

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	Financial Information for Business Decisions		
Module Code	25-6075-00L		
Level	6		
Credit Points	20		
Indicative Assessment Components & Percentage Weightings	Coursework 50% Exam 50%		
Pre-Requisite Modules (if applicable)	None. Students cannot take this module if they are taking Corporate Reporting		
Delivered according to Standard Academic Calendar YES	Long: 2 semesters YES	Short: 1 semester No	Other delivery pattern: <i>Please specify</i>

1 MODULE AIMS

- To develop an understanding of the functions and form of financial statements
- To develop an understanding of the significance of the regulatory, political and economic contexts for the understanding of publicly available financial information including corporate governance and audit.
- To enable the student to access published financial statements and other financial and non financial data relevant to business decisions.
- To develop a critical understanding of the analysis of financial statements and other sources of financial data.

2 MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES BY THE END OF THE MODULE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO

1. Assess the purposes of financial reports and how they are prepared;
2. Analyse the professional, political and economic contexts of corporate reporting including corporate governance and audit and critically assess the implications of these for the construction and understanding of financial statements;
3. Critique the notion of creative accounting and analyse the more questionable manipulation of financial data and the effect and implications of this;
4. identify and critique the tools available for financial statement analysis for a variety of purposes;

5. apply appropriate tools of analysis to a range of financial information from a variety of organisations (both UK and overseas);
6. Comment critically upon the relationships between financial information and the operation of financial markets.

3 INDICATIVE LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

The learning philosophy aims to encourage students to develop analytical, evaluative and critical patterns of thought with particular reference to the information that is available relating to companies. To achieve this, a variety of teaching and learning methods are used and students are directed to apply knowledge gained to a specific company in a group context.

- Lectures which are used to introduce concepts and reporting frameworks necessary to resolve financial reporting issues.
- Student based classes at which each learning set of students make a presentation based on their chosen company and applying the findings of their own research activities.
- Summative assessment will involve course work and examinations. The course work will be used to encourage students to research their chosen company and other real world issues. This will take the form of group presentations and individual written work. The examination will confirm that individual students are able to understand the material that they have researched relating to their company and also that they can apply techniques of financial analysis.
- Student will receive feedback in a number of ways. During seminars that do not contribute to summative assessment, verbal feedback will be given. Written feedback will be provided for the summative element of the assessment process. The coursework feedback will be both formative and summative.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGY AND METHODS

Task No.	<u>TASK DESCRIPTION</u>	SI Code	Task Weighting %	Word Count / Duration	In-module retrieval available
1	Coursework	CW	50%	2000 words	No
2	Exam	EX	50%	2 hours	No

4 INDICATIVE MODULE CONTENTS / TOPICS

- Sources of financial data relating to companies and databases available at SHU
- The background of accounting, its history and general form

- The purpose and structure of financial statements - the International Accounting Standards Board Framework
- Values in financial statements
- The effect of accounting choice and manipulation of financial statements. The importance of accounting policies
- The agency problem, executive rewards, corporate governance and audit
- Accounting/legal regulation and standards
- A structured approach to the interpretation of financial statements
- Cash flow analysis
- Credit analysis
- The significance of stock market prices, the drivers of these prices and the relationship of these to financial information including dividend, earnings and other announcements
- Corporate Social Responsibility and the reporting of this

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MODULE

- **FURTHER / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THIS MODULE, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT CRITERIA DETAILING HOW YOUR PERFORMANCE IN THE MODULE WILL BE MEASURED, HOW YOU WILL RECEIVE FEEDBACK, DETAILS OF LEARNING RESOURCES AND KEY READINGS**
- **THIS INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN THE MODULE HANDBOOK / BLACKBOARD SITE.**
- **NOTE THAT THIS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR**

FINAL TASK

According to the Assessment Strategy shown in the Module Descriptor, which task will be the LAST TASK to be taken or handed-in? (Give task number as shown in the Assessment Strategy)	Task No. 2
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MODULE REFERRAL STRATEGY

Task for Task (as shown for initial assessment strategy)	Y
Single Referral Package for All Referred Students	N

REVISIONS

Date	Reason
July 2012	Assessment Framework review