









## **Programme Regulations 2024-2025 Professional Accountancy (MSc) (registrations from April 2022)**

Regulation 7.5 has been updated. The requirement for the Project module mark to be above 70% in order to be granted the qualification with Distinction has been removed. The requirement for the mean mark for all modules to be above 70% for Distinction remains.





## 4 Assessment for the programme

### Summary table of assessment

#### 4.1

<b>Module</b>	15 credit elective modules	Capstone Project	
<b>Element weighting</b>	100%	30%	70%
<b>Item of assessment</b>	One unseen written end of term coursework	Research Proposal	Final Project, including Icarus

## **Late submission of coursework elements**

### **4.8**

You must keep to the deadlines given on the VLE. Coursework elements that are submitted after the deadline will not be marked and you will receive a zero for the element.

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## **5 Number of attempts permitted at an assessment element**

### **5.1**

The maximum number of attempts permitted for any element of assessment is two.

### **5.2**

You will fail the assessment if your overall weighted mark for the module is below 50%.

### **5.3**

You must make a second attempt at the assessment for a module you have failed, provided that you have not exceeded the maximum number of attempts at the assessment/s. If there are two





## **Appendix A – Structure of the programmes**

## **Appendix B – Module descriptions**

### **Global Issues in Finance and Accounting (GIFA) [AFM070]**

The module aims to provide participants with a theoretical and practical understanding of the evolving nature and applications of finance and accounting models. Such evolution – both natural and engineered, stems from changes in the economic, political, regulatory and technological environment. In so doing the module looks the established history, the current situation, and explores implications for the future.

The module provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to assess the impact of such changes on organisations and a range of relevant stakeholders. It aims to explore current issues in financial reporting, financial management and corporate finance disciplines and to provide opportunities for students to develop their skills in critical analysis and evaluation of alternative solutions.

#### **Topics covered:**

- Issues in implementing accounting standards for financial reporting
- Sustainability and integrated reporting issues
- Financial risk management and the Basel Accord(s)
- The impacts, current and potential, of digital developments, including AI
- Issues impacting global mergers and acquisition activity

### **Analysing Risk for Decision Making (ARDM) [AFM080]**

This module seeks to provide knowledge, understanding and skills to apply tools to proposed investment opportunities. As such it sets out to develop skills in a range of areas which contribute to the construction of a robust business case which demonstrates that key risks have been identified, analysed and evaluated. Such areas include:

- data analysis
- structuring decisions
- building decision models
- risk assessment and trade-offs

By the end the module abilities will have been developed to identify and select appropriate types of analyses to improve decision making under uncertainty and add value.

#### **Topics covered:**

- Characteristics of robust decisions
- Structuring managerial decision problems
- The role of intuition and analysis in decision making
- Attitudes to and perceptions of risk
- Information overload and the extraction of relevant data and information
- Deciding between opportunities with differing risk profiles
- Flexibility and optionality in decision making

Mitigating risk

### **Issues in Investment Management (IIM) [AFM090]**

This module seeks to an understanding of the nature and purposes of, and issues within investment decisions in a range of investment opportunities. In so doing to articulates and illustrates applied principles of investments in stocks/shares, bonds, mutual funds, and other securities, within an investment portfolio. It further sets out to provide a practical familiarity with issues in investment in derivatives, and in real estate.

#### **Topics covered:**

The investment arena

Portfolio theory and market efficiency

Behavioural insights and associated issues

Investing in and managing fixed income securities

Investing in and managing ordinary (common) equities

Practical issues in portfolio development

Measurement and managing risk

Frameworks for derivatives

Frameworks for alternative investments - real estate, private equity, hedge funds & commodities

### **Capital Markets and Global Perspectives (CMGP) [AFM100]**

This module aims to provide students with a sound understanding of the purposes, nature and operation of global capital markets. It seeks to identify who uses them, and why, and how. Within that it illustrates the dynamics of the interactions of actions as capital is exchanged using financial instruments to generate returns while managing risk. It reveals the context in which these actors operate in markets, and particularly so in the context of regulations imposed on markets. Additionally, it seeks to illustrate how the 2008 financial crash has left an evolving regulatory legacy and evolving attitudes to risk-return trade-offs.

#### **Topics covered:**

Purpose(s) and nature(s) of global capital markets

Purpose(s) and nature(s) of financial actors

Nature and application of economic theory: rationality and profit maximization; information asymmetry; moral hazard; adverse selection

Global perspectives on the risk- return trade-off



## Appendix C – Assessment criteria

### Coursework and Project Assessment Criteria

This is an indicative description of expectations at each grade level. Overall grades will comprise qualitative and quantitative elements. The setting of questions, tasks and requirements and the accompanying marking scheme should take account of the criteria below.

<b>% range</b>	<b>Grade Descriptor</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>85 +</b>	<b>Outstanding Distinction</b>	Work of outstanding quality, showing mastery of the subject matter with a highly developed and mature ability to analyse, synthesise and apply knowledge and theory. All objectives of the task are covered and work is free of errors. There is evidence of critical reflection and the work demonstrates originality of thought. Ideas are expressed with fluency and elegance. This work meets and exceeds the standard for distinction, as described in the 70-84 band, across all sub-categories of criteria: knowledge and understanding of subject; intellectual skills; capacity to solve more unusual or demanding scenarios involving application of deep understanding of the subject and its methods/techniques; research skills; use of research-informed literature and other scholarly practices.
<b>70-84</b>	<b>Distinction</b>	Produces work of exceptional standard, reflecting excellent understanding. Displays mastery of the subject matter, with notable critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights at forefront of the field. Shows excellent ability to select and apply appropriate and relevant methodologies/techniques/theories as well as the ability to evaluate methodologies critically. Deals with complex issues systematically and creatively, making excellent judgements. Conducts research highly effectively, using technical and/or professional skills as appropriate. Shows originality in application of knowledge and the ability to communicate at a very high level arguments, evidence and conclusions to diverse audiences.
<b>60-69</b>	<b>Merit</b>	Clear understanding of the subject area producing work with a well-defined focus. Shows some originality of ideas; appropriate use of analytical techniques; appreciation of methodology; critical analysis of data; evidence of independent reading; adequate referencing and professional bibliography; adequate structure and style; reasonably professional standard of presentation with some errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar. Shows understanding and critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice. Able to communicate very effectively arguments, evidence and conclusions to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
<b>50-59</b>	<b>Pass</b>	Demonstrates a sound general knowledge and understanding of material and subject area; Shows limited originality of ideas; straight forward application of analytical techniques; limited commentary on methodology; limited critical analysis of data; limited evidence of independent reading; adequate referencing and adequate bibliography; adequate structure and style; moderately professional standard of presentation with errors of spelling, punctuation or grammar. Able to communicate effectively with a given audience. Work shows a grasp of relevant concepts and material, but with some errors, gaps or areas of confusion. Only the basic requirements of the work are



