



FACULTY OF
BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

ACCG326
International Financial Accounting and Reporting

Semester 2, 2011

Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance

**MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
UNIT GUIDE**

Year and Semester: 2011, Semester 2.

Unit convenor: Dr Alan Kilgore

Prerequisites: 39 credit points and ACCG224(P)

Credit points: 3

Students in this unit should read this unit guide carefully at the start of semester. It contains important information about the unit. If anything in it is unclear, please consult one of the teaching staff in the unit.

ABOUT THIS UNIT

- This unit is an advanced unit that aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of international financial accounting and reporting issues. It encourages students to become aware of the complexities inherent in international financial accounting and reporting. In addition to the technical and theoretical skills developed in this course, this unit aims to fortify analytical, critical and presentation skills by using a variety of assessment tasks such as case studies, in-class presentation and assignments. This unit aims to develop a range of graduate capabilities in the students that include: the ability to make well reasoned, independent and socially responsible choices; and the ability to use critical thinking and creativity to understand different perspectives and make effective decisions.

TEACHING STAFF

Name	Role in unit
Dr Alan Kilgore	Unit Coordinator and Lecturer
Ms Pei Pei Pan	Tutor
Mr Sharaf Alajmi	Tutor
Ms Lily Yan	Tutor
Mr Kevin Frohbus	Tutor
Ms Christine Han	Tutor
Ms Echo Wen	Tutor
Ms Yige Ma	Tutor

CONSULTATION TIMES

A student consultation timetable will be posted on the ACCG326 Blackboard webpage at the beginning of the semester.

Please direct all enquiries relating to the unit to accg326@mq.edu.au

Students are reminded to communicate with staff using their student email account. Staff will only reply to Macquarie University student email.

You are encouraged to seek help at a time that is convenient to you from a staff member teaching on this unit during their regular consultation hours. In special circumstances, an appointment may be made outside regular consultation hours. Staff will not conduct any consultations by email. You may, however, phone staff during their consultation hours.

In order to gain access to staff located at levels 1, 2 and 3 of building E4A during their consultation hours please ring the staff member from the phones available in the lobby (phone numbers of relevant staff members will be provided on Blackboard and are available next to the phones).

Students experiencing significant difficulties with any topic in the unit must seek assistance immediately.

CLASSES

- There are 3 hours of contact for learning per week consisting of 1 x 2 - hour lecture and a 1- hour tutorial.
- The timetable for classes can be found on the University web site at: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/>
- Changes to lecture and tutorial times are managed by the on-line enrolment system. It is not necessary to contact members of staff about tutorial changes. On-line enrolment changes to tutorials will be shut down at the end of week three so all changes must be finalised by then.

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND/OR MATERIALS

- Prescribed Textbook: International Accounting and Multinational Enterprises, 6th Edition, Radebaugh, Gray and Black (John Wiley)
- The prescribed textbook can be purchased from the Macquarie University Co-op Bookshop.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

- Students require computer technology sufficient to regularly access the ACCG326 Blackboard webpage via the internet.

UNIT WEB PAGE

- Unit materials, suggested solutions, announcements and other relevant information are found on Blackboard for the unit at: <http://learn.mq.edu.au>. Students are expected to visit the unit webpage on a regular basis.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learning outcomes of this unit are:

1. Gain an understanding of differences in accounting methods and disclosure practices and how accounting and corporate disclosure is regulated in a range of different nations, and the role that the accounting profession, government and other bodies have in that regulation.
2. Gain an understanding of the cultural, economic, political and historical factors that help explain differences and similarities in patterns of accounting and regulation across nations, and how these factors may influence the move towards international harmonization.
3. Gain an appreciation of the issues and problems facing international companies in organizing, managing, planning, controlling and evaluating, their global operations.
4. Develop and strengthen generic skills in the areas of report writing and topic discussion.
5. Demonstrate awareness of social, ethical and corporate governance issues affecting accounting and the role of accountants internationally.

- 6. Learn independently and assume responsibility for the learning process and with academic integrity and learn with peers to co-operate with others and assume leadership.

