

## MODULE DESCRIPTOR

### Module Title

Alternative Investments

Reference	BSM704	Version	7
Created	December 2023	SCQF Level	SCQF 11
Approved	July 2019	SCQF Points	15
Amended	March 2024	ECTS Points	7.5

### Aims of Module

To develop understanding of the nature and characteristics of derivatives and alternative investments and critically evaluate their applications.

### Learning Outcomes for Module

On completion of this module, students are expected to be able to:

- 1 Analyse the nature and characteristics of the global derivatives market.
- 2 Critically appraise the use of forwards, futures, options and swaps for hedging, speculation and arbitraging.
- 3 Appraise the values of forwards, futures, options and swaps.
- 4 Critically evaluate investments in commodities, real estate, hedge funds and private equity.
- 5 Critically evaluate the role of derivatives and alternative investments in portfolio diversification.

### Indicative Module Content

An overview of alternative investments; structure and characteristics of the global forwards, futures, options and swaps markets; nature and characteristics of forwards, futures, options and swaps; valuation of forwards, futures, options and swaps; applications of forwards, futures, options and swaps to speculate, hedge and arbitrage; mitigating climate-change risk with derivatives; commodities; real estate; hedge funds; private equity; portfolio diversification with alternative investments.

### Module Delivery

On Campus Mode: The module is delivered by on campus lectures, interactive work and case study tutorials and directed self-study. Online Mode: The module is delivered in online mode by directed self-study materials for asynchronous learning, supported by synchronous online tutorials.

**Indicative Student Workload**

	Full Time	Part Time
Contact Hours	44	44
Non-Contact Hours	106	106
Placement/Work-Based Learning Experience [Notional] Hours	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	150	150
<i>Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body</i>		

**ASSESSMENT PLAN**

If a major/minor model is used and box is ticked, % weightings below are indicative only.

**Component 1**

Type:	Examination	Weighting:	30%	Outcomes Assessed:	1, 2, 3
Description:	Closed book class test.				

**Component 2**

Type:	Examination	Weighting:	70%	Outcomes Assessed:	2, 3, 4, 5
Description:	Closed book exam.				

**MODULE PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTOR****Explanatory Text**

The calculation of the overall grade for this module is based on 70% weighting of C2 - Examination (vertical axis) and 30% weighting of C1 - Class test (horizontal axis). An overall minimum grade D is required to pass the module.

		Examination:						NS
		A	B	C	D	E	F	
Examination:	A	A	A	B	B	B	E	
	B	B	B	B	C	C	E	
	C	B	C	C	C	D	E	
	D	C	C	D	D	D	E	
	E	D	D	D	E	E	E	
	F	E	E	E	E	F	F	
	NS	Non-submission of work by published deadline or non-attendance for examination						

**Module Requirements**

Prerequisites for Module	None.
Corequisites for module	None.
Precluded Modules	None.

**INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- 1 BAKER, H.K. and FILBECK, G., 2013. *Alternative investments ? instruments, performance, benchmarks and strategies*. New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- 2 CHAMBERS, D.R., BLACK, K.H. and LACEY,N.J. 2018. *Alternative investments: a primer for investment professionals*. Charlottesville(VA): CFA Institute Research Foundation.
- 3 GOTTESMAN, A., 2016. *Derivatives essentials: an introduction to forwards, futures, options and swaps* . New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.
- 4 HULL, J.C., 2021. *Options, futures and other derivatives*. 11th ed. London: Pearson.
- 5 SOKOLOWSKA, E., 2016. *The principles of alternative investments management: a study of the global market*. Berlin: Springer.