

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
FACULTY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS**

Course Code : ECON4294/FINA4392

Course Title : Dissertation

Credits : 12

Prerequisites for ECON4294 (Economics field):

ECON2210 Intermediate microeconomics; *and*  
ECON2220 Intermediate macroeconomics; *and*  
ECON2280 Introductory econometrics; *and*  
Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above at the time of enrolment

Prerequisites for FINA4392 (Finance field):

ECON2280 Introductory econometrics; *and*  
FINA2320 Investments and portfolio analysis; *and*  
FINA2322 Derivatives; *and*  
Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above at the time of enrolment

Remarks : Open only to Year 4 students majoring in Economics (for ECON4294) or Finance (for FINA4392). Candidates intending to take this course shall complete an application form (please refer to p. 4-7 of this document).

Precursors : Nil

**Course Description**

Candidates may write a dissertation under the supervision of faculty members of the Faculty of Business and Economics. Topics offered may vary from year to year, depending on the research interests of the lecturer. A satisfactory dissertation may be offered in lieu of two written papers in the Examination.

Candidates must submit the title and an outline of their dissertation for approval by the BEcon/BEcon&Fin Programme Director not later than the first day of the assessment period for the first semester. The dissertation shall be completed and presented not later than the first day of the assessment period for the second semester. (Note: The course extends over two semesters. Candidates must enroll in the first semester.)

**Course learning outcomes (CLOs)**

<b>CLOs</b>	<b>Aligned Faculty Goals*</b>
CLO 1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the topic of the dissertation.	Goal #1, 2
CLO 2. Apply core advanced economic theory and quantitative methods to analyse real-world issues.	Goal #1, 2
CLO 3. Develop an adequate research methodology and be able to formulate and test concepts and hypotheses.	Goal #1, 2, 3, 6

CLO 4. Develop skills in producing annotated notes, bibliographies, and tracking publication sources and lineages in academic thought.	Goal #3, 5, 6
CLO 5. Develop proficiency on how to present large bodies of scientific writings in a systematic way.	Goal #5

\*Faculty Goals are as follows:

- *FLG 1: Acquisition and internalization of knowledge of the programme discipline*
- *FLG 2: Application and integration of knowledge*
- *FLG 3: Inculcating professionalism and leadership*
- *FLG 4: Developing global outlook*
- *FLG 5: Mastering communication skills*
- *FLG 6: Cultivating leadership*

### Course Teaching and Learning Activities (TLA)

Course Teaching and Learning Activities	Brief Description	Study Load (% of study)
TLA 1. Consultation with supervisor	Students are required to meet with their supervisor on a regular basis to report their progress and seek advice.	30%
TLA 2. Self study	Students are required to conduct research on their own.	70%
	Total:	100%

### Assessment Tasks

Type of assessment tasks/activities	Brief Description	Weighting	Aligned Course Learning Outcomes
AT 1. Dissertation paper	Students are required to submit a dissertation paper of 20,000 words together with a Turnitin report for assessment.	100%	CLO 1-5

### Standard of Assessment

#### Course Grade Descriptors

Letter Grade	Grade Point	Grade Definitions	Remarks
A+	4.3	Excellent	Strong evidence of superb ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning: describe, apply, evaluate, and synthesis.
A	4.0		
A-	3.7		
B+	3.3	Good	Strong evidence of the ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at all levels of learning: describe, apply, evaluate, and synthesis.
B	3.0		
B-	2.7		

C+	2.3	Satisfactory	Evidence of adequate ability to fulfill the intended learning outcomes of the course at low levels of learning such as describe and apply but not at high levels of learning such as evaluate and synthesis.
C	2.0		
C-	1.7		
D+	1.3	Pass	Evidence of basic familiarity with the subject.
D	1.0		
F	0	Failure	Little evidence of basic familiarity with the subject.

Assessments Rubrics for Each Assessment (Same as the above course grade descriptors)

To: BEcon/ BEcon&Fin Programme Director  
Faculty of Business and Economics, The University of Hong Kong

**RE: Dissertation**  
**ECON4294 (Economics field) / FINA4392 (Finance field)**

**A. To be completed by student**

I have read the “Important Notes to Students” on this form. I would like to submit my application for enrolment in the Dissertation course (course code: \_\_\_\_\_) in \_\_\_\_\_ (academic year).

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Univ. No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Curriculum: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Tel. No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic of study for the dissertation: \_\_\_\_\_

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**(Copy of transcript or grades of all courses taken at HKU must be attached to this form.)**

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. To be completed by supervisor**

I have read the “Important Notes to Supervisors” on this form. I agree to be the supervisor of the above student in the Dissertation course.

