



University of
Strathclyde
Business
School

Department of Accounting and Finance

AG415 Contemporary Issues in International Financial Reporting

2025/26 Semester 2

20 Module Credits

Module Details

Module Description

The class will discuss selected topics in the preparation of financial statements for external publication. The subjects selected will be issues that provide an opportunity to explore various facets of the regulation of financial reporting and the associated accounting choices implied by such regulations.

The topics covered will be at an advanced level and will be subject to some change as the practice of financial accounting develops. The class will, however, include a significant coverage of contemporary issues which have been of interest both to the accountancy profession and to society.

Teaching Hours

Lectures: All weeks, Monday 2-5pm in TL565 (subject to change).

Prerequisites

Honours entry requirements

Contact Details

Lecturer: Dr Mark Johnson / Professor Lars Hass

Room number: Stenhouse 3.10 / Duncan Wing 3.16

Telephone: 0141 548 3888 / 0141 548 3936

E-mail: mark.a.johnson@strath.ac.uk / lars.hass@strath.ac.uk

Office Hours: Mark: Friday 1-2pm Lars: Wednesday 10-11am

Module Learning

Module Aims

This is an advanced level module in financial accounting. It discusses complex issues at both a practical and a theoretical level. By the time that students complete this module they should have an appreciation of both the difficulties faced by preparers, auditors and standard setters in ensuring that a set of accounts gives a true and fair view and also an awareness of the extent to which academic research can guide and illuminate this process.

The module achieves this aim through the systematic analysis of selected topics in accounting regulation and practice, in the context of institutional and cultural factors, and through exploring research into aspects of corporate reporting (including financial and non-financial reporting).

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

The following learning outcomes will contribute to your self-analysis and reflection in your Student's Personal Development Planning (SPDP). These learning outcomes will be assessed using the methods explained in the "Assessment" section in this Outline.

Subject-specific knowledge and skills

On completing this module the student will have the ability to:

1. Understand the role of accounting choice in external reporting
2. Discuss alternative perspectives on regulation
3. Evaluate accounting regulations relating to: International Financial Reporting Standards, corporate social responsibility, sustainability and accounting, earnings management and quality, corporate decision in financial reporting and such other topics that emerge as being of interest in the future;
4. Apply the current accounting regulations relating to topics chosen during the module;
5. Explore accounting in different countries including worldwide harmonisation through regulation
6. Evaluate the history of regulation in accounting
7. Be aware of current developments in financial accounting and their implications for the future
8. Discuss accounting and the public interest

Cognitive abilities and non-subject specific skills

During the module you will: Develop your ability to formulate opinions and to support these with reasoned argument.

Module Structure

Timetable

Note: Due to constantly evolving nature of the accounting environments, students will be notified of the contemporary topics at the start of the module.

| Week | Content | Note |
|-------------|--|--|
| 1 | Module introduction and International Financial Reporting | Mark Johnson |
| 2 | How to read and understand financial reporting research. | Lecture and discussion with Lars Hass |
| 3 | Integrated Reporting. | Lecture and discussion with Mark Johnson |
| 4 | Executive Compensation and how to discuss an academic paper. | Lecture and discussion with Lars Hass |
| 5 | Operating Segments and presentation preparation. | Lecture and discussion with Mark Johnson |
| 6 | Reading week. | No teaching |
| 7 | Contemporary topic: Week 1 | TBC Paper discussion - group presentation(s). <i>(other groups to prepare questions)</i> |
| 8 | Contemporary topic: Week 2 | TBC Paper discussion - group presentation(s). <i>(other groups to prepare questions)</i> |
| 9 | Contemporary topic: Week 3. | TBC |

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|-----------|----------------------------|---|
| | | Paper discussion - group presentation(s). <i>(other groups to prepare questions)</i> |
| 10 | Contemporary topic: Week 4 | TBC Paper discussion - group presentation(s). <i>(other groups to prepare questions)</i> |
| 11 | Revision | No teaching |

