

SEVERN BUSINESS COLLEGE

SBC Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Financial Markets and Investment

Course Handbook

Qualification
SBC Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Financial Markets and Investment

Level
6

Guided Learning Hours
480

Total Qualification Time Hours
1200

Credit Value
120

Qualification Objective
This Graduate Diploma in Financial Markets and Investment is designed to provide students with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to navigate and succeed in the global financial markets and investment sectors. The course will cover essential topics such as financial theory, investment management, market analysis, and ethical considerations in financial markets.
Each unit consists of four learning outcomes, and each learning outcome is assessed based on specific assessment criteria. The learning outcomes will guide students toward achieving mastery in key areas of financial markets and investment.

Assessment
Assessment is through practical assignments, with no exams - to more accurately reflect the real working environment.

Unit Structure of the Qualification
SBC Level 6 Graduate Diploma in Financial Markets and Investment (120 credits):

Units	Unit level	Unit credit
Financial Markets and Instruments	6	20
Investment Principles and Portfolio Management	6	20
Financial Analysis and Valuation	6	20
Financial Risk Management	6	20
Corporate Finance and Investment Decisions	6	20
Global Financial Markets and Investment Strategies	6	20

Assessment Grades

Marks Ranges	Marking Criteria
Pass	All learning outcomes are achieved. All assessment criteria are met.
Fail	All learning outcomes are not achieved. All assessment criteria are not met.
No Marks	Plagiarism

UNIT SPECIFICATIONS

Unit Title
Financial Markets and Instruments

Level
6

Guided Learning Hours
80

Learning Time Hours
200

Credit Value
20

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria
This unit will explore the fundamental concepts of financial markets, their functions, and the various types of financial instruments available. It will also focus on the role these markets play in the economy, financial institutions, and investment strategies.

Learning Outcome *To achieve this unit a learner must:*	Assessment Criteria *Assessment of this outcome will require a learner to demonstrate that they can:*
1. Understand the Structure and Function of Financial Markets.	1.1 Describe the different types of financial markets (e.g., money markets, capital markets, foreign exchange markets). 1.2 Explain the key functions of financial markets (e.g., price discovery, liquidity, risk transfer). 1.3 Identify the major financial instruments traded in different markets. 1.4 Analyze the role of financial markets in economic growth and stability.
2. Analyze Financial Instruments and Their Uses.	2.1 Describe the different types of financial instruments (e.g., stocks, bonds, derivatives). 2.2 Explain how each type of financial instrument is used in investment strategies. 2.3 Discuss the risks and returns associated with various financial instruments. 2.4 Evaluate the impact of market conditions on the pricing of financial instruments.
3. Assess Market Efficiency.	3.1 Define the concept of market efficiency. 3.2 Explain the Efficient Market Hypothesis (EMH) and its implications for investors. 3.3 Critically assess the evidence supporting or contradicting market efficiency. 3.4 Discuss the implications of market efficiency on investment strategies.
4. Evaluate the Role of Financial Institutions in Markets.	4.1 Identify the key financial institutions involved in financial markets (e.g., banks, investment firms, central banks). 4.2 Explain the roles these institutions play in market operations. 4.3 Analyze the impact of financial regulation on market stability. 4.4 Discuss the relationship between financial institutions and market participants.

UNIT SPECIFICATIONS

Unit Title
Investment Principles and Portfolio Management

Level
6

Guided Learning Hours
80

Learning Time Hours
200

Credit Value
20

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria
This unit focuses on investment principles, portfolio management, and techniques used to manage risk and achieve optimal returns. It provides the foundation for making informed investment decisions and understanding the key elements of portfolio theory.

