



Subject Outline

FIN352 Contemporary Issues in Finance



Section 1 — General information

1.1 Administrative details

Duration	Credit points	Level
One study period (12 weeks)	6	AQF9

1.2 Core or elective subject

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

1.3 Delivery mode

This subject is delivered online.

1.4 Assumed knowledge

Kaplan assumes that students have completed core subjects and other elective subjects prior to undertaking FIN352 Contemporary Issues in Finance.

1.5 Course transition subject equivalence

Students may not be required to complete this subject if they have transitioned from a SIA/Finsia/Kaplan course and have completed the following subjects:

- there are no equivalences for this subject.



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 focuses on a number of current and emerging issues in the finance sector, such as those relating to global markets, socially-responsible investing, financial technology (FinTech) and sovereign wealth funds. It provides an overview of these issues and analyses their importance to the industry.

Students use various industry reports, market research and other non-academic insights to critically review the issues mentioned above. They then utilise academic research to further explore one of these contemporary issues.

2.2 Subject learning outcomes

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

1. Review key concepts relating to contemporary issues in the field of finance.
2. Examine relevant regulatory frameworks and ethical considerations applicable to contemporary issues in finance.
3. Critically review various industry reports and evaluate the nature and importance of a selected contemporary issue in finance.
4. Critically analyse academic research papers examining the empirical works and theory in the selected contemporary issue.
5. Compose a report to communicate findings from the analysis of industry and academic evidence on the selected contemporary issue.

2.3 Topic learning outcomes

Topic 1: Introduction to contemporary issues in finance

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

- Analyse the evolution of global finance
- Discuss current trends in global finance
- Assess the key drivers of innovation in the finance industry
- Compare the various sources of information relating to finance industry issues.

Topic 2: Regulatory, ethical and geopolitical constraints

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

- Discuss the role of regulation on innovation in the finance industry from both an Australian and global perspective
- Assess the key priorities of government and regulators in regard to financial markets
- Explore the impact of ethical misconduct by finance practitioners
- Analyse current geopolitical issues and their impact on global financial markets.

Topic 3: Global financial market innovation

On successful completion of these topics, students should be able to:

- Explain key concepts relating to contemporary issues in global financial market innovation
- Critically review industry reports and commentary relating to global financial market innovation
- Review practical examples of new and evolving financial products and markets
- Describe the potential impact of these issues on the finance industry
- Assess the broader impact of these issues on society and the economy.

Topic 4: Socially-responsible investing

On successful completion of these topics, students should be able to:

- Explain key concepts relating to contemporary issues in socially-responsible investing
- Critically review industry reports and commentary relating to contemporary issues in socially-responsible investing
- Review how investors apply socially-responsible investing techniques in practice
- Describe the potential impact of those issues on the finance industry
- Assess the broader impacts of those issues on society and the economy.

Topic 5: Fintech

On successful completion of these topics, students should be able to:

- Explain key concepts relating to contemporary issues in fintech
- Critically review industry reports and commentary relating to contemporary issues in fintech
- Review the impact of blockchain, big data and artificial Intelligence on a firm's operational and investment activities
- Describe the potential impact of those issues on the finance industry
- Assess the broader impacts of those issues on society and the economy.

Topic 6: Sovereign wealth funds

On successful completion of these topics, students should be able to:

- Explain key concepts relating to contemporary issues in sovereign wealth funds
- Critically review industry reports and commentary relating to contemporary issues in sovereign wealth funds
- Review the different types of investment strategies used by sovereign wealth funds in practice
- Describe the potential impact of those issues on the finance industry
- Assess the broader impacts of those issues on society and the economy.

Topic 7: The future of finance

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

- Explore emerging trends within the financial industry
- Assess the likely sources of future disruption to finance industry practices
- Discuss the preparedness of finance industry firms, practitioners and participants in meeting ongoing change.

Topic 8: Contemporary finance theory

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

- Analyse the evolving nature of finance theory
- Discuss recent additions to the stock of theory in portfolio construction, behavioural finance and macroeconomics
- Assess the adoption of new theory into practical application by finance industry participants.

Topic 9: Evolving issues in academic literature

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

- Survey the academic literature to assess broad themes in finance currently being explored by researchers
- Assess the value of additional research in developing and testing key elements of finance theory
- Conduct a review of the literature regarding a chosen contemporary issue in finance
- Determine key areas of future research in global finance.

2.4 Assessment schedule

Assessment	Description	Week	Topics	Weighting	Subject learning outcomes assessed
Task	Long answer discussion on key drivers and constraints in finance industry innovation.	Week 4	1–2	20%	LO1–LO2
Assignment 1	Review contemporary issues in the field of finance and justify the selection of one (1) issue for further exploration.	Week 7	2–6	40%	LO1–LO3
Assignment 2	Critically analyse the chosen contemporary issue by assessing relevant constraints, trends, theory and ongoing academic research.	Week 12	1–9	40%	LO1–LO5

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

There is no prescribed text book 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: Introduction to contemporary issues in finance	10
2	Topic 2: Regulatory, ethical and geopolitical constraints	10
3	Topic 3: Global financial market innovation	10
4	Topic 4: Socially-responsible investing Task 1 (Weighting: 20%)	10
5	Topic 5: FinTech	10
6	Topic 6: Sovereign wealth funds	10
7	Assignment 1 (Weighting: 40%)	10
8	Topic 7: The future of finance	10
9	Topic 8: Contemporary finance theory	10
10	Topic 9: Evolving issues in academic literature	10
11–12	Assignment 2 (Weighting: 40%)	20
Total minimum study load		120 hours

Additional study hours (if required), dependent on knowledge and personal commitments	70 hours
Total study load, including additional study hours	190 hours