GRADUATE CAPABILITIES

- In addition to the discipline-based learning objectives, all academic programs at Macquarie seek to develop the capabilities the University's graduates will need to develop to address the challenges, and to be effective, engaged participants in their world.
- This unit contributes to this by developing the following graduate capabilities:

Learning Outcome	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills	✓	✓	✓			
2. Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. Problem Solving and Research Capability	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
4. Effective Communication				✓		✓
5. Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
6. Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
7. Capable of Professional & Personal Judgement and Initiative			✓		✓	✓

TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY

- Lectures and tutorials.
- Students are expected to read the prescribed readings and lecture materials prior to attending the lectures. Students are also expected to have finished the weekly assigned homework before tutorials and to participate in class discussions and group work.
- A student consultation timetable will be provided at the beginning of the semester to enable students to obtain further assistance from staff teaching in the unit. This timetable will be provided on Blackboard at the beginning of the semester.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

	Assessment Task 1	Assessment Task 2	Assessment Task 3	Assessment Task 4
Title/Name	Class tests (2)	Major Project	Weekly Tutorial Homework	Final Examination
Description:	Test 1 (Diagnostic): Multiple choice and/or practical exercise(s) covering material from Weeks 1-3 (20 minutes) Test 2: Multiple choice and/or practical exercise(s) covering material from Weeks 4-8 (30 minutes)	Written report concerning a contemporary issue in International financial accounting and reporting	Weekly tutorial homework questions comprising discussion questions, exercises and problems sourced from the relevant chapters of the textbook	3 hours and 10 minutes reading time.
Due date	Test 1: Week 4 Test 2: Week 9	Week 11 (commencing 24 th October)	6 tutorial homework submissions will be randomly collected by your Tutor during the semester	End-of-semester examination period
% Weighting	Test 1: 5% Test 2: 10%	15%	10%	60%
Grading method	Assessed and graded according to task	A marking guide provided to qualified examiners will represent marking criteria	Tutorial homework questions will be graded as follows: 2 marks – satisfactory completion (bona fida attempt has been made to complete all assigned questions) 1 mark – unsatisfactory completion (partial attempt of assigned questions)	Assessed and graded according to task

	Assessment Task 1	Assessment Task 2	Assessment Task 3	Assessment Task 4
			<p>0 marks – failure to submit homework in your registered tutorial when due</p> <p>The best 5 of the 6 randomly collected tutorial homework submissions will determine your mark for this assessment task</p>	
Submission method	<p>Test 1: Held in Week 4 lecture</p> <p>Test 2: Held in Week 9 lecture</p>	Projects must be submitted to your Tutor in your registered tutorial in Week 11 (commencing 24 th October)	6 tutorial homework submissions will be randomly collected by your Tutor during the semester. All tutorial homework submissions MUST be typewritten. Hand written submissions WILL NOT be accepted by tutors.	Completion of examination during examination period
Feedback	Test results and feedback will be provided in tutorials following the tests in weeks 5 and 10 respectively	Results and feedback will be provided in tutorials in Week 13	Results and feedback will be provided in the tutorial following submission	Grade result and viewing of examination script.
Estimated student workload (hours)	6 - 8 hours per test (12 -16 hours over the semester)	18 - 24 hours	3 - 4 hours per week (36 - 48 hours over the semester)	Cumulative over the semester plus revision. (24 – 36 hours)
Learning outcomes assessed	1, 2, 3, 5 and 6	1 to 6	4, 5 and 6	1, 2, 3, 5 and 6

Assessment summary

Assessment Task	Description	Value	Date Due
1	Class (Diagnostic) test 1 Class test 2	5 % 10%	Week 4 Week 9
2	Major Project	15%	Week 11
3	Weekly Tutorial Homework	10%	6 weeks tutorial homework randomly collected throughout the semester.
4	Final Examination	60%	Second Half Year examination period.
Total		100%	

To pass this unit you must pass (obtain at least 50%) in the overall performance and you must pass (obtain at least 50%) in the final examination.