Learning Outcome *To achieve this unit a learner must:*	Assessment Criteria *Assessment of this outcome will require a learner to demonstrate that they can:*
1. Understand Investment Principles and Strategies.	1. Describe the basic principles of investment, including risk, return, and time horizon. 2. Explain different investment strategies (e.g., active vs. passive management). 3. Assess the factors that influence investment decisions. 4. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of various investment strategies.
2. Apply Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT)	1. Explain the concepts of diversification and risk reduction. 2. Apply the Markowitz Efficient Frontier model to portfolio optimization. 3. Analyze the relationship between risk and return in portfolio construction. 4. Critically assess the assumptions underlying Modern Portfolio Theory.
3. Evaluate Asset Allocation and Risk Management	1. Define asset allocation and its role in portfolio management. 2. Discuss the factors influencing asset allocation decisions.

	3. Evaluate the use of hedging and other risk management techniques. 4. Analyze the impact of economic, market, and geopolitical factors on asset allocation.
4. Assess the Role of Alternative Investments.	1. Identify various alternative investment options (e.g., real estate, private equity, commodities). 2. Evaluate the risk-return profile of alternative investments. 3. Discuss the benefits and challenges of including alternative investments in a portfolio. 4. Analyze the correlation between traditional and alternative assets in portfolio construction.

UNIT SPECIFICATIONS

Unit Title
Financial Analysis and Valuation

Level
6

Guided Learning Hours
80

Learning Time Hours
200

Credit Value
20

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria
This unit introduces students to the key techniques used in financial analysis and valuation. Students will learn how to assess the financial health of companies and make informed investment decisions based on valuation models.

Learning Outcome *To achieve this unit a learner must:*	**Assessment Criteria** *Assessment of this outcome will require a learner to demonstrate that they can:*
1. Understand Financial Statements and Ratios.	1. Explain the components of key financial statements (balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement). 2. Calculate and interpret financial ratios (e.g., liquidity, profitability, leverage). 3. Analyze the financial health of a company using financial ratios. 4. Discuss the limitations of financial statements and ratios in investment analysis.
2. Apply Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) Valuation	1. Define the concept of discounted cash flow and its application in valuation. 2. Explain the steps involved in calculating the present value of future cash flows. 3. Apply the DCF method to value a company or asset. 4. Critically assess the assumptions and limitations of the DCF valuation model.
3. Use Market Multiples for Valuation	1. Identify common market multiples (e.g., P/E ratio, EV/EBITDA). 2. Apply market multiples to value companies in different industries. 3. Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of market multiples compared to other valuation methods. 4. Discuss the impact of market conditions on the effectiveness of market multiples.
4. Conduct Sensitivity and Scenario Analysis	1. Define sensitivity analysis and its use in financial decision-making. 2. Apply sensitivity analysis to key valuation assumptions (e.g., discount rate, growth rate). 3. Conduct scenario analysis to assess the impact of different economic or market conditions on valuations. 4. Interpret the results of sensitivity and scenario analyses in the context of investment decisions.

UNIT SPECIFICATIONS

Unit Title
Financial Risk Management

Level
6

Guided Learning Hours
80

Learning Time Hours
200

Credit Value
20

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria
This unit examines the various types of financial risks faced by individuals and institutions and the strategies used to manage these risks. Topics will include market risk, credit risk, liquidity risk, and operational risk, along with the tools for risk measurement and mitigation.

Learning Outcome *To achieve this unit a learner must:*	**Assessment Criteria** *Assessment of this outcome will require a learner to demonstrate that they can:*
1. Identify Types of Financial Risks.	1. Define market risk, credit risk, liquidity risk, and operational risk. 2. Explain the sources and causes of different financial risks. 3. Assess the impact of financial risks on investment portfolios and financial institutions. 4. Discuss the interrelationship between different types of financial risks.
2. Measure Financial Risk.	1. Define risk measurement tools (e.g., Value at Risk, stress testing). 2. Explain how to use historical data and statistical models to measure risk. 3. Apply risk measurement techniques to assess market and credit risk. 4. Evaluate the limitations of risk measurement tools and models.
3. Implement Risk Management Strategies.	1. Describe risk mitigation strategies (e.g., diversification, hedging). 2. Analyze the effectiveness of risk management strategies in different market environments. 3. Assess the role of financial derivatives (e.g., options, futures) in managing risk. 4. Develop a risk management plan for a portfolio or financial institution.
4. Understand Regulatory Frameworks in Risk Management	1. Identify key regulations and standards related to financial risk management (e.g., Basel III, Dodd-Frank). 2. Explain the role of regulatory bodies in overseeing financial institutions and markets. 3. Assess the impact of regulations on risk management practices. 4. Discuss the ethical considerations in financial risk management.

