

Financial Markets Certificate

A KEY TO PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

*Endorsed by the Australian Financial Markets Association – AFMA



Debt Markets - Elective Unit Outline

This unit provides the foundational knowledge and skills required to work effectively in debt financial markets. Throughout the unit, you will develop an understanding of how debt markets operate, analyse the primary debt products, and how they are used by market participants. The processes for developing risk management strategies, pricing transactions, and managing trading exposures are also covered.

The debt elective unit covers topics that include:

- a. Introduction to Debt Markets
- b. Debt Securities
- c. Debt Linked Derivatives
- d. Measuring and Managing Risks.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the unit, participants will be able to:

1. Analyse the functioning of various debt securities and the market drivers affecting their prices.
2. Apply knowledge of fixed-income pricing techniques to calculate the market value of assets and their respective risks.
3. Determine and apply appropriate risk mitigation and hedging strategies using debt-linked derivatives.
4. Factor in the client's financial objectives and needs in alignment with the risk-return dynamics of debt securities.



Pre-Requisites

Successful completion of Financial Markets Concepts, Financial Markets Transaction and Risk Management Principles.

ASSESSMENT TASKS

Tasks	Due
Assignment	Week 6
Skills assessment (case study)	Week 6

Assignment

The assignment is based on a series of short answer questions covering the material in the unit. The assignment has a 50% weighting.

Skills assessment report

The skills assessment report consists of scenario-based questions designed to test your ability to apply the unit content to a workplace setting. The report has a 50% weighting.

These two assessment tasks are final exams (e.g., substantive not formative tasks). If a participant fails, the unit they will need to retake the unit. Feedback is not provided for final exams. An appeals process is available. You must have passed all lesson quizzes and the workshop prior to taking the assessment tasks.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Lessons and quizzes

To complete the unit, you must work through all the online lessons. As you progress through each lesson you will be able to assess whether you have understood the content by completing the online quizzes. You must pass the automatically marked quizzes. Multiple attempts are allowed.

Workshop

There is a compulsory workshop in week four. You must have passed all lesson quizzes prior to the workshop. Contribution to the workshop will be assessed and you must get a satisfactory assessment to be able to take the Assessment Tasks.

Discussion forum activities

You will have access to facilitators for questions throughout the term via discussion forums. We encourage you to use the discussion forums to ask questions, post your thoughts on each lesson and engage fully in the cohort community.

STUDY SCHEDULE

Wk.	Activity	Activity
1	Self-study - Structured Lessons	TEAMS Welcome. Complete Unit Topics – Readings, videos, read online resources, and complete quizzes.
2	Self-study - Structured Lessons	Complete Unit Topics – Readings, videos, read online resources, and complete quizzes.
3	Self-study - Structured Lessons	Complete Unit Topics – Readings, videos, read online resources, and complete quizzes.
4	Workshop	Complete Unit Topics, prepare & participate (the online workshop 7 hours or less for skills development & scaffold application assessment)
5	Skills Development & Application Assessment	Complete case assessment report & assignment
6	Skills Development & Application Assessment	Complete case assessment report & assignment

Enrolled participants can access their unit one week prior to commencement. Please ensure that you are ready at the start of commencement and maintain a steady pace. Experience suggests that participants that fall behind struggle to catch up. Please ensure you complete the Orientation Module prior to the commencement date.

WHAT WILL YOU ACHIEVE FROM COMPLETING THIS UNIT?

MICRO-CREDENTIALS

Successful completion of each unit will provide 5 credit points towards relevant post graduate award programs at Macquarie University.

AFMA ACCREDITATION

Successful completion of this unit is a key step in participants from AFMA member firms completing the education precondition for AFMA accreditation.

OTHER INFORMATION

Student support

The Orientation Module provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

If you have any concerns or questions as you work through the unit, or need additional guidance as to what you should be doing, email afma@mq.edu.au

If your question relates to the learning material, then you should post to the Discussion Forum on the unit page in the Financial Markets Certificate ProLearn.

Duration

You have a maximum of 18 months to complete the full Financial Markets Certificate (from date of initial registration) unless otherwise approved.

Grading of assessments

Assessments are marked and an overall mark is calculated based on the weighting of each assessment. A grade is awarded based on the overall mark as either 'competent' or 'not yet competent'.

Results are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, your grade will be sent to your designated email address.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are available from afma@mq.edu.au

Late submissions and extensions

There will be a deduction of 10% of the total available marks made from the total awarded mark for each 24-hour period or part thereof that the submission is late (for example, 25 hours late in submission – 20% penalty). This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for special consideration is made and approved.

You may apply for Special Consideration on the basis of misadventure. Please refer to the special consideration policy.

Contact: afma@mq.edu.au

Submitting your assessment tasks

You must submit your completed skills assessment for marking through Financial Markets Certificate ProLearn website. When you upload the skills assessment, it will be checked by Turnitin, a plagiarism detection software.

Academic honesty

Personal integrity is a core ethical principle in AFMA's Code of Conduct. Consequently, academic integrity is an important principle to which all students enrolled in the Financial Markets Certificate are expected to adhere. For example, any academic work that you submit for assessment must be your own work and when you do include ideas and work from other people, this must be acknowledged. See the Orientation Module for further information.