building and quantitative methods used by professionals engaged in finance and investments. The course focuses on applying mathematical formulas utilizing Microsoft Excel across a broad range of financial and investment situations. The primary focus of the course is on corporate valuation and its utilisation.

Prerequisites: FNN 5205, FNN 6200, FNN 5210

Aims and Objectives:

This Course is a comprehensive capstone course that focuses on model-building, primarily in MS Excel™, to investigate a range of financial case studies. The application of mathematical formulas across a range of financial and investment scenarios enables and encourages students to critically consider the quantitative methods employed by professionals engaged in finance and investment. The key focus is on developing a range of skills which will ultimately enable valuation of a listed company.

Programme Outcomes

A2, A4, B1, B-B5, C1, C2, D1, D2, D3, D5

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification.

This is located at the archive maintained by the Academic Registry and found at:

<http://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, a successful student should be able to

Knowledge and Understanding

1. Develop a full understanding of the almost infinite nature of Excel™ as a modelling tool.
2. The ability to develop financial models, based on a range of forecasting techniques.
3. Critical understanding of the limitations of the modelling process
4. Understand how to present the findings of the model in a short financial report and via a sales pitch.
5. Understand how to measure and evaluate corporate performance.

Cognitive Skills

1. Understanding the importance of alternative approaches for forecasting financial statements.
2. To compare and contrast alternative financial models (e.g. comparable analysis, discounted free cash flow analysis) for corporate valuation.
3. To understand the use of sensitivity and scenario analysis within financial modelling to assess performance and to identify possible results and related courses of action.
4. Critical approach to case study analysis using real world data.

Professional and/or Practical Skills

1. Quantitative and IT skills including the framing of data, its interpretation, extrapolation and presentation.
2. Integration of empirical data within a textual-based report.
3. To be able to identify and compare and contrast key financial modelling techniques in the context of a given set of circumstances.
4. The ability to make recommendations, both tactical and strategic, based on the findings of a model.
5. To be able to make a sales pitch for the corporate takeover of a public company.

Key Skills

1. Effective communication skills via a range of media.
2. Ability to develop strong analytical and technical skills through listening, discussion and reflection.

Indicative Content

1. Introduction to using Excel™ for financial modelling, including the acquisition of good habits.
2. Key techniques in financial forecasting, including regression, per cent of sales.
3. Cash flow modelling.
4. Company valuation: DCF and WACC.
5. Company valuation: non-DCF techniques.
6. Presenting model findings: reports and presentations.

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Standard University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board (formerly Learning & Teaching Policy Committee) and located at: <http://www.richmond.ac.uk/admitted-students/>

Teaching Methodology:

Semi-formal weekly presentation of material in a hands-on interactive PC Lab format. Supplemented with a set of readings and some audio-visual material. Full use of IT, particularly Excel, but also including social media and podcasts, is required and supported. The set of case studies, building to a corporate valuation, is of crucial impact as a learning tool.

Bibliography:

- Craig W. Holden (2011), *Excel Modeling in Corporate Finance*, fourth edition. Prentice Hall
- Alastair Day (2007), *Mastering Financial Modelling in Microsoft Excel: A Practitioner's Guide to Applied Corporate Finance*, second edition. FT/Prentice Hall
- Mary Jackson and Mike Staunton (2001), *Advanced Modelling in Finance using Excel and VBA*. John Wiley
- Ivan K. Cohen (2005) *Focus on Financial Management*. Imperial College Press
- Kevin Boakes (2009), *Reading and Understanding the Financial Times*, 2nd edition. FT/Prentice Hall
- Robert Leach (2004) *The Investor's Guide to Understanding Accounts: 10 crunch questions to ask before investing in a company*. Harriman House
- Richard A Brealey, Stewart C. Myers and Franklin Allen (2005) *Principles of Corporate Finance*, international edition, McGraw-Hill Irwin
- Stephen A. Ross, Randolph W. Westerfield and Jeffrey Jaffe (2005) *Corporate Finance*, seventh edition. Irwin/McGraw-Hill
- Tim Koller and Marc Goedhart and David Wessels (2005) *Valuation: Measuring and Managing the Value of Companies*, fourth edition. McKinsey & Company Inc./John Wiley & Sons
- Guy Hart-Davis (2007) *How To Do Everything with Microsoft Excel 2007*.¹ McGraw- Hill/Osborne
- Ed Robinson (2004) *Excel VBA in Easy Steps*. Computer Step
- John Buglear (2001) *Stats Means Business*. Butterworth
Heinemann

Journals

¹ Or earlier editions if you use an earlier version of MS Excel™.

Economic and Financial Modelling

Web Sites

The Economist

(www.economist.com) *The Financial Times* (www.ft.com) *The Wall Street Journal* (wsj.com)

Google Finance (www.google.co.uk/finance?tab=we)

CNBC (www.cnbc.com)

Global Financial Data (www.globalfinancialdata.com/index.html)

Social Science Information Gateway (www.sosig.ac.uk/economics)

WebEc: World Wide Web Resources in Economics (netec.mcc.ac.uk/WebEc.html)

The CIA Factbook (www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html)

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change ?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Minor	Updated Programme Outcomes	School 11.11.2016	