

SCHOOL OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

MASTERS DEGREE IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SCIENCES – COURSE WORK

1. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Financial Management Sciences has developed a Master's Degree in Financial Management Sciences aimed at educating and empowering candidates to make correct financial decisions in a fast-changing and technologically complex business environment.

2. SCOPE

The mini-dissertation is typically a 25 000 word (80 pp.) individual report of independent research under the guidance of a supervisor. The purpose of the mini-dissertation is to demonstrate that:

- The student is able to plan and execute research
- The student is able to interpret some practical context in terms of the theory presented in the courses and come to appropriate conclusions
- The student is able to interpret and present his/her research findings

3. PROCEDURE

- (I) The course is presented on a modular basis over a period of 18 – 24 months. Students must re-register the beginning of every year of study before 28 February. Lecturers will be presented through Technology Based Distance Education (that means assignments on ClickUP)
- (II) The student enrolls for FNB884; FNB885; FNB886 and FBS884 (Research Proposal). For FNB884/5/6 students will be required to submit a number of case studies, **3 per module**, during the first year of the study period that will be used to set up examination credits.
- (III) This course FBS884 will focus on some of the fundamental processes, principles and techniques necessary to conduct and interpret research. It will provide guidelines to enable the learner to draw up a research proposal for the mini-dissertation – FBS895. The starting point for the mini-dissertation is thus FBS884.
- (IV) The student enrolls for FBS895 in the second year of study and finishes the mini-dissertation under the guidance of the allocated supervisor. The student must apply for ethical clearance from the Research Committee of the department before any empirical study is carried out.
- (V) When the supervisor is satisfied with the final product the student has it language edited and then hands in two ring-bound copies for examination, an electronic version on CD in both Word format (should the extern examiner prefers to work through the electronic version) and PDF format, for plagiarism checking all to the postgraduate administrator. These documents should be handed in before 31 October to qualify for graduation in April

of the next year. For graduation in September the copies should be handed in before 15 May the same year.

- (VI) Course work accounts for 50% and mini-dissertation 50% of your final work.

Modules for MCom: Financial Management Sciences (Course work) and the credits for this course are calculated as follow:

MODULES	CREDITS	SUBMINIMUM
FNB 884	50%	50%
FNB 885		50%
FNB 886		50%
FBS884	Does not carry any credits Prerequisite for taking FBS895	
FBS895 Mini-dissertation	50%	50%

A final mark of 50% for all course work & assignments and 50% for the mini-dissertation are necessary to obtain the MCom in Financial Management.

For each of FNB 884, FNB885 and FNB886 three case studies have to be handed in. More or less one month on a Case Study

5. LANGUAGE MEDIUM

The medium of instruction will be English. Students may communicate with lecturers, complete assignments in either English or Afrikaans.

6. REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION

- i. Students who hold a **relevant** BCom Hons degree.
- ii. Students who hold the CA(SA) qualification.

7. LECTURERS

Financial Management 884(FNB 884):	Prof Frans Vermaak
Financial Management 885(FNB 885):	Prof Johannes de Wet
Financial Management 886(FNB 886):	Prof Hendrik Wolmarans
Financial Management 884(FBS884):	Prof Frans Vermaak

8. CURRICULUM

• Curriculum: Credits

Financial Management 884(FNB 884):

- Relevance regained by bottom-up empowerment
- Strategic Management Accounting
- Target Cost, Cost of Quality, Cost of capacity
- Competitor Cost Analysis Benchmarking and Teardowns
- Business plans – a Financial perspective
- Value analysis and process reengineering
- Capita Selecta

Financial Management 885(FNB 885):

- Demand and supply of financial and economical information
- Financial analysis – empirical issues and evidence
- Cross-sectional analysis / Time-series analysis
- Beyond the ratio's – interpretation
- Going concern and forecasting
- Restructuring and distress analysis
- Capita Selecta

Financial Management 886(FNB 886):

- Financial planning
- Cash flow models for planning
- Assessing the value of Strategic Opportunities
- Undertaking the risk attached to a strategic opportunity
- Capital budgeting and strategy
- Models for creating and implementing Cooperative Strategies
- Economic Value Added
- Managing Financial Risk
- Capita Selecta

Financial Management 884(FBS884):

- Introduction and setting the scene
- Foundational skills for successful post-graduate research
- What is a theory?
- Preparing a research proposal - an overview
- Proposal writing - Steps 1-6 - Answering the "What?" question
- Proposal writing - Steps 7-10 - Writing the literature review
- Choosing an appropriate research design

FBS 884 is a compulsory subject for the MCom Financial Management program.

FBS 895: Mini-dissertation

- Reading List
- Research proposal
- Research in process
- Research publication

9. COST OF THE COURSE

http://www.up.ac.za/up/web/en/student/sos/sos_login/fees/postgraduate_fees.html

10. APPLICATION FORMS

The application form is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.up.ac.za/up/web/en/student/undergraduate/prospective/>

An application fee is payable. The fee can be paid by credit card or if deposited into the University's bank account.

All prospective international students must acquire SAQA evaluation of their degree certificates before submitting an application to the University of Pretoria. See:

<http://www.up.ac.za/international/index.htm> and <http://www.saqa.org.za/>.

All prospective international students must also pass an English language proficiency test before submitting an application to the University of Pretoria. You may either write the TOEFL test or the IELTS test. The University requires 213 marks for the computer-based TOEFL, 550 marks for the written TOEFL test and 6 marks for the IELTS test. See: <http://www.toefl.org> (tel. +27 11 713 0600) or <http://www.ielts.org>.

Information on the programme and hard copies of the application form can be obtained from:

Mrs. Elma Carelsen

Tel: 012 420 3327

elma.carelsen@up.ac.za

Address: Student Administration
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Applications close on 30 September

International Students: Application close on 31 July