

Module: Financial Management and Analysis

1.1 Headline information about the module

Module title	Financial Management and Analysis
Module NFQ level (only if an NFQ level can be demonstrated)	8
Module number/reference	N/A
Parent programme(s) the plural arises if there are embedded programmes to be validated.	Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Accounting and Finance
Stage of parent programme	2
Semester (semester1/semester2 if applicable)	1
Module credit units (FET/HET/ECTS)	ECTS
Module credit number of units	10
List the teaching and learning modes	Full Time, Part Time, Blended
Entry requirements (statement of knowledge, skill and competence)	Learners must have completed the previous stage or equivalent.
Pre-requisite module titles	Financial Accounting
Co-requisite module titles	None
Is this a capstone module? (Yes or No)	No
Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff (staff includes workplace personnel who are responsible for learners such as apprentices, trainees and learners in clinical placements)	Lecturing staff are required to hold at least a master's degree in accounting, finance or business equivalent and/or an equivalent professional accounting qualification.
Maximum number of learners per centre (or instance of the module)	100
Duration of the module	12 weeks
Average (over the duration of the module) of the contact hours per week (see * below)	5 hours
Module-specific physical resources and support required per centre (or instance of the module)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully equipped classroom for lectures, with capacity to hold at least 100 learners, including projection and video recording capability, internet access, and presentation software Tutorial rooms to accommodate 25 learners Online broadcasting and recording capability to stream and store lectures

Analysis of required learning effort		
*Effort while in contact with staff	Minimum ratio teacher / learner	Hours
Classroom and demonstrations	1/100	48
Monitoring and small-group teaching	1/25	10
Other (specify)	-	-
Independent Learning		
Directed e-learning (hours)		-
Independent Learning (hours)		192
Other hours (specify)		-
Work-based learning hours of learning effort		-
Total Effort (hours)		250

Allocation of marks (within the module)					
	Continuous assessment	Supervised project	Proctored practical examination	Proctored written examination	Total
Percentage contribution	20%	-	-	80%	100%

1.2 Module aims and objectives

The objective of this module is to develop the knowledge and skills required of a finance manager in relation to investment, financial analysis and financing decisions.

This module provides the learner with skills to explore the financial environment in which an entity and its managers must operate, to assess capital investment situations, as well as to understand the various methods that can be used to finance capital investments. This module aims to demonstrate the importance of working capital management and the tools to manage it. It also provides the learner with the means to conduct financial analysis, measure performance and efficiency.

1.3 Minimum intended module learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, learners are able to:

- (i) Explain the financial environment within which organisations operate
- (ii) Assess the financial objectives of various types of organisations and the respective requirements of stakeholders
- (iii) Evaluate the factors affecting investment decisions and opportunities presented to an organisation and identify appropriate sources of finance
- (iv) Appreciate the importance of cash flow to a business and identify and select and apply techniques in managing working capital
- (v) Use ratio analysis to identify any issues in the financial and economic position of the business relevant to investors or potential investors and measure performance
- (vi) Provide advice on personal wealth management and pension planning

1.4 Rationale for inclusion of the module in the programme

The financial manager function is the heart of the long-term success of an organisation. This module presents the learner with the roles and activities of a financial manager and clearly focuses on the main objective of maximising shareholders' value and, in addition, providing key support to management.

The learner gains a key understanding of investment appraisal, working capital management and important analysis techniques. The module also covers other broad areas of financial management including current economic factors, financing and personal wealth, to the expansion of their knowledge base in the current economic climate.

The module is an essential element on any accounting and finance related degree and allows the learners to develop their level of knowledge, thinking and analytical skills. Modules at stage 1 and 2 do not have an NFQ level and so do not map directly to the Business Awards Standards.

1.5 Information provided to learners about the module

Learners enrolled on this module initially receive a copy of the module descriptor, assessment briefs and assessment strategy. These materials are given directly by the lecturer but also by the year head as part of the Semester Schedule Handbook for stage 2 modules of the programme. All content is provided on Moodle as well as access to additional content through the library and online resources.

