



University of  
**Strathclyde**  
Business  
School

## Department of Accounting and Finance

### AG415 Contemporary Issues in International Financial Reporting

2024/25 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 TBC

##### **Prerequisites**

#### **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](mailto:mark.a.johnson@strath.ac.uk) / [lars.hass@strath.ac.uk](mailto: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**

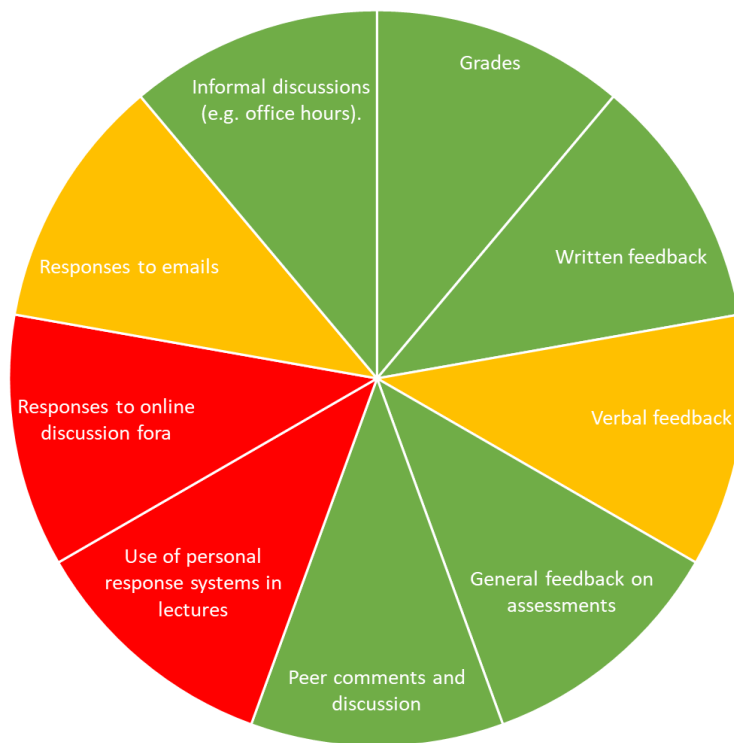
**Note: Due to constantly evolving nature of the accounting environments, students will be notified of the contemporary topics at the start of the module.**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Note</b>
<b>1</b>	Free Week	No teaching
<b>2</b>	Course introduction  How to read and understand financial reporting research	Lecture and discussion with Lars Hass
<b>3</b>	IFRS – background to standards and research	Lecture and discussion with Mark Johnson
<b>4</b>	CSR, environmental and other non-financial disclosures – the future of “financial” reporting	Lecture and discussion with Mark Johnson
<b>5</b>	Executive compensation and How to discuss an academic paper	Lecture and discussion with Lars Hass
<b>6</b>	Reading week.	No teaching
<b>7</b>	Contemporary topic: Week 1	TBC  Paper discussion - group presentation(s).  <i>(other groups to prepare questions)</i>
<b>8</b>	Contemporary topic: Week 2	TBC  Paper discussion - group presentation(s).  <i>(other groups to prepare questions)</i>

<b>9</b>	Contemporary topic: Week 3.	TBC  Paper discussion - group presentation(s).  <i>(other groups to prepare questions)</i>
<b>10</b>	Contemporary topic: Week 4	TBC  Paper discussion - group presentation(s).  <i>(other groups to prepare questions)</i>
<b>11</b>	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 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025.  
Marks/Feedback will be released on or before Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2025.
3. Final exam worth 50%. Date: semester 2 exam diet.



## 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.docx](#))

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