

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
Actual Placement hours for professional, statutory or regulatory body		

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:					
		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.