

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Decision Making for Business and Finance
2	Module Credits	20
3	Module Level	5
4	Module Code	ACC5027

5	Module Overview
<p>This module builds on the prior management accounting knowledge and it is assumed that you have a basic understanding of how costs behave and the major accounting systems (absorption and marginal costing). The content will develop your knowledge of budgetary control and then focus on applying your learning to various decision-making scenarios.</p> <p>You will understand how a business uses the fixed budget to control business activity by developing standard costs. Once prepared these standards will be used to calculate and analyse variances. This analysis can then be acted upon to improve future business performance. You will use the theory of marginal costing to prepare a financial analysis to assist the business make a variety of short-term decisions. Alongside this you will recognise the limitations of this financial analysis in the wider business context. Financial theories which support long term decision making will be applied to practical scenarios.</p> <p>The first assignment, which consists of 30% of the marks, will be a piece of coursework which demonstrates students' ability to communicate about a management accounting issue. The remaining 70% of the assessment will be an individual examination, which will take place at the end of the semester. The examination supports the achievement of various exemptions from professional accounting bodies.</p> <p>The overall assessment strategy fits with that of the programme in ensuring you are given a balance between examinations and other transferable skills. The first assessment in particular, recognises the need of practitioner accountants to be able to communicate about complex ideas in writing. Graduating students are often required to demonstrate these skills during the recruitment process for accountancy positions.</p> <p>There will be a fully developed Moodle site, which acts as a repository for materials, but also contains interactive learning materials that you will be required to engage with on a regular basis.</p>	

6	Indicative Content
<p>This module will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard costing and variance analysis. This will include understanding the purpose of standard costing and a basic idea of how such a system is set up. Students will have to calculate material, labour, variable overhead, fixed overhead and sales sub-variances, mix and yield variances, planning and operational variances. They will also be required to understand what such variances mean given a particular scenario. • Short-term decision-making. Students will have to be able to use a variety of management accounting theories to make short-term decision. This will include break-even analysis (single and multi-product), limiting factor analysis and linear programming, expected values analysis. They should be able to perform the calculations, understand what assumptions underpin these calculations and how useful the calculations can be in the real world. 	

- Long-term decision-making. Students should be able to understand the sources of finance in a given situation. Then be able to analyse a long-term project using payback, accounting rate of return, and discounted cash flow techniques.

7		Module Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:		
	1	Apply variance analysis techniques, interpret and use the results to make appropriate business recommendations.
	2	Select, apply and appraise short-term business and finance decision making techniques to a range of business scenarios.
	3	Select, apply and appraise long-term business and finance decision making techniques to a range of business scenarios.

8		Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome		Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1, 2, 3		X	X	

9		Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities	
Learning Activities		Hours	
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable		48	
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE		48	
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams		104	
Total Study Hours:		200	