MODULE SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Module name	Introduction to Finance
Module code	BM2102
School	Bayes Business School
Department or equivalent	Undergraduate Programme
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	5

MODULE SUMMARY

Module outline and aims

This is an introductory module providing you with an understanding of the role played by financial analysis in corporate decision making and an understanding of the basics of financial intermediation. Embedded in the syllabus are examples of how basic financial principles inform business decisions and showing the range of major financial instruments and institutions used by businesses and investors.

The broad objective of this module is to provide a basic level of financial literacy (i.e. the core principles of banking, corporate finance, markets and investments) and a familiarity with the most common practical finance tools Specifically, at the end of this module you should

1) be able to read and with a basic level of understanding The Financial Times Companies & Markets news sections
2) Be able to explain the purpose and function of financial intermediaries
3) be able to perform basic valuation tasks in finance
4) be able to perform simple portfolio analysis

Content outline

To enhance your learning experience modules are designed to reflect contemporary issues in the business and financial world. As such, a degree of flexibility is expected in the exact content in terms of scope and coverage to ensure relevance to current circumstances.

- Corporations & financial markets
- Banks and financial intermediation
- The time value of money, discounting and compounding
- Present value techniques and project evaluation: NPV and IRR
- Bonds and bond pricing
- Equities, dividends and equity valuation
- Portfolios: risk, return and diversification
- Basic asset pricing: the Capital Asset Pricing model
- Patterns in corporate financing

Pre-requisites: None

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate an understanding of key financial markets, important financial intermediaries and the most common types of financial security.
- Discuss and analyse core financial theory (e.g. valuation, diversification) underlying the determination of key financial variables and appreciate how theory and its application contribute to business decisions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how basic financial instruments are valued and the users and uses of such instruments.

Skills:

- Apply financial analysis in order to debate, formulate and solve practical problems in finance.
- Calculate the values and understand the basic risk of bonds
- Calculate equity values and compute equity risk.
- Calculate portfolio risk and return
- Explain and apply the Capital Asset Pricing model and to be able to critically evaluate its assumptions and outputs
- Deploy improved analytical skills.

Values and attitudes:

- Appreciate the societal conflicts that can influence finance and financial structures
- Assess how conflicts of interest can influence financial decision-making.
- Demonstrate an appreciation of ethical issues as they relate to both the subject matter and the wider business world.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

A variety of learning and teaching methods will be used in this course.

Lectures are used to introduce context, concepts and techniques illustrated with practical and current examples. You will also have the opportunity to participate in class discussions and work through examples and exercises with the support of the lecturer. It is strongly recommended that you attend ALL lectures.

Tutorials are used to explore the concepts and practices covered in the lectures in more detail. Specifically, they are used primarily to demonstrate technical material,

although some discussion and analysis will accompany the practical techniques. Tutorials take place in smaller groups and you are expected to interact with the tutor and other students.

Key learning and teaching resources will be put on the module website on Moodle.

Self-directed learning hours are for independent study and account for the **minimum** amount of time you should spend studying independently. For example, carrying out subject research, practicing and reflecting on techniques learned in class, reading widely around the subject to develop a deeper understanding, carrying out activities using the VLE, attending induction and career development workshops, working in groups to complete assignments and presentations, and completing individual assignments and other homework.

Teaching pattern:

Teaching component	Teaching type	Contact hours (scheduled)	Self-directed study hours (independent)	Placement hours	Total student learning hours
Lecture	Lecture	20	120		140
Classes	Tutorial	10			10
Totals		30	120		150

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessments

This module is assessed by Coursework and Examination.

Coursework will be in the form a substantial test held during term. The test will be 60 minutes in duration and will comprise a number of questions designed to test your recollection and comprehension of the material covered so far.

At the end of the module you will sit one final 120 minute exam during the University exam period.

Assessment pattern:

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Class Test	Set Exercise	30%	0	N/A
Final Exam	Written exam	70%	0	N/A

Assessment criteria

Assessment criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully and Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria for module assessments will be made available to you prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available in the UG Assessment Handbook and from the module leader.

Feedback on assessment

Following an assessment, you will be given your marks and feedback in line with the University's Assessment Regulations and Policy. More information on the timing and type of feedback that will be provided for each assessment will be available from the module leader.

Assessment Regulations

The Pass mark for the module is 40%. Any minimum qualifying marks for specific assessments are listed in the table above. The weighting of the different components can also be found above. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component or the module.

INDICATIVE READING LIST

Recommended: Brealey R, Myers S, and Allen F (2022). *Principles of corporate finance.* 14th edition, New York: McGraw-Hill

Alternatives: Bodie Z, Merton R, and R Thakor (2025). *Principles of Finance.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
Berk J and DeMarzo, P (2023). *Corporate Finance*. 6th edition, London: Pearson

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Appendix: *see* **Appendix:**

Please complete the following table which is required for correct set up on SITS, and for external reporting. Further information is available on HESA Cost Centres (here) and HECoS Codes (here). Guidance is also available in the Quality Manual.

CODES		
HESA Codes	**Description**	**Price Group**
133	Business and management studies	D

HECOS Codes	Description	Percentage (%)
100107	The study of financial systems, regulations and reporting.	100