
MODULE SPECIFICATION – UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

KEY FACTS

Module name	Personal Finance
Module code	IF2204
School	Cass Business School
Department or equivalent	UG Programme (Cass Business School)
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	4
Delivery location (partnership programmes only)	

MODULE SUMMARY

Module outline and aims

During the past 20 years the social and economic environment where individuals and families make financial decisions that affect their present and future welfare has become very sophisticated and technical. This fast changing environment is now characterised by a wide array of attractive and advanced financial products, aggressive marketing techniques, easy access to credit plus plenty of hidden risks. As a result, making prudent personal financial decisions that ensure the achievement of a decent standard of living and financial independence in the long term has become particularly challenging. In view of such recent developments in the financial markets it has become crucial for individuals to develop greater financial capability. The prime objective of this module, therefore, is to provide an opportunity for you to acquire basic skills and competence in personal financial management.

The module explores the factors affecting personal finances at each stage in the lifecycle of an individual or a family. We examine instruments and the knowhow required to achieve financial stability and long term financial independence in the lifetime of individuals and families. We also explore opportunities and risks that have emerged due the recent developments in the global and domestic financial markets.

Objectives:-

- To provide a clear understanding of the theory of personal wealth and money management.
- To examine models which explain changes in variables and relationships in the personal finance industry.
- To examine factors affecting personal finances at different stages in the life cycle of individuals and families.
- To identify indicators and benchmarks of best-practice in the personal finance industry.
- To analyse characteristics of instruments and methods designed to achieve short, medium and long term personal financial independence and stability.
- To analyse risks in personal wealth and money management: identify hazards of life.

Content outline

- Theory of wealth and money; Personal finance decisions and time value of money and the lifecycle of individuals and families.
- Social and economic context of personal finance; Recent global and domestic developments in the financial markets.
 - (i) Income, expenditure, planning, budgeting and cash flow management.
 - (ii) Financial stability and independence of individuals & families.
- Debt, savings and investments.
- Real estate investments.
- Retirement packages, pensions and insurance.
- Family provision: Retirement, Inheritance and Wills.
- Sources of information; Banking and taxation.
- Models of personal finance; Sustainable financial independence.
- Risk management in personal finance; Decisions under (i) Uncertainty (ii) Recession (iii) Inflation.

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

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

Knowledge and understanding:

- Develop realistic personal financial benchmarks which include, inter alia:- carry out a personal or family financial needs analysis (FNA) at each stage in the life cycle; develop a sustainable personal/family financial plan; cash flow management: income and expenditure analysis; budgeting
- Have a clear understanding of the fundamentals of personal finance and implications of monetary policy targets on personal/family consumption, saving and investment patterns.
- Understand the functions of institutions and policies that influence personal financial decisions
- Acquire theoretical knowledge to measure different kinds of risks
- Understand the characteristics of personal financial instruments which include all:
Types of debt, savings and investment instruments; Insurance and pension options

ie provisions for hazards of life; Types of mortgages available; Types of retirement annuities and provisions for unemployment

Skills:

- Evaluate personal/family financial exposure and risks
- Acquire quantitative skills to measure different kinds of risks and personal investment income
- Acquire the ability to plan, organise personal and family finance.

Values and attitudes:

- Acquire ability to analyse different personal finance products from the viewpoint of the consumer and from the provider's perspective
- Acquire ability to customise financial solutions to meet individual preferences

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Lectures will be highly participative. There will be practical exercises and case studies.

Students will be expected to devote roughly an equivalent amount of learning time in private and group study of course material. The preparation of a group coursework will involve additional time in private study and independent empirical research.

Teaching component	Teaching type	Contact hours	Self-directed study hours	Placement hours	Total student learning hours
Lectures	Lecture	20	120	0	140
Classes	Tutorials	10	0	0	10
Totals		30	120		150

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessments

Coursework and Exam.

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Coursework	Oral assessment	30	40	N/A

	and presentation			
Exam - 2.25 hours	Written exam	70	40	N/A

Assessment criteria

Assessment Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes students need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully and Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes students 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 students prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available from the module leader.

Feedback on assessment

Following an assessment, students will be given their marks and feedback in line with the 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

Personal Finance, by George Callaghan, Ian Fribbance, Martin Higginson. Publisher: Wiley, ISBN 0-470-02855-6.

Personal Financial Planning: Theory and Practice by Debbie Harrison Publisher: Financial Times/ Prentice Hall ISBN-13: 978-0273681014.

Wealth after Work: Planning Your Great Escape by Debbie Harrison Publisher: Financial Times/ Prentice Hall ISBN-13: 978-0273656814.

Sorting out your Finances for Dummies, by Melanie Bien. Publisher Wiley, ISBN 978-0-470-69515-9. Quantitative Methods for Business Decisions, by Jon Curwin & Roger Slater, Sixth Edition Publisher: Cengage Learning; ISBN-13: 978-1844805747

Quantitative Methods for Business Management and Finance by Louise Swift & Sally Piff 3rd Edition, Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan; ISBN-13: 978-0230218246.

Principles of Corporate Finance by Richard A Brealey, Stewart C Myers and Franklin Allen 9th Edition, Publisher: McGraw Hill Higher Education, ISBN-13: 978-0071284912.

Applied Economics, by Alan Griffiths & Stuart Wall, Publisher: Pearson Education Limited 11th Edition ISBN 78-0-273-70822-3.

Recent Developments in Monetary Policy by Alec Chrystal & Paul Mizen Publisher: Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd ISBN-13: 978-1845424497

The Saturday "Personal Finance" section of the Financial Times and the "Money" sections of the quality weekend press.

The Personal Finance section of the Wall Street Journal.

Version: 1.0

Version date: July 2012

For use from: 2012-13

Appendix: see <http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/1805/296/> for the full list of JACS codes and descriptions

Module: Personal Finance

Module Code: IF2204

School: Cass Business School

Department: UG Programme (Cass Business School)

CODES

HESA Code	Description	Price Group
27	Business and Management Studies	D

JACS Code	Description	Percentage (%)
N300	The study of financial systems, regulations and reporting.	100