



**FIN101 Financial Markets  
and Economic Principles**

# Subject outline

## FIN101 Financial Markets and Economic Principles

### Section 1 — General information

#### 1.1 Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Credit points	Level
Graduate Certificate in Corporate Finance Graduate Certificate in Applied Finance Graduate Diploma of Applied Finance Master of Applied Finance Graduate Certificate in Financial Services Graduate Diploma of Financial Services Master of Financial Services	One study period (12 weeks)	6	AQF8

#### 1.2 Core or elective subject

This is a core subject for the Graduate Certificate in Corporate Finance, Graduate Certificate in Applied Finance, Graduate Diploma of Applied Finance and Master of Applied Finance.

This is an elective subject for the Graduate Certificate in Financial Services, Graduate Diploma of Financial Services and Master of Financial Services.

#### 1.3 Delivery mode

This subject is delivered online.

#### 1.4 Assumed knowledge

Not applicable.

#### 1.5 Course transition subject equivalence

Students are not required to complete this subject if they have transitioned from a SIA/Finsia/Kaplan course and have completed the following subjects within the course completion time frame:

- FIN111 Financial Markets and Economic Principles
- C1 Financial Markets and Economics.



## **1.6 Work integrated learning**

---

There are no placements, internships or work experience requirements associated with undertaking this subject.

## **1.7 Other resource requirements**

---

Students do not require access to specialist facilities and/or equipment to undertake this subject.

## Section 2 — Academic details

### 2.1 Subject overview

---

This subject introduces the structure and functions of Australian financial markets and examines how economic developments influence market performance. Students develop an understanding of core economic principles, the role of central banks, and major asset classes including equities, foreign exchange, commodities, derivatives and managed funds.

The subject also examines financial intermediaries, government policy, and regulatory frameworks that support market integrity and stability. With a global perspective, students explore international financial integration, cross-border capital flows, and the role of regulation in interconnected markets. Ethical considerations are embedded throughout, supporting responsible and informed financial decision making.

A scenario-based case study enables students to apply these concepts to real world market events, building practical insight and a strong foundation for further study in applied finance

### 2.2 Subject learning outcomes

---

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Explain the structure and interrelationships of financial markets, participants, and regulatory environments.
2. Critically analyse the impact of economic forces, policies, and global developments on financial markets.
3. Evaluate financial instruments and products in terms of their characteristics, roles, and associated risks.
4. Apply ethical principles and regulatory requirements to financial market activities.

### 2.3 Topic learning outcomes

---

#### Topic 1: Overview of financial markets and participants

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- explain the flow of funds in the financial system
- explain the roles of key participants in the financial services industry and how they interact within financial markets
- explain the process of intermediation and the advantages that intermediation brings to the financial markets
- explain the factors that have caused financial markets around the globe to become interrelated
- explain the advantages and disadvantages of globalisation for a country's economy and its financial markets
- describe the role of regulatory bodies in overseeing financial markets and ensuring market integrity.

## Topic 2: Economic principles

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- apply supply and demand analysis to determine the impact of changing market forces on the supply, demand or price of a product
- explain how economic indicators inform regulatory and policy decisions in financial markets
- analyse different measures of inflation and their relevance to financial market performance.

## Topic 3: Economic management

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- compare key measures of wage growth
- assess the market implications of changes in monetary and fiscal policy
- apply relevant economic theories to assess the benefits and limitations of trade
- explain the importance of productivity and economic reforms.

## Topic 4: Forces that drive financial markets

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- analyse the relationship between a range of economic indicators and financial markets
- explain the importance of global markets and offshore market trends in Australian financial markets
- analyse the impact of economic, regulatory and non-economic trends on Australian financial markets.

## Topic 5: Asset classes

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- explain the characteristics of each type of asset class
- summarise the advantages and disadvantages of each asset class
- explain the type of returns received from each asset class
- distinguish between income and growth assets
- explain the role of credit markets and wholesale funding markets within the financial system
- outline how credit and wholesale markets influence corporate financing and financial system stability
- explain the correlation between asset classes.

