SYLLABUS 2025-2026

Investment Strategies and Portfolio Management

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Module Code	2526_DFC_2_EN_031 / 2526_DFC_3_EN_009
Campus	Oxford
Department(s)	Law, Finance and Control
Level / Semester	Masters Year 2 (M2); Equivalent to FHEQ level 7 Semester 09
Language of Instruction	English
Teaching Method	☒ In-person (face-to-face) ☐ Distance learning (live online) ☐ e-Learning (asynchronous) ☐ Hybrid: ____________________________
Pre-requisite(s)?	None
ECTS *Reminder: 1 ECTS = between 20 and 30hr- student workload*	4
Equivalent FHEQ credits	8
Study Hours	100 hours which comprise of 28 directed learning and 72 independent learning/assessment hours

MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module Aims	This module provides students with the knowledge and skills to effectively design, implement, and manage investment portfolios. The module covers a wide range of topics, including asset allocation, risk management, portfolio optimisation, and performance evaluation. Students will explore various investment strategies, including active and passive management, value investing, and alternative investments. The module also examines the role of financial markets, economic indicators, and behavioural finance in shaping investment decisions. Through case studies, practical exercises, and the use of

	portfolio management tools, students will gain hands-on experience in constructing portfolios tailored to different investment goals and risk profiles. By the end of the module, students will be equipped to develop strategic investment approaches and make informed decisions to maximise returns while managing risk.
Teaching Arrangement	The module will be delivered through lectures, seminars, and workshops.
Learning Outcomes	By the end of this module, students should be able to: 1. Evaluate and apply asset allocation strategies to balance risk and return in investment portfolios. 2. Construct diversified investment portfolios, considering different asset classes, risk tolerances, and investment objectives. 3. Analyse and apply key portfolio management techniques, including portfolio optimisation and performance measurement. 4. Critically assess the effectiveness of active vs. passive investment strategies in different market conditions. 5. Implement basic risk management tools, such as Value at Risk (VaR), to protect portfolio value.
Competency Goals *(Knowledge, expertise and interpersonal skills)*	PGE_M_CG01 - To be equipped with efficient business skills PGE_M_CG02 - To be entrepreneurially-minded
Alignment with Programme Learning Goals	PGE_M_CG01_LO01 - To apply appropriate financial skills PGE_M_CG02_LO01 - To understand the environment of a company whatever the activity sector PGE_M_CG01_LO01_I01 - To realise a financial analysis PGE_M_CG02_LO01_I01 - To find the right information, describe & analyse the environment of a company, whatever the sector is

SESSION TOPICS / MODULE SCHEDULE

(Please note, a session/sequence may be more than one scheduled class)

Session 1: Introduction to Investment Strategies and Portfolio Management

Content:

- Overview of investment management
- Role of portfolio management and investment objectives
- Types of investment strategies – active vs. passive management

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 2: Asset Allocation and Diversification

Content:

- Importance of asset allocation in portfolio management
- Strategic vs. Tactical asset allocation
- Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT) and the efficient frontier
- Risk and return trade-offs in portfolio construction

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 3: Risk Management in Investment Portfolios

Content:

- Risk types: systematic and unsystematic risk
- Risk-adjusted performance measures (e.g. Sharpe ratio, Treynor ratio)
- Portfolio diversification and the reduction of risk
- Techniques for managing risk (hedging, derivatives, and asset correlation)

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 4: Portfolio Optimisation and Performance Evaluation

Content:

- Mean-variance optimisation and its application
- Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) and its use in portfolio construction
- Evaluation portfolio performance (benchmarking and performance attribution)
- Adjusting portfolios based on market conditions

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 5: Investment Strategies

Content:

- Active management strategies: market timing, stock picking, and sector rotation
- Passive management strategies: index funds and exchange-traded funds (ETFs)
- Alternative investment strategies: Hedge funds, private equity, and real estate
- Ethical and sustainable investing: ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) criteria

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 6: Economics Indicators and Financial Markets

Content:

- Understanding macroeconomic indicators (interest rates, inflation, GDP, etc.)
- Impact of economic conditions on investment decisions
- Behavioural finance and investor psychology
- Market efficiency and anomalies

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 7: Fixed Income and Equity Portfolio Management

Content:

- Investment strategies for bond portfolios
- Equity selection strategies (fundamental and technical analysis)
- Risk and return profiles for fixed income vs. equity investments

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 8: Alternative Investments and Derivatives

Content:

- Real assets (commodities, real estate, and infrastructure)
- Derivatives (options, futures, and swaps for hedging and speculation)
- Private equity and hedge funds (investment strategies and risk profiles)

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 9: Portfolio Rebalancing and Monitoring

Content:

- Need for rebalancing in dynamic market environments
- Rebalancing techniques and strategies
- Performance monitoring and reporting for clients

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

Session 10: Ethical Consideration and Regulatory Environment

Content:

- Ethical dilemmas in portfolio management
- Regulatory frameworks governing investment strategies
- Compliance and fiduciary responsibilities

Assignments:

- Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

KEY TEXTS

1. Bodie, Z., Kane, A. and Marcus, A.J. (2023) *Investments*. 13th edn. McGraw Hill.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS

1. Assignments will be announced closer to the relevant session dates

MODES OF ASSESSMENT

Continuous Assessment (40%)	Report and presentation
Final Exam (60%)	Written exam

MODULE DESIGN TEAM

- Author: *Mitra Arami*

Last reviewed: 08/09/2025

- Reviewer: *Shahrukh Ifran*
- External Reviewer: *Naaguesh Appadu*

Last reviewed: 08/09/2025