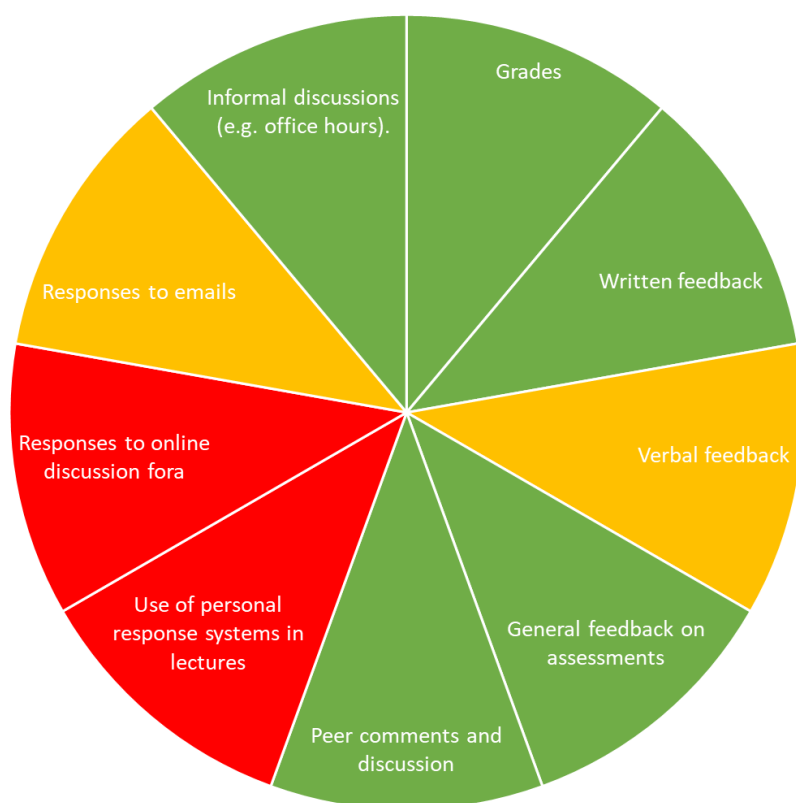
Assessment and Feedback Details

1. Group presentation worth 20%. Due in each group's designated presentation week.
2. Individual 2,000 word written report worth 30%. Due: Wednesday 4th March 2026, 12pm. Marks/Feedback will be released on or before Wednesday 25th of March 2026, 12pm.
3. Final exam worth 50%. Date: semester 2 exam diet.

The following forms of feedback will assist you in this module:

| Feedback category | Details for module | Colour |
|-------------------|---|--------|
| Grades | Students will receive marks on the pieces of assessment according to the relevant grading rubric | Green |
| Written feedback | Students will receive written feedback on the Individual assignment and presentation, against the marking criteria for the assignment | Green |
| Verbal feedback | Students can receive verbal feedback on their assignments in the weekly classes, or after class | Amber |
| General feedback | A document will provide general feedback on the final exam which will be shared via MyPlace | Green |

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| | notices. This will include the average mark and mark distribution for the final exam | |
| Peer comments and discussion | Students will have the opportunity to have peer discussion and receive comments within the seminars. | Green |
| Use of personal response systems in lecture | Lecturers will use a personal response system as appropriate | Red |
| Responses to online discussion forum | As this is an on-campus class, there is no online discussion forum | Red |
| Responses to email | Students are encouraged to use office hours or to speak up in class to ask questions relating to the course material. Students can email the course administrator for general enquiries about the class, issues with signing up for tutorials etc | Amber |
| Informal discussions | There are regular office hours drop-in sessions for any student wishing to discuss questions with teaching staff. Information on office hours is available under People on the class MyPlace page | Green |



Artificial Intelligence

You are not permitted to use Gen-AI tools for this module unless you are a student with an adjustment report on Pegasus where this is explicitly specified as a 'reasonable adjustment'. Any student suspected of using such tools will be subject to investigation outlined in the [Student Discipline Procedure - Academic Misconduct.pdf \(strath.ac.uk\)](#) process.

Reading List

Please refer to the AG415 Myplace page to access the Reading List.

UG Module Manual (Honours)

Please refer to the accounting and finance UG manual module for the following [honours module manual](#)

- Tutorial Attendance
- Useful Contacts
- Penalties for Late Submission
- Feedback
- Compensation Scheme
- Resit Policy – no resits in honours year
- Universal Marking Guide
- Useful Links