



Subject Outline

KAP001 Capstone Project



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 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 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 Capstone Project.

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

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:

- KAP001 Research Project



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 or financial planning related project. Students will explore the processes and key elements of a research proposal, including identifying contemporary issues within the financial services industry, undertaking a literature review, applying research methodologies and writing a research proposal. The capstone project will enable students to develop their theoretical knowledge further in an area of interest to themselves or their workplace. Through critical analysis of the literature relevant to their research topic, students will be able to apply their knowledge in a unique research context to construct a research proposal based on issues related to the financial services industry.

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
Task	Choose topic and research papers	Week 4	1–2	20%	LO1–LO2
Assignment 1	Literature review	Week 7	1–2	30%	LO1–LO2
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 Task (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 Assignment 1 (Weighting 30%)	12 hours
8–11	Topic 7: Research proposal	25 hours
12	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