



## Module Specification

Key Information			
Module title	Financial Reporting and Analysis		
Level	7	Credit value	15
Lead College	QMUL	Notional study hours and duration of course	150
Module lead author/ Subject matter expert	Dr Nicholas Tsitsianis		
Module co-author(s)	None		
Notice to students	None		

Rationale for the module
<p>This module examines the financial reporting of companies, and how such reporting can be analysed to evaluate performance. A basic prior knowledge of accounting is assumed: students learn how accounts are constructed and analysed, then examine the impact of various issues on the reported numbers. These include the reporting of tangible and intangible assets; continued and discontinued operations, historic costs vs fair value accounting and business combinations. The module takes a global perspective and refers largely to the regulatory regime of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).</p>

Aims of the module
<p>The aim of the module is to provide students who lack an academic background in or practical experience of accounting with a grounding in financial reporting and analysis of financial statements, focusing on a number of important current issues. The module focuses on the reasoning behind the rules, breaking away from the tradition of dealing with the technicalities of the regulation of financial reporting in a relatively unchallenging and uncritical way. Affording sufficient detail on the application of standards to enable the reader to appreciate the effects of the rules, the logic behind them is portrayed in terms of the reasoning and history behind their development, giving students a more informed insight.</p>

## Topics covered in this module:

1. Introduction to Financial Reporting;
2. Introduction to Financial Statements and Other Financial Reporting Topics;
3. The Balance Sheet and the Shareholder Equity;
4. Income Statements and Reported Income (Earnings) Quality;
5. Property Plant and Equipment;
6. Intangible Assets and Fair Value Accounting;
7. Liquidity of Short-Term Assets Related Debt-Paying Ability;
8. Financial Ratio Analysis;
9. The Financial Statements of Special Industries: Banks, Utilities, Oil & Gas, Transportation, Insurance and Real Estate Companies; and,
10. Group Accounts and Business Combinations.

*The topics covered may be revised to ensure currency and relevance. Students will be advised of any changes in advance of their study.*

## Learning outcomes for the module

### A. Knowledge, Understanding and Cognitive Skills

At the end of this module learners should be able to:

1. Comprehend the theory and practices of corporate financial reporting
2. Use financial reporting theory and practices to analyse the performance of a company
3. Design appropriate business policies and strategies to meet stakeholder and shareholder needs in the light of the recent changes in Financial Reporting
4. Identify and evaluate financial statements
5. Explain the reasoning behind the rules underpinning corporate financial reporting and the history of their development
6. Describe how the rules of corporate financial reporting effect the application of standards
7. Identify assumptions, evaluate statements in terms of evidence, to detect false logic or reasoning, to identify implicit values, and to define terms adequately and to generalize appropriately
8. Create, evaluate and access a range of different outcomes and the ability to justify the chosen outcome.

### B. Practical, Professional and Key Skills

By the end of this module learners will have developed:

1. Numeracy and active quantitative problem solving and decision making skills (including data analysis, interpretation and extrapolation)
2. The ability to interpret information based on scientific analysis
3. Research skills into financial reporting issues
4. Effective communication skills
5. Time management skills (including effective self-management in terms of time, planning and behavior, motivation, self-starting, individual initiative and enterprise)
6. Digital and information literacy skills

## Learning and Teaching Strategy and Methods

In addition to the core principles of the learning & teaching strategy and methods for this programme provided in the Programme Specification, Regulations and programme induction, the learning resources for this module are designed by a team supporting the module author with instructional design, learning technology and project management skills.

All students receive comprehensive learning materials in a variety of e-formats for use with different electronic devices. Online learning activities and formative assessments are a key feature of this framework and are linked to the online materials with a Student Progress Log illustrating the level of progress against learning outcomes and syllabus progress. Students can see their skills development through a 'Skills Portfolio', which evolves through the student's completion of formative and summative assessment.

Students will demonstrate their learning through a variety of activities. Moderated peer group exercises will help students demonstrate achievement of learning objectives from conceptual understanding to critical analysis. Students will demonstrate critical analysis skills through participation in discussions to review business models with which they were familiar and others of which they were unaware. Module tutors and programme Student Relationship Managers will be a useful resource for students looking for support with their online discussion and engagement.

Self-assessment exercises will provide students with the opportunity to gauge their learning against topic and module learning objectives as well as against confidence level in their own understanding. This will allow students to identify which content areas require further work on their part.

Learning materials are divided into topics of 10-12 hours of student effort to support student's time management and motivation for study. The learning content is a mixture of video, text, learning activities and formative assessments, with allocated time for preparation, revision and review relating to each item of summative assessment.

## Assessment strategy, assessment methods

### **Pass Mark**

The pass mark is 50% for each element of assessment.

*Compensation between elements of assessment is available on this module for marginal fails between 45%-49%.*

### **Assessment Elements**

#### **1. Coursework (30% weighting)**

There is one item of coursework for this module which contributes to the final assessment mark for this module:

Coursework: an essay of 2,500 words in length (maximum) (deadline – weeks 9-12)

The coursework is designed to check student progress, extend and reinforce concepts covered and also test individual performance.

#### **2. Examination (70% weighting)**

The final piece of assessment will be through an unseen written examination of two hours' duration.

## Learning resources

### Learning materials

Learning activities and formative assessments for this module are designed and developed by the Lead Author/Module Leader and incorporate the following:

- Short videos
- Learning activities (including discussion forum activities)
- Formative assessments (multiple-choice and True/False quizzes, short answer self-assessments and matching exercises)
- Learning content

### E-resources

All students can access to the e-resources of the University of London which includes a wide range of *business, accounting, finance and economics journals*. Students will be directed to journals within each topic of study and given online resources to enhance their information literacy skills as part of the student induction.

### Core text(s)

The learning content will be drawn from two key texts (see below).

Author: Charles H. Gibson

Title: *Financial Statement Analysis*, International Edition

Publisher: Cengage

Year: 2012

Author: John Dunn

Title: *Financial Reporting and Analysis*

Publisher: Wiley

Year: 2010

### Other references

The following is illustrative of the reading materials that will be referred to in the module:

Haslam C, Andersson, T, Tsitsianis, N and Yin, Y.P (2013), *Redefining Business Models: Strategies for a Financialized World*, London: Routledge