GBSB GLOBAL
BUSINESS SCHOOL

Postgraduate Certificate in Finance

MQF/EQF Level 7

Course Outline

Duration: 6 months

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Overall Course Objectives

The learning outcomes presented below have been defined in line with the descriptors for the Level 7 of the Malta Qualification Framework.

Knowledge:

- Has a comprehensive and critical understanding of the principal current research issues in the specialisation area;
- Possesses multi-disciplinary theoretical and practical knowledge of management within the domain of the specialisation area.

Skills:

- Demonstrates capability in using knowledge and skills of the specialisation area to adapt to the fast-changing business environment and to efficiently manage people and projects within the specialisation area;
- Possesses specialised problem-solving skills in the specialisation area required to develop new knowledge and procedures to solve practical problems;
- Develops new skills in response to emerging knowledge and techniques in the domain of the specialisation area including digital skills and use of modern technologies;
- Demonstrates specialised knowledge of management that includes reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to execution of the managerial function.

Competencies:

- Demonstrates autonomy in the direction of personal development and lifelong learning applicable to the business environment;
- Manages and transforms work or study contexts in the field of specialisation that are complex and unpredictable and require new strategic approaches;
- Has the learning skills to allow continuation to study the specialisation area in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.

COURSE OUTLINE

Global Financial Markets and Instruments

This unit looks at the competitive dynamics and performance of global financial markets and highlights the risks and opportunities of doing business in today's financial markets and the challenges presented by both regulators and market participants. Students learn about the role of financial markets in the global and local economy, in financing infrastructure development, large enterprises, and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and examine a wide range of financial instruments, their features and valuations. Upon completion of the unit, students will be able to use knowledge and skills of global financial markets to lead actions related to sourcing funding from the capital markets and/or engage with investment opportunities.

Competencies

- Assess and evaluate problems associated with investment alternatives and risks of investing in different types of financial instruments;
- Demonstrate the ability to respond to the fast-changing global financial markets environment by assessing performance of global financial markets in different economic and political contexts and on a global scale;
- Take responsibility for leading projects associated with looking for financing opportunities on global financial markets;
- Implement an ability for managing investment risks and for adapting investment initiatives to changing circumstances on global capital markets.

International Banking, Insurance, and Financial Services

This unit provides an overview of the international banking system, including such topics as: the role of the banks in the financial system, regulatory and policy aspects, financial services offered by banks, and analysis of bank performance. Additionally, the unit provides students with a thorough understanding of insurance activities, including optimal insurance contract design under information asymmetry and moral hazard. Upon completion of the unit, students will demonstrate specialised knowledge of international banking and insurance that include reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to operations in the financial services industry.

Competencies

- Manage and transform work or study contexts in the financial services industry that are complex and unpredictable and require new strategic approaches considering the changing characteristics of the banking and insurance sectors;
- Create a research-based diagnosis to problems in international banking and insurance by integrating knowledge from interdisciplinary fields such as finance and fintech;
- Has the learning skills to allow continuation to study international banking and insurance in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous;
- Take responsibility for reviewing the performance of major financial organisations with the purpose to determine their financial health and prospects.

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Advanced Corporate Finance

This unit aims at developing an understanding of the decisions financial managers/investment bankers face by considering corporate investment decisions (project valuation, mergers & acquisitions) and decisions that involve financing those investments, and focuses on the following areas: valuation, capital structure and financial policy, and key aspects of the M&A business process. Upon completion of the unit, students will be able to demonstrate capability in using knowledge and skills of financial valuation to apply corporate valuation techniques to identify estimated market values and intrinsic values of a firm, determine the appropriate/optimum capital structure of a firm given refinancing requirements, and evaluate several long-term financing alternatives with the purpose to justify choices for mergers and acquisitions.

Competencies

- Take responsibility for adapting the management of corporate finance projects to the dynamic nature of the business environment in which one operates;
- Create a well-reasoned diagnosis to problems related with optimal corporate financial strategies and financial decisions that have a long-term impact;
- Has the learning skills to allow continuation to study valuation, financial restructuring, or long-term financing/investment alternatives matters in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.

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Asset Management and Alternative Investments

This unit provides a comprehensive understanding of the issues that are relevant to the asset management industry, with special emphasis on measuring investment performance. The unit covers aspects related to mutual funds, hedge funds and exchange traded funds, introduces the latest developments in investment strategy, and provides knowledge on the principles of investment decisions under risk, and the optimal allocation among asset classes. Additionally, the unit reviews less traditional asset classes as an alternative to traditional assets and provides students with the solid background in commodities, hedge funds, private equity, and real estate.

Competencies

- Manage strategic asset management projects and demonstrate the ability to respond to the fast-changing business environment by matching goals, risk tolerance and other investor characteristics with an investment portfolio strategy and market and economic conditions;
- Take responsibility for contributing to professional practice by planning modern portfolio management strategies and analysing, synthesising, and evaluating various financial scenarios;
- Be accountable for integrating knowledge from different fields of finance and make judgements on potential performance of different asset classes with incomplete or limited information.

Financial Reporting and Analysis

The unit prepares students to understand the business strategy and its financial implications by reviewing current practices in corporate financial reporting and fundamental issues relating to asset valuation and income determination. The unit provides students with a set of powerful analytical tools to understand the environment in which financial reporting choices are made, what the options are, how financial data are used for various types of decisions, and how to avoid misusing financial statements. Upon completion of the unit, students will be prepared to initiate strategic actions, grounded on financial information, and to lead an organisation into a new direction by interpreting financial disclosures with the purpose to help improve risk assessment, forecasting, and decision-making when being charged with monitoring or advising on corporate performance and the behaviour of management.

Competencies

- Create a research-based diagnosis to problems in financial reporting and analysis and make judgements on company's financial position and profitability with limited information;
- Manage and transform approaches to financial reporting in an organisation by recognising financial disclosure as an important element in successful corporate governance;
- Take responsibility for initiating strategic actions, grounded on financial information, and leading an organisation into a new direction;
- Has the learning skills to allow continuation to study financial reporting and further professional qualifications in finance and accounting in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.