Other important information regarding the above assessment tasks:

- Class test 1 serves as a diagnostic indicator for students at academic risk. Students identified as “at risk” will be directed to seek additional assistance from academic staff during regular student consultation times.
- There will be no supplementary Class tests. Therefore, absence from any of the Class tests will, subject to receipt of adequate documentation, increase the weighting on the final examination accordingly. Students are required to lodge an **Advice of Absence form** with the student centre within 5 working days of the due date of the test and provide documentary evidence to support your absence. **AN ADVICE OF ABSENCE LODGED AFTER THE FIVE WORKING DAYS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.** Students approved for a final examination weighting in excess of 60%, will be notified via email to their official Macquarie University email address.

- Late submission of the Major Project will attract a penalty of 50% per day. Extensions are only granted by the unit coordinator before the Project is due.
- 6 weekly homework assignments will be collected at random during the semester and if the student is not in class that particular day, marks will not be allocated. Weekly homework assignments submitted late will not be accepted. All tutorial homework submissions **MUST** be typewritten. Hand written submissions **WILL NOT** be accepted by tutors.
- Final Examinations

A final examination is included as an assessment task for this unit to provide assurance that:

- i) the product belongs to the student and
- ii) the student has attained the knowledge and skills tested in the exam.

A 3 hour final examination for this unit will be held during the University Examination period.

The University Examination period in Second Half Year 2011 is from 14th November to 2nd December.

You are expected to present yourself for examination at the time and place designated in the University Examination Timetable. The timetable will be available in Draft form approximately eight weeks before the commencement of the examinations and in Final form approximately four weeks before the commencement of the examinations.

<http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au/exam>

The only exception to not sitting an examination at the designated time is because of documented illness or unavoidable disruption. In these circumstances you may wish to consider applying for Special Consideration. The University's policy on special consideration process is available at http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html

If a Supplementary Examination is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process the examination will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period. (Individual Faculties may wish to signal when the Faculties' Supplementary Exams are normally scheduled.)

The Macquarie university examination policy details the principles and conduct of examinations at the University. The policy is available at: <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/examination/policy.htm>

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The nature of scholarly endeavour, dependent as it is on the work of others, binds all members of the University community to abide by the principles of academic honesty. Its fundamental principle is that all staff and students act with integrity in the creation, development, application and use of ideas and information. This means that:

- all academic work claimed as original is the work of the author making the claim
- all academic collaborations are acknowledged
- academic work is not falsified in any way
- when the ideas of others are used, these ideas are acknowledged appropriately.

Further information on the academic honesty can be found in the Macquarie University Academic Honesty Policy at http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

GRADES

Macquarie University uses the following grades in coursework units of study:

HD –High Distinction
D – Distinction
CR – Credit
P – Pass
F – Fail

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the Macquarie University Grading Policy which is available at:

<http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

All final grades in the Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance are determined by a grading committee and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Coordinator.

Students will be awarded one of these grades plus a Standardised Numerical Grade (SNG). The SNG is not necessarily a summation of the individual assessment components.

The final grade and SNG that are awarded reflect the corresponding grade descriptor in the Grading Policy.

In addition, there is a requirement to pass the final examination to be awarded a final grade of a Pass or a higher grade.

GRADING APPEALS AND FINAL EXAMINATION SCRIPT VIEWING

If, at the conclusion of the unit, you have performed below expectations, and are considering lodging an appeal of grade and/or viewing your final exam script please refer to the following website which provides information about these processes and the cut off dates in the first instance. Please read the instructions provided concerning what constitutes a valid grounds for appeal before appealing your grade.

http://www.businessandeconomics.mq.edu.au/for/new_and_current_students/undergraduate/admin_central/grade_appeals.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

The University is committed to equity and fairness in all aspects of its learning and teaching. In stating this commitment, the University recognises that there may be circumstances where a student is prevented by unavoidable disruption from performing in accordance with their ability. A special consideration policy exists to support students who experience serious and unavoidable disruption such that they do not reach their usual demonstrated performance level. The policy is available at:

http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/procedure.html

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au>.

IT CONDITIONS OF USE

Access to all student computing facilities within the Faculty of Business and Economics is restricted to authorised coursework for approved units. Student ID cards must be displayed in the locations provided at all times.

