

## **MSc Corporate Finance Consultancy Research Project 2015**

### Overview

The objective of the MSc Corporate Finance (MCF) is to produce graduates who can contribute immediately to the corporate finance industry. To achieve this objective we focus on developing the analytical and professional skills of the participants on the programme, with regular professional development workshops included in the syllabus.

The culmination of the programme is the Consultancy Research Project. This is a team-based project delivered to a client which addresses that client's need. The project offers students the chance to apply the knowledge they have acquired in the classroom and to gain further valuable business insight and experience. Industry mentors appreciate the opportunity the project offers to harness the enthusiasm and academic knowledge of our students, supported by our experienced academic staff.

### The class

The members of the MCF class are academically excellent, have industry experience and come from diverse backgrounds. Typically the class have completed internships of at least six months duration as part of their primary degrees. We have students with undergraduate degrees ranging from Accounting, Commerce, Engineering, Finance and BIS.

### Example projects

Project themes can be wide ranging, cutting across different corporate finance issues. The commonality is that all the clients have a tangible business issue, which the project seeks to address, and require research and analysis in order to present recommendations that will be of practical use to the client.

The business issues being investigated can be company specific or more general.

#### Examples of company specific projects

- An analysis and comparison of the value of company X to its peers using a comprehensive range of valuation models.
- What would have been the effect of different FX risk management approaches on Y PLCs profitability?
- What are the advantages to company Z of using derivative to manage interest rate risk?

#### Examples of more general projects

- What are the options for financing an SME in a credit crunch?
- What comes next for private equity? How the credit crunch impacts the industry
- What are the options for financing an Irish start-up business?
- What happens to failed venture capital investments? What does the investee do next?
- Winding down companies, what is the most effective route?

### Indicative Time lines:

April/May	Details of project agreed with MCF team.
May	Students sit exams.
Late May	First meeting between student group, academic mentor and industry mentor/client to outline project.
June & July	Student group work exclusively on project.
August	Project completion deadline.

### Deliverables:

The student group must prepare a professional business report and presentation for the client. They then present their findings to the client.

### Confidentiality

All project reports will be viewed by the academic supervisor and one other member of faculty during the grading process. A sample of the reports may also be viewed by our external examiner, with client approval. UCC will provide a standard Non Disclosure Agreement if required by the client.

### Academic mentor

A member of our faculty with a relevant background will act as the academic supervisor to each team and give ultimate approval for the project brief prior to commencement. Although responsibility for successful completion of the project lies with the students, the supervisor is there to provide advice and guidance, from research question definition through to the final report, and to help ensure all parties get the most value from the project.

### How to proceed

If you are interested in offering a project opportunity to our MCF students, please contact a member of the MCF academic staff to discuss your idea. They will then work with you to finalise your project proposal.

### Questions

If you have further questions about the consultancy project please don't hesitate to contact the MCF team.

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