Name of Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

**C. For Faculty’s use only**

Decision by BEcon/ BEcon&Fin Programme Director: Approved/ Disapproved\*

\*delete where appropriate

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### D. Important Notes to Students

1. Only final year students in 3-Year and 4-Year curricula with CGPA of 3.0 or above can take the Dissertation course.
2. The prerequisites for ECON4294 (Economics field): ECON2210 Intermediate microeconomics, ECON2220 Intermediate macroeconomics, and ECON2280 Introductory econometrics. Open only to students majoring in Economics.
3. The prerequisites for FINA4392 (Finance field): ECON2280 Introductory econometrics, FINA2322 Derivatives, and FINA2320 Investments and portfolio analysis. Open only to students majoring in Finance.
4. It is the sole responsibility of the student to identify a faculty member from the Faculty of Business and Economics who is willing to serve as your supervisor for the dissertation. You are advised to contact/meet with your supervisor at least once per two weeks to update your research progress, seek advice, and to make sure your work is on the right track. A satisfactory dissertation may be offered in lieu of two written papers in the Examinations. The course extends over two semesters. Candidates must enroll in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester.
5. For enrollment, please complete and submit this form, together with a copy of your transcript, to the Faculty Academic Area Administration Office (Room 1305, K. K. Leung Building) no later than the last day of course selection period of the first semester (i.e. August 10, 2021), or during the add-drop period (10:00 September 1, 2021 to 16:00 September 15, 2021). Failure to return this form will result in disapproval of course enrollment.
6. You must submit the title and an outline of your dissertation to the Faculty Academic Area Administration Office for approval by the BEcon/ BEcon&Fin Programme Director by December 8, 2021. You should seek the endorsement of your supervisor on your dissertation title and outline before submitting them to the Office.
7. The number of words required for a dissertation is 20,000. You are suggested to submit a preliminary version of your dissertation paper to your supervisor at least two weeks before the submission deadline and it would allow sufficient time for your supervisor to give comments for further improvement of your paper.
8. The deadline for submission of the paper will be May 9, 2022 (the first day of the assessment period for the second semester). Apart from **the dissertation paper**, you are also required to submit **a Turnitin report**. Please submit hard copy of the two documents to the Faculty Academic Area Administration Office (Room 1305, K. K. Leung Building) for onward submission to the supervisor for grading.

9. Instructions of generating the Turnitin Report
  - (a) Visit the Library's website at <http://lib.hku.hk/turnitin/students.html> for information of the account set-up and user manual.
  - (b) Enter the Turnitin webpage <http://www.turnitin.com>
  - (c) Create your student account with the following information:
    - Class ID: **29752119**  
(Effective period: September 1, 2021 – August 30, 2022)
    - Class Name: **UG Papers 2021-2022**
    - Enrollment Password: **ug20212022**
  - (d) Upload the final version of your paper to the Turnitin system.
  - (e) Generate the Turnitin Report.
  - (f) Print out the Turnitin Report, and submit it together with your paper to the Faculty Academic Area Administration Office (Room 1305, K.K. Leung Building).

#### **E. Important Notes to Supervisors**

1. The objective of this course is to offer opportunities for academically outstanding students to undertake research and to write up a dissertation paper under the supervision of faculty members of the Faculty of Business and Economics.
2. It is a two-semester course. In completion of the course, students are required to submit a dissertation paper of 20,000 words together with a Turnitin report for assessment.
3. Responsibilities of Supervisors:
  - (a) Help the student to define and endorse the title and the outline of the dissertation before he/she submits to the Faculty Academic Area Administration office by December 8, 2021;
  - (b) Provide close guidance to the student and monitor the student's progress through to completion of the Dissertation course;
  - (c) Have regular meetings with the student at which all matters relating to the dissertation paper can be discussed;
  - (d) Give comments on the preliminary version of the dissertation paper to help the student to further improve the paper; and
  - (e) Give a final grade on the dissertation paper and return the paper together with the Turnitin report to the Faculty Academic Area Administration Office (Room 1305, K. K. Leung Building) for the Faculty's retention. The deadline for submission of the grade will be the last day of the assessment period of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester (i.e. May 28).

2022).

4. The Faculty Academic Area Administration Office is responsible for collecting the project paper and the Turnitin report from students. The student's submission will be passed to the respective supervisor for grading.