## Topic 6: The role of equity in financial markets

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- explain the role of the share market
- explain the role and function of the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX)
- analyse the impact of the major economic and market factors on the share market
- compare the risks and rewards associated with investing in international markets
- explain the techniques for raising equity.

## Topic 7: Foreign exchange and commodity markets

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- explain how exchange rates are determined
- assess the current issues driving the foreign exchange market
- explain how central banks influence movements in the foreign exchange market
- analyse the general issues associated with the commodity markets as opposed to financial markets
- compare the basic characteristics of different commodity markets.

### Topic 8: The derivatives market

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- explain the key features of the derivatives market and how it interacts with the underlying market
- compare the difference between exchange-traded and over-the-counter derivatives
- compare the major types of derivative instruments and their features
- choose the appropriate derivative instrument to hedge an exposure
- explain the risks and regulatory issues associated with derivatives.

### Topic 9: Financial products and managed investments

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- explain the main drivers of the funds management industry and their impact on the future development of the industry
- explore the role played by fund managers in the managed investments industry
- compare the benefits of investing in managed investments
- explain the methods by which managed investments are distributed to investors and the legislative framework surrounding and influencing managed funds
- explain what is meant by a 'financial product'
- explain the methods by which investments are distributed to investors
- explain the role of investment indices and benchmarks in comparing financial products and assessing fund performance
- analyse the benefits of investing in selected financial products.

### Topic 10: Ethics and regulation in financial markets

On successful completion of this topic, students should be able to:

- describe the role of regulatory bodies in overseeing financial markets and protecting investor interests
- evaluate ethical principles and professional standards applicable to financial market participants
- critically assess the consequences of regulatory breaches and unethical conduct in financial markets
- analyse the interplay between regulation, market integrity, and stakeholder trust in financial systems.

## 2.4 Assessment schedule

---

Assessment	Description	Week	Topics	Weighting	Subject learning outcomes assessed
Quiz 1	Online quiz (MCQs) covering foundational concepts in market structure, participants, and economic principles.	Week 4	1–3	10%	LO1, LO2
Presentation and Written Assignment	Analysis of a case study: Short written report and a presentation	Week 7	1–4	35%	LO1, LO2
Quiz 2	Online quiz (MCQs) on asset classes, derivatives, and regulation.	Week 10	5–8	10%	LO3, LO4
Assignment	Scenario based questions assessing financial instruments and applying regulatory/ethical considerations to decision-making	Week 12	5–10	45%	LO1–LO4

Please refer to our website <[www.kaplanprofessional.edu.au](http://www.kaplanprofessional.edu.au)> to review student policies relating to your assessment, including the *Kaplan Assessment Policy* and *Academic Integrity and Conduct Policy*.

## 2.5 Prescribed text

---

There is no prescribed text for this subject. Students are provided with key readings and access to Kaplan’s online databases. Students are encouraged to research and read widely on the topic.

## 2.6 Study plan

Week(s)	Topic name	Study load in hours
1	Topic 1: Overview of financial markets and participants	8
2	Topic 2: Economic principles	8
3	Topic 3: Economic management	12
4	<b>Quiz 1 (Weighting 10%)</b> Topic 4: Forces that drive financial markets	15
5	Topic 5: Asset classes	8
6	Topic 6: The role of equity in financial markets	14
7	<b>Assignment 1 (Weighting 35%)</b>	6
8	Topic 7: Foreign exchange and commodity markets	8
9	Topic 8: The derivatives market	8
10	<b>Quiz 2 (Weighting 10%)</b> Topic 9: Financial products and managed investments	12
11	Topic 10: Ethics and regulation in financial markets	15
12	<b>Assignment 2 (Weighting 45%)</b>	6
<b>Total minimum study load</b>		<b>120 hours</b>

Additional study hours (if required), dependent on knowledge and personal commitments	60 hours
<b>Total study load, including additional study hours</b>	<b>180 hours</b>