1.6 Module content, organisation and structure

Financial Function and Environment

- Financial objectives of organisations
- Stakeholders in an organisation, their objectives and the impact their objectives may have on corporate objectives
- Agency theory and the ways to achieve shareholder objectives
- Review of the economic environment
- Nature and role of financial markets

Investment Appraisal

- Evaluation techniques:
 - Payback Period
 - Accounting Rate of Return
 - Net Present Value (NPV)
 - Internal Rate of Return (IRR)
- Discounted cash flow
- Relevant and irrelevant cash flows appropriate to the investment appraisal decision

Sources of Finance

- Features of various short, medium and long-term sources of finance and their suitability to the organisation
- The impact of share capital and loan capital on the organisation
- Implications of terms included in loan agreements
- Principle alternative security types (e.g. equity, preference shares and debentures) and situations where they are suitable.
- Bond price and risk characteristics
- Credit risk and security
- Features of debt securities – coupon structures, covenants

Changes in cash and working capital

- Constituent elements of working capital
- The working capital cycle including the:
 - Management of cash including the preparation of cash budgets
 - Management of receivables – credit evaluation, setting credit policy, offering discounts, systems and techniques to control receivables, factoring, invoice discounting
 - Management of payables – important source of finance, impact of discounts offered
 - Management of inventories – use of various models e.g. economic order quantity (EOQ)

Financial Analysis

- Performance analysis of an organisation
- Key ratios (profitability, liquidity, efficiency, gearing and investor ratios) used in evaluation of a company's performance
- Measuring performance
- Measuring efficiency
- Analysing ROI – the DuPont measuring system

Personal Wealth Management and Pension Planning

- Personal financial management process
- Principles of personal wealth management
- Appropriate methods to assess an individual's personal financial position
- Constructing an investment portfolio
- Pension characteristics and types including private and state pension

1.7 Module teaching and learning (including formative assessment) strategy

The module is delivered through a series of classroom lectures supported by tutorials. Learners are provided with a weekly outline of the topics. The classes follow:

Traditional classes

Traditional lectures are used to present the theories and application of concepts underpinning financial management which are supported by tutorials. This is achieved in a class room environment utilising PowerPoint slides accompanied by class exercises and handouts. The classes are recorded and uploaded on Moodle for learners to enhance their learning. Solutions to questions are worked in class and then the information is also posted to Moodle. In these sessions, real time practical examples are used to demonstrate the application or theories / concepts.

In class discussion

Discussion is based on financial management concepts and relevant topics. Real world examples where possible are incorporated into discussions which underpin the learners' application of their knowledge in financial management to establish the level of understanding of the theories / concepts.

Practical questions

Current relevant practical questions and past papers in the form of a booklet are made available for learners to work on in class.

1.8 Work-based learning and practice-placement

There is no work-based learning or practical placement in the module.

1.9 E-learning

Moodle is the College's virtual learning environment (VLE) from which learners are able to access all materials. These include class notes, reading materials, videos and case studies. Online classes and seminars are provided for learners undertaking the 'Blended Learning' courses.

1.10 Module physical resource requirements

The module requires a fully equipped classroom for lectures, with capacity to hold at least 100 learners, including projection and video recording capability, internet access and presentation software, and tutorial rooms to accommodate 25 learners. Online broadcasting and recording capability to stream and store lectures is also required.

1.11 Reading lists and other information resources

Primary Reading

Atrill, P. (2019). *Financial Management for Decision Makers*. 9th Edition. Harlow: Pearson.
Watson, D. and Head, A. (2019) *Corporate Finance: Principles and Practice*. 8th edition. New York / Harlow: *Financial Times* / Prentice Hall.

Secondary Reading

ACCA F9 (2016) *Financial Management*. Wokingham: Kaplan.
Bingham, E. and Huston, J. (2019). *Fundamentals of Financial Management*. 10th Edition. Boston: Cengage Learning.
Brealey, R., Myers, S. and Allen, F. (2019). *Principles of Corporate Finance*. 13th Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill Education.
Ward, A. (2014) *Finance: Theory and Practice*. 3rd edition. Dublin: Chartered Accountants Ireland.

1.12 Specifications for module staffing requirements

Lecturing staff are required to hold at least a master's degree in either accounting, finance or business equivalent and/or an equivalent professional accounting / finance qualification.

1.13 Module summative assessment strategy

Initial summative assessment is conducted by way of an individual case study assignment. The final element of the assessment is a closed-book examination. The examination places an emphasis on applying theoretical concepts and practical cases learned on the course.

The assessed work breakdown is indicated in the table below.

No.	Description	MIMLOs	Weighting
1	Examination	(i) to (vi)	80%
2	Assignment	(ii), (iii)	20%