

## Corporate Finance

Middle and senior managers meet a multiplicity of financial problems in their organisations. This course will help you develop your knowledge of this area. It introduces finance problems that organisations face at board level, and equips you with the fundamentals of corporate financial theory enabling you to challenge finance experts. You will learn how to tackle the main financial problems you are likely to encounter, in particular, how best to finance a company, what dividend policy to choose, how to appraise both public and private sector projects, and how to value a company for takeover or flotation.

A postgraduate course in Business and Management.

Code: **B831**  
Credits: **0**  
Level: **Postgraduate**  
SCQF level: **11**  
FHEQ level: **7**

Course work includes:  
• 2 Tutor-marked assignments (TMAs)  
• A common residential school with B835 The dynamics of strategy  
**First presentation - November 2011**

**Details on**  
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### Description

The course starts with an introduction to corporate finance and culminates by relating finance to the other activities of an organisation. The topics covered are the relationship between finance and accounting, corporate governance, the time value of money, finance tools, project appraisal and company appraisal.

By the end of the course you should:

- appreciate the financial strategy issues that affect organisations
- understand the relevance of finance and accounting both within the organisation and to stakeholders
- be aware of the financing choices available to organisations, and how financial structure should be determined
- be able to make investment decisions, both for projects and for companies.

Most accounting and finance courses in business schools treat accounting and finance as separate topics, failing to exploit the relationships that the two have in practice. For example, managers might be judged on their ability to achieve the financial objective of maximising shareholder value through internal accounting performance measures. This course explains how accounting and finance interact, as well as giving you the key techniques applicable to both accounting and financial analysis. Another difference between this module and more conventional courses is that it considers both public and private sector finance issues. The boundary between public sector and private sector is, in any case, increasingly blurred as public sector organisations are forced to compete in the private sector or are privatised while private sector organisations are made to be accountable to society as a whole, not just to shareholders.

Many managers are apprehensive at the thought of taking a finance course because they expect it to be dull and difficult. This course is neither. It includes case studies and examples that show how relevant finance is to all aspects of management. It also uses multimedia to get the concepts of financial theory across. From video, podcasts, spreadsheets, and related readings you will have substantial support in learning the key concepts of finance. Online discussion forums and a course website are also included. By the end of the course you should have no difficulty with financial jargon and you will be more than able to hold your own in the world of finance.

### Vocational relevance

This course will help you develop the knowledge needed to tackle the main financial issues that you are likely to encounter in your organisation.

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### What's included

Study text and online materials, including B831 website, study guide and online discussion forums.

### You will need

There are activities that require Microsoft Excel.

### Residential school

You will cover elements of this module at a five-day residential school that takes place towards the latter part of your study of The dynamics of strategy (B835), and which puts these modules into a real-life context. Satisfactory participation in either this compulsory five-day residential school or in the 21-day online equivalent is required. The school is an opportunity to meet other managers and tutors and to work in small groups on strategic management and corporate finance issues.

Both versions of the residential school (face-to-face and online) have been devised to deliver the same essential learning outcomes. Feedback from previous MBA students suggests that those who have attended the face-to-face school have particularly valued the face-to-face contact and the networking opportunities available. The cost of the residential school (excluding travel) is included in the module fee.

### Entry

This course is a compulsory module in stage 2 of the **MBA (F61)** and will be one of the first stage 2 modules that you study. Please see MBA (F61) for full details of the entry requirements for this qualification.

The course requires 150 hours of study over six months. It is designed to be studied alongside the twelve month course **The dynamics of strategy (B835)**. (You can study this course before the strategy course if you wish to study at a slower pace i.e. 6-8 hours per week rather than 12-16 hours.)

### Computing requirements

This course includes online computer activities – you can access these using a web browser that can play Flash and Shockwave.

You will need internet access and a computer. If you have purchased a new Windows computer since 2002 it should meet your course computing requirements. Please note that you cannot use an Apple Mac or Linux computer unless it is running Windows using Boot Camp or similar dual-boot system. You will need a headset, with a microphone and earphones, to talk to your tutor and other students online during some of the course activities.

### Teaching and assessment

#### Support from your tutor

You will have a tutor who will help you with the study material and mark and comment on your assignments and whom you can ask for advice and guidance. You can contact your tutor by telephone, email or via your tutor group forum on the B831 website.

#### Assessment

The assessment details for this course can be found in the facts box above. You must use the online eTMA system to submit your tutor-marked assignments (TMAs).

**After you have successfully completed both this module and The dynamics of strategy (B835) you will have gained 450 study hours. You then complete this part of the MBA by taking a three-hour examination covering both these modules. On passing this examination you will gain 45 credits.**

