

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	Accounting and Finance		
MODULE CODE	AC4410 (L7)	CREDIT VALUE	10 UK CREDITS / 05 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT		

MODULE AIMS

The module aims to enable the students to master the principles and techniques within the financial and management accounting fields and to develop students' financial problem solving skills in respect of both financial and management accounting issues, and to develop the ability to critically appraise accounting solutions to real world problems. Emphasis will be on developing cognitive skills via the critical analysis, interpretation and evaluation of information produced from the accounting process.

MODULE CONTENT

Management accounting techniques -

- Planning - Budgets and budgetary control within an organisation
- Management control - Cost classification and methods
- Decision-making - Costing for decision-making, including marginal costing; cost/volume/profit analysis

The purpose and nature, generation, use, strengths and weaknesses of the primary financial accounting statements found in an organisation's Annual Report –

- Users of financial and management reports and their different needs
- The balance sheet, the income statement, and the cash flow statement
- Sources of finance and how finance is utilised

Measuring and interpreting the financial performance of organisations –

Ratio analysis and the interpretation of financial statements

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:

1. analyse and use relevant costing techniques in the management decision making process
2. evaluate the process of budget setting and monitoring
3. critically evaluate contemporary issues in accounting with regard to their potential impact on various stakeholders in their decision making
4. critically analyse and interpret published financial statements

TEACHING METHODS

Material will be introduced in the one lecture per week and followed up by directed reading and discussion. There will also be one group session each week (following on from the lecture) comprising work on case material in seminars. The coursework assignments are designed to promote student centred learning. Several textbooks are recommended as is additional reading.

Students will be provided with topical examples from newspapers and journals, together with relevant case study material, in order to support the lecture material and to help link theory with current practice.

The teaching strategy supports this in introducing in lectures discussion of assumptions and raising questions of applicability and validity. Group sessions not only develop technical problem solving skills (in areas that are new to the students) but also encourage students to develop their critical skills.

The first assignment will cover the area of contemporary management accounting interest, while the second will cover the analysis of a published company's annual accounts. Students should show an ability to apply theoretical knowledge to complex real world situations.

Students will draw on and enhance graduate attributes of planning, communication, literacy and analysis and develop confidence and expand their intellectual ability through constructing argument and exploring perspectives. This will aid employability within general business management and project management specifically.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through an Individual essay and an Individual report.