Students are expected to act responsibly when utilising University IT facilities. The following regulations apply to the use of computing facilities and online services:

- Accessing inappropriate web sites or downloading inappropriate material is not permitted. Material that is not related to coursework for approved unit is deemed inappropriate.
- Downloading copyright material without permission from the copyright owner is illegal, and strictly prohibited. Students detected undertaking such activities will face disciplinary action, which may result in criminal proceedings.

Non-compliance with these conditions may result in disciplinary action without further notice.

Students must use their Macquarie University email addresses to communicate with staff as it is University policy that the University issued email account is used for official University communication.

LECTURE AND TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

Week	Commencing	Lecture Topic	Lecture Content	Textbook Chapter	Homework to be completed for submission in tutorials
1	1 st August	Introduction to International Accounting and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International development of accounting • National differences in accounting • Major factors in development. 	Chapter 1	No tutorials this week
2	8 th August	International Accounting Patterns and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasons for accounting diversity • Problems caused by diversity • Classification of accounting and reporting systems • The influence of culture on financial reporting. 	Chapter 2	Chapter 1: discussion questions 1, 8, 14 exercises 3, 12, 15.
3	15 th August	Comparative International Accounting I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting systems – USA, China and Japan. 	Chapters 3 and 4	Chapter 2 discussion questions 3, 4, 12 exercises 4, 5, 6, 7, 14.
4	22 nd August TEST 1 (Diagnostic)	Comparative International Accounting II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounting systems – Europe (France, Germany and the Netherlands). 	Chapters 3 and 4	Chapter 3 discussion questions 7, 8, 14 exercises 9, 13,
5	29 th August	International Financial Reporting Standards and Financial Statement Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition and measurement standards • Disclosure and presentation standards • Differences between IFRS and US GAAP • Differences and financial statement analysis. 	Chapter 5	Chapter 3 discussion questions 9, 11, 13, 15 exercises 14, 15
6	5 th September	International Transparency and Disclosure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency and international disclosure regulation • Reporting trends • Pressures for transparency and disclosure. 	Chapter 6	Chapter 5 discussion questions 5, 9, 12 exercises 1 - 7
7	12 th September	International Accounting Standards and Global Convergence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical background • Harmonisation/convergence and arguments for/against • Major harmonisation/convergence efforts • IFRS/GAAP convergence • Use of IFRS. 	Chapter 7	Chapter 6 discussion questions: 4, 10, 11, 12. exercises 9, 10, 11.

MID-SEMESTER BREAK 19th September to 4th October

8	3 rd October	International Business Combinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregation of information through consolidation • Acquisition and merger accounting • Treatment of nonconsolidated subsidiaries • Harmonisation efforts regarding consolidation practices • Conceptual issues involved in accounting for goodwill and intangibles 	Chapter 8	Chapter 7 discussion questions 2, 3, 12, 15 exercises 6, 13, 15.
9	10 th October TEST 2	Corporate Governance and Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global strategic issues • Governance mechanisms • Importance of global corporate governance • Studies in international corporate governance • International differences in corporate governance. 	Chapter 12	Chapter 8 discussion questions 2, 4, 10, 11 Exercises 1, 2, 3, 9
10	17 th October	International Transfer Pricing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decentralisation and goal congruence • Objectives of international transfer pricing • Transfer pricing methods • Enforcement of transfer pricing regulations. 	Chapter 14	Chapter 12 discussion questions 1, 4, 5, 9. exercises 1, 7
11	24 th October MAJOR PROJRCT DUE	International Performance Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of effective performance evaluation systems • Performance measures • Financial versus nonfinancial measures of performance • Separating managerial and unit performance. 	Chapter 14	See Blackboard for homework questions related to this topic.
12	31 st October	Comparative International Auditing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity in external auditing • International harmonisation of auditing standards • International auditing issues • Future directions. 	Chapter 15	See Blackboard for homework questions related to this topic.
13	7 th November	Revision and information regarding the format of the final examination			Chapter 15 discussion questions 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13 exercises 7, 13

