

Advanced Studies in International Finance
Department of Finance
The Red McCombs School of Business

Fall Semester 2008

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Objective: Advanced Studies in International Finance is an internet-based, multi-university research course that allows UT students, in conjunction with selected students at partner business schools, to research issues in international finance. Substantial amount of information concerning this course is contained in the course web site at: <http://www.mcombs.utexas.edu/dept/finance/undergrad/international/index.asp>

Partner Schools:

Partner schools are Belgorod State University, Belgorod, Russia, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Shanghai Jiao Tong participates in the Spring Semester.

Academic status: This course counts as a 3-hour business elective that is acceptable in most finance major concentrations.

Requirements: To be accepted into this course, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants should be Business majors who have received an A grade in Finance 357. Students with other majors or with B grades will be considered on an individual basis.
- Applicants should have a career interest that includes some aspects of international finance.
- Applicants must be able to manage the time commitment. This is a regular course and will require as much work as other classes in the students' course of study. While much work will be done electronically, students must be willing to schedule meetings and treat the work involved in this course a priority.
- The number of students admitted will depend on the enrollment in our partner business schools.

Application: Students desiring admission to Advanced Studies must submit a current resume and a one-page statement containing the following elements.

- A brief biography
- Your major, and grades earned in Fin 357 and any other UT Finance courses taken.

- A statement of your career interests
- A description of any international experiences such as travel/study abroad/working abroad/foreign language skills, etc.
- A listing of international finance topics they are interested in researching.

This statement is an important document, as it will be posted on our class BlackBoard site and used to introduce the participants to each other and form the research groups. Further guidance and samples of successful applications are posted on ASIF's main webpage. Your application should be sent via email to Dr. Duvic at robert.duvic@mcombs.utexas.edu.

Structure: UT students will be combined with students at partner schools into research groups. The specific number of groups and their structure will be tailored to meet the research needs of each group. Each group, with guidance from the appropriate supervising instructor, will select a major topic of interest to their entire research group. Students will conduct focused research into this topic. Communications will be primarily electronic, although there will be regular meetings of UT students with Dr. Duvic to provide guidance as the semester progresses.

Coordination: The course is student-directed. This focus defines the duties of the course participants.

Students: Students must take the initiative in forming their groups, developing their research topics, identifying resources and developing their paper.

Group facilitator: Each group will appoint a group facilitator who will be given special access to manage the group web page.

Supervising professors: The supervising professors guide student efforts, encourage independent thought, provide a sounding board for student ideas, provide suggestions for support and evaluate the student project. While the supervising professors must ensure that the course functions properly, they should also provide the students the independence of action and thought necessary to develop their skills in both finance and group coordination.

Topics: The course research topic must be one that involves a substantial issue in global finance that is directly applicable to the students' career development. Examples of appropriate topics are: international financial markets, the globalization of corporate operations, international capital budgeting, financing multinational operations in specific countries, the changing nature of risk in a global setting, the nature of corporate governance in the multi-national corporation, the political and economic factors present in various economic zones, and other topics of interest to the financial professional. This is not a complete list and the student groups are encouraged to develop their own research interests.

Technology: Work on the course will be conducted through a special Blackboard web site that will connect the UT students with their group members in the partner university.

Research product: The product of each group will be a joint research paper submitted by the entire group. These research papers should be of the quality and format to qualify for

submission to The University of Texas Undergraduate Research Journal. Guidelines and standards are given at: <http://www.utexas.edu/research/student/urj> and on the ASIF main webpage. Additional information on research is contained in The University's

Grading:

The UT students will be graded on both individual efforts and the quality of their group's research. Individual grades will be based on Dr. Duvic's evaluation and group member reports. The group research grade will be based on the evaluation by the supervising professors as to the paper meeting the standards of the UT Undergraduate Research Journal.

UT students grades will distributed as follows:

5%: Development of biographical information and contribution to group formation.

(Individual grade)

5%: Clarity and efficiency in topic selection (Group grade)

20% Contribution to group as determined by Dr. Duvic and by other group members.

(Individual grade)

70% Research paper (Group grade)

Course Deadlines:

The course depends on close coordination among schools located in four continents. Specific deadlines will be posted on the ASIF BlackBoard site.