

THE EDUCATION UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Course Outline

Part I

Programme Title	: Master of Arts in Personal Finance Education
Programme QF Level	: 6
Course Title	: Research Project
Course Code	: BUS6040
Department	: Social Sciences and Policy Studies
Credit Points	: 6
Contact Hours	: 78
Pre-requisite(s)	: Nil
Medium of Instruction	: English
Course Level	: 6

Part II

The University's Graduate Attributes and seven Generic Intended Learning Outcomes (GILOs) represent the attributes of ideal EdUHK graduates and their expected qualities respectively. Learning outcomes work coherently at the University (GILOs), programme (Programme Intended Learning Outcomes) and course (Course Intended Learning Outcomes) levels to achieve the goal of nurturing participants with important graduate attributes.

In gist, the Graduate Attributes for Sub-degree, Undergraduate, Taught Postgraduate, Professional Doctorate and Research Postgraduate students consist of the following three domains (i.e. in short "PEER & I"):

- Professional Excellence;
- Ethical Responsibility; &
- Innovation.

The descriptors under these three domains are different for the three groups of participants in order to reflect the respective level of Graduate Attributes.

The seven GILOs are:

1. Problem Solving Skills
2. Critical Thinking Skills
3. Creative Thinking Skills
- 4a. Oral Communication Skills
- 4b. Written Communication Skills
5. Social Interaction Skills
6. Ethical Decision Making
7. Global Perspectives

1. Course Synopsis

This course is an advanced research course for participants who have sufficient knowledge in research methodologies in finance and are interested in doing academic research relates to personal finance education. Research project proposal of 3,000 words will have to be submitted to the research project committee that is composed of at least two members, including participant's supervisor and programme leader, by the middle of the first semester of participants' study, while the entire research project of about 12,000 - 15,000 words will have to be delivered to the research project committee. Participants will be required to present their research project before the research project committee, which will then give a grade to the work. Revisions will have to be made so that the final research project will satisfy the research project committee. The final research project will have a copy deposited to the Library and another one in the departmental library.

1. Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- CILO₁ Demonstrate the ability to master in-depth research on personal finance education;
- CILO₂ Complete and write up a research project report on personal finance education that combines conceptual and theoretical framework with empirical evidence;
- CILO₃ Show originality and efforts in the in-depth research work;
- CILO₄ Display an interpretation of a research topic in a critical, systematic and unique manner.

2. Content, CILOs and Teaching & Learning Activities

Course Content	CILOs	Suggested Teaching & Learning Activities
Research design, hypothesis and variables	CILO _{1,2,3}	Seminars, tutorials, discussions, and/or consultations
Research methods: Quantitative and/or qualitative aspects	CILO _{1,2,3,4}	Seminars, tutorials, discussions, and/or consultations
Research proposal writing	CILO _{1,2,3,4}	Seminars, tutorials, discussions, and/or consultations
Data collection and analysis	CILO _{1,2,3,4}	Discussions, consultations, and/or self-directed learning

Draft Research Project Report and presentation	<i>CILO</i> _{1,2,3,4}	Seminars, tutorials, discussions, and/or consultations
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3. Assessment

Assessment Tasks	Weighting (%)	CILO
(a) Research Proposal Participants are required to submit a research project proposal (3,000 words) by the middle of the first semester in their study, detailing the research topic, theories, data collection, and the method of analysis.	10%	<i>CILO</i> _{1,2,3,4}
(b) Presentation of draft Research Project Report A draft research project report should be submitted to the supervisor before the deadline designated by the programme (12,000 - 15,000 words). In addition, research project presentation with a question-and-answer session will be made in the presence of both the supervisor and the committee member(s).	30%	<i>CILO</i> _{1,2,3,4}
(c) Final Research Project Report After receiving feedbacks from the supervisor and the committee members on the research project presentation, the participants revise the research project and submit the final copy of the project report (12,000 - 15,000 words) to the supervisor and the committee member(s) within 2 weeks.	60%	<i>CILO</i> _{1,2,3,4}

4. Required Text(s)

Nil

5. Use of Generative AI in Course Assessments

Please select one option only that applies to this course:

☐ **Not Permitted:** In this course, the use of generative AI tools is not allowed for any assessment tasks.

☑ **Permitted:** In this course, generative AI tools may be used in some or all assessment tasks. Instructors will provide specific instructions, including any restrictions or additional requirements (e.g., proper acknowledgment, reflective reports), during the first lesson and in relevant assessment briefs.

6. Recommended Readings

- Campbell, J. Y., Lo, A. W., and MacKinlay, A. C (1996). *The Econometrics of Financial Markets* (2nd ed.). Princeton University Press.
- Cochrane, J. H. (2005). *Asset Pricing*. Princeton University Press.
- Cooke, B., & Cox, J. W. (Eds). (2005). *Fundamentals of Action Research*. London: Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage.
- Gujarti, Damodar N (2004). *Basic Econometrics* (4th ed.). McGraw-Hill.
- Hamilton, J. D. (1994). *Time Series Analysis*. Princeton University Press.
- Hair, J. F. et al. (2010). *Multivariate Data Analysis*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Kennedy, P. A Guide to Econometrics (6th ed.). Wiley-Blackwell.
- Remler, D. K. and Van Ryzin, G. G. (2011). *Research Methods in Practice: Strategies for Description and Causation*. Thousand Oaks, C. A.: Sage.
- Ryan, B., Scapens, R. W. and Theobald, M (2002). *Research Method and Methodology in Finance and Accounting*. London: Thompson.
- Tsay, R. S. (2010). *Analysis of Financial Time Series* (3rd ed.). Wiley.
- Wooldridge, Jeffrey M. (2010). *Econometric Analysis of Cross Section and Panel Data*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press.
- Xiao, J. J. (2016). *Handbook of Consumer Finance Research* (2nd ed.). New York: Springer.

7. Related Web Resources

Financial Capability Resources for Teachers	https://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Curriculum-resources/Financial-capability/Resources-for-teachers/Online
Web Center for Social Research Methods	https://www.socialresearchmethods.net/
Programme for International Student Assessment	https://www.oecd.org/pisa/

8. Related Journals

Accounting Review
Finance Research Letters
International Journal of Managerial Finance
International Journal of Qualitative Methods
Journal of Accounting and Economics
Journal of Accounting Research
Journal of Finance
Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis

Journal of Financial Economics
Journal of Financial Planning
Journal of Personal Finance
Review of Financial Studies
Review of Quantitative Finance and Accounting

9. Academic Honesty

The University upholds the principles of honesty in all areas of academic work. We expect our students to carry out all academic activities honestly and in good faith. Please refer to the Policy on Academic Honesty, Responsibility and Integrity (<https://www.eduhk.hk/re/uploads/docs/000000000016336798924548BbN5>). Students should familiarize themselves with the Policy.

10. Others

Nil

March 2026

Appendix

Programme Title : Master of Arts in Personal Finance Education
Course Title : Research Project
Course Code : BUS6040
Offering Unit : Department of Social Sciences and Policy Studies
Credit Points : 6

Delivery mode:

☐ **Online learning as the primary delivery mode**

Range of classroom-based contact hours (0-15)	Range of hours for online learning (24-39)	Total No. of-Contact Hours
		39

☒ **Directed study mode**

Range of classroom-based contact hours (4-15)	Range of guided independent learning hours (24-35)	Total No. of-Contact Hours
30	48	78

Updated as of June 2023