



Subject Outline

KAP001 Research Project



Section 1 — General information

1.1 Administrative details

Associated higher education awards	Duration	Credit points	Level
Master of Applied Finance Master of Financial Planning	One study period (12 weeks)	6	AQF9

1.2 Core or elective subject

This is a core subject for the Master of Applied Finance and the Master of Financial Planning.

1.3 Delivery mode

This subject is delivered online.

1.4 Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this subject. However please review the 'Assumed knowledge' section below to understand the prior knowledge Kaplan advises you should hold before enrolling in this subject.

1.5 Assumed knowledge

Whilst there are no prerequisites for this subject, Kaplan assumes:

Students enrolled in the Master of Applied Finance have completed FIN101 Financial Markets and Economic Principles, FIN102 Regulation Ethics and Risk Management, FIN103 Financial Analysis and Valuation, FIN201 Quantitative Applications in Finance, and seven (7) elective subjects (two (2) from 300-level) or understand the content covered in those subjects, prior to undertaking KAP001 Research Project.

Students enrolled in the Master of Financial Planning have completed all other subjects including nine (9) core and two (2) elective subjects.

1.6 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:
- there are no equivalent subjects for this course.



1.7 Work integrated learning

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

1.8 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 focuses on the advanced knowledge and skills needed to design and undertake a finance-related research project. It explores the research process and the key elements of a research proposal, including identifying the research problem, aims, undertaking a literature review, research methodologies and writing a research proposal. Throughout the subject, students apply this learning by identifying a topic of their own choice that is of personal interest to them, or of relevance to their work, conducting a critical review of the relevant literature, developing research questions of value and then designing an appropriate research project.

2.2 Subject learning outcomes

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

1. Construct a significant research topic based on finance industry issues.
2. Review the academic literature and existing theory relevant to a chosen finance-related research topic and communicate significant findings.
3. Evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of qualitative and quantitative research methods.
4. Develop research methodology and design in order to investigate finance-related research questions.
5. Critically analyse the major ethical issues and limitations involved in applied research.
6. Develop, present and justify a research proposal as a basis for a finance-related research project.

2.3 Topic learning outcomes

Topic 1: Introduction to Research

On completing this topic, students should be able to:

- distinguish between academic and non-academic research
- critically assess each step of the research process
- discuss the attributes and qualities of good research
- gain insights into various research paradigms
- recognise ethical issues in research projects
- transform a research problem into a research topic.

Topic 2: Literature review

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

- distinguish between different ways in which the established literature might be reviewed
- use various sources to undertake a critical literature review
- identify credible sources of information that could be used to undertake the literature review
- utilise a critical review of literature to identify areas for further research within a topic and develop research questions.

Topic 3: Qualitative methods

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

- differentiate qualitative research methods from other research methods
- identify different ways in which qualitative data can be collected
- discuss how qualitative interviews may be used to gather greater insight into the research project's topic and questions
- identify ethical issues to consider in qualitative research.

Topic 4: Quantitative methods

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

- gain knowledge in undertaking quantitative research
- undertake a quantitative research project
- examine case studies which use quantitative research methods
- identify the research problem and design tools to examine the problem.

Topic 5: Surveys and questionnaires

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

- identify the type of questionnaire to be used for the research
- design a survey questionnaire.

Topic 6: Data analysis and interpretation

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

- analyse and interpret quantitative and qualitative data for business decision making
- gain insights into how data can be used in planning and decision making
- compile and present the findings from quantitative and qualitative data analysis.

Topic 7: Research Proposal

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

- develop a research proposal related to an area of interest
- determine the resources that will be required to successfully complete a research project
- identify key limitations of research projects
- recognise ethical issues in research projects.

2.4 Assessment schedule

Assessment	Description	Week	Topics	Weighting	Subject learning outcomes assessed
Research Task 1	Choose topic and research papers	Week 4	1–2	20%	LO1
Research Assignment 1	Literature review	Week 7	1–2	30%	LO1–LO2
Research Assignment 2	Research proposal	Week 12	1–7	50%	LO1–LO6

Please refer to our website 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

BPP Learning Media 2015, *Business Essentials Course Book: Research Project*, BPP Learning Media Ltd, London.

2.6 Study plan

Week(s)	Topic name	Study load in hours
1–2	Topic 1: Introduction to research	20 hours
3	Topic 2: Literature review	18 hours
4	Topic 3: Qualitative methods Research Task 1 (Weighting 20%)	12 hours
5	Topic 4: Quantitative methods	12 hours
6	Topic 5: Surveys and questionnaires	16 hours
7	Topic 6: Data analysis and interpretation Research Assignment 1 (Weighting 30%)	12 hours
8–11	Topic 7: Research proposal	25 hours
12	Research Assignment 2 (Weighting 50%)	5 hours
Total minimum study load		120 hours

Additional study hours (if required), dependent on knowledge and personal commitments	80 hours
Total study load, including additional study hours	200 hours