UNIT SPECIFICATIONS

Unit Title
Corporate Finance and Investment Decisions

Level
6

Guided Learning Hours
80

Learning Time Hours
200

Credit Value
20

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

This unit explores corporate finance principles, including capital budgeting, capital structure, and corporate governance. It will focus on how corporations make strategic investment decisions and manage financial resources.

Learning Outcome *To achieve this unit a learner must:*	**Assessment Criteria** *Assessment of this outcome will require a learner to demonstrate that they can:*
1. Understand Capital Budgeting Techniques.	1. Define capital budgeting and its importance for corporate decision-making. 2. Explain the different techniques for evaluating investment projects (e.g., NPV, IRR, Payback Period). 3. Apply capital budgeting techniques to assess investment opportunities. 4. Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different capital budgeting methods.
2. Analyze Capital Structure Decisions.	1. Define capital structure and explain its components (e.g., debt, equity). 2. Analyze the factors influencing a company's capital structure decisions. 3. Assess the trade-offs between debt and equity financing. 4. Discuss the implications of capital structure decisions on a company's financial health.
3. Evaluate Corporate Governance.	1. Define corporate governance and explain its role in corporate finance. 2. Identify the key elements of effective corporate governance (e.g., board structure, shareholder rights). 3. Evaluate the impact of corporate governance practices on company performance. 4. Discuss the ethical and regulatory issues related to corporate governance.
4. Assess Mergers, Acquisitions, and Corporate Restructuring	1. Define mergers, acquisitions, and corporate restructuring. 2. Explain the strategic reasons behind mergers and acquisitions. 3. Assess the financial and non-financial considerations in M&A decisions. 4. Critically evaluate the success or failure of a recent merger or acquisition.

UNIT SPECIFICATIONS

Unit Title

Global Financial Markets and Investment Strategies

Level

6

Guided Learning Hours

80

Learning Time Hours

200

Credit Value

20

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

This unit provides an in-depth look at global financial markets, focusing on international investment strategies, foreign exchange, and global risk factors. It aims to equip students with the tools needed to analyze and invest in international markets.

Learning Outcome *To achieve this unit a learner must:*	**Assessment Criteria** *Assessment of this outcome will require a learner to demonstrate that they can:*
1. Understand Global Financial Markets.	1. Describe the key global financial markets (e.g., stock markets, bond markets, foreign exchange). 2. Analyze the interaction between domestic and international financial markets. 3. Discuss the impact of globalization on financial markets. 4. Evaluate the role of central banks and international institutions in global finance.
2. Analyze Foreign Exchange Markets and Currency Risk.	1. Explain the structure and functioning of foreign exchange markets. 2. Analyze the factors that influence currency exchange rates.

	3. Discuss the risks associated with investing in foreign currencies. 4. Apply risk management techniques to hedge against currency risk.
3. Develop International Investment Strategies	1. Identify key considerations for international investing (e.g., political risk, exchange rate risk). 2. Evaluate different approaches to international diversification. 3. Assess the risks and returns associated with emerging market investments. 4. Develop an international investment strategy for a global portfolio.
4. Analyze Global Financial Crises and Their Impact on Investment	1. Define the causes and consequences of global financial crises. 2. Analyze the effects of financial crises on investment strategies and markets. 3. Assess the role of government intervention during crises. 4. Discuss the lessons learned from past global financial crises.

Version:2412a