

ST339-15 Introduction to Mathematical Finance

20/21

Department

Statistics

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

David Hobson

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

Multiple

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module runs in Term 1 and is available for students on a course where it is a listed option and as an Unusual Option to students who have completed the prerequisite modules.

Pre-requisites:

Statistics Students: ST218 Mathematical Statistics A

Non-Statistics Students: ST220 Introduction to Mathematical Statistics

It is strongly recommended to take either MA359 Measure theory or ST342 Mathematics of Random Events alongside this module.

Results from this module will be partly used to determine exemption eligibility in the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries (IFoA) module CM2.

This module serves as a prerequisite for ST401 Stochastic Methods in Finance, IB357 Investment Management

IB359 Derivatives and Risk Management, IB394 International Financial Management and EC334 Topics in Financial Economics: Corporate Finance and Markets.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

To provide an introduction to Mathematical Finance in discrete time and cover the discrete part of the actuarial syllabus.

To be able to evaluate and interpret the theory of mathematical finance in discrete time and to apply theoretical concepts to construct stochastic models of financial markets.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

1. No-Arbitrage and the Fundamental Theorem of Asset Pricing
 - a) Mathematical model for one period financial markets
 - b) Trading strategies and arbitrage opportunities
 - c) Discounting and Equivalent Martingale Measures
 - d) The Fundamental Theorem of Asset Pricing
2. Mean-Variance Portfolio Selection and the CAPM
 - a) The return of an asset and of a portfolio
 - b) Maximising the expected return
 - c) The mean-variance problems
 - d) The case without a riskless asset
 - e) The case with a riskless asset
 - f) The Markowitz tangency portfolio and the capital market line
 - g) Mean-variance equilibria
 - h) The Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM)
3. Utility Theory
 - a) Preferences on lotteries
 - b) Von Neumann-Morgenstern representation
 - c) Concave functions and Jensen's inequality
 - d) Expected utility representation
 - e) Measuring risk aversion
 - d) A primer on utility maximisation
4. Introduction to Risk Measures
 - a) Monetary measures of risk
 - b) Value at Risk and Expected Shortfall
5. Pricing and Hedging in Finite Discrete Time
 - a) Conditional expectations
 - b) Filtrations and martingales
 - c) Financial markets in finite discrete time
 - d) Self-financing strategies
 - e) The Fundamental Theorem of Asset Pricing revisited
 - f) Valuation of contingent claims
 - g) Complete markets
 - h) Pricing and hedging in the binomial model

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Understand key notions of arbitrage and equivalent martingale measures in a one period financial market; calculate the set of equivalent martingale measures in a financial market
- Solve the mean-variance problems, understand the concept of the capital market line, describe the Capital Asset Pricing model including the principal results and assumptions
- Describe preference orders of financial investors, explain the concept of risk aversion, solve simple utility maximisation problems
- Explain the modern concept of monetary measures of risk, Calculate the Value at Risk and Expected Shortfall for given distributions
- Model financial markets in finite discrete time, describe self-financing strategies and absence of arbitrage, hedge derivate products in complete and incomplete markets in discrete time

Indicative reading list

H. Föllmer and A. Schied: Stochastic Finance. An Introduction in Discrete Time, 4th ed., de Gruyter, 2016.

S.F. LeRoy and J. Werner: Principles of Financial Economics, 2nd ed., Cambridge University Press, 2014.

S.E. Shreve: Stochastic Calculus for Finance 1: The Binomial Asset Pricing Model, Springer, 2003.

J. Jacod and P. Protter: Probability Essentials, Springer, 2003.

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Subject specific skills

TBC

Transferable skills

TBC

Study

Study time

Type	Required	Optional
Lectures	30 sessions of 1 hour (20%)	2 sessions of 1 hour
Tutorials	5 sessions of 1 hour (3%)	
Private study	115 hours (77%)	
Total	150 hours	

Private study description

Weekly revision of lecture notes and materials, wider reading, practice exercises and preparing for examination.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group B1

	Weighting	Study time
Online Examination	100%	
The examination paper will contain four questions, of which the best marks of THREE questions will be used to calculate your grade.		

~Platforms - Moodle

- Students may use a calculator

Assessment group R

	Weighting	Study time
Online Examination - Resit	100%	
The examination paper will contain four questions, of which the best marks of THREE questions will be used to calculate your grade.		

~Platforms - Moodle

Feedback on assessment

Solutions and cohort level feedback will be provided for the examination.

[Past exam papers for ST339](#)

Availability

Post-requisite modules

If you pass this module, you can take:

- EC334-15 Topics in Financial Economics: Corporate Finance and Markets

Anti-requisite modules

If you take this module, you cannot also take:

- EC333-15 Topics in Financial Economics: Theories and International Finance
- IB253-12 Principles of Finance 1
- IB253-15 Principles of Finance 1

Courses

This module is Core for:

- Year 3 of USTA-G300 Undergraduate Master of Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics
- USTA-G301 Undergraduate Master of Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics (with Intercalated
 - Year 3 of G30E Master of Maths, Op.Res, Stats & Economics (Actuarial and Financial Mathematics Stream) Int
 - Year 4 of G30E Master of Maths, Op.Res, Stats & Economics (Actuarial and Financial Mathematics Stream) Int

This module is Optional for:

- UCSA-G4G1 Undergraduate Discrete Mathematics
 - Year 3 of G4G1 Discrete Mathematics
 - Year 3 of G4G1 Discrete Mathematics
- Year 3 of UCSA-G4G3 Undergraduate Discrete Mathematics
- Year 4 of UCSA-G4G2 Undergraduate Discrete Mathematics with Intercalated Year
- USTA-G300 Undergraduate Master of Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics
 - Year 3 of G300 Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics
 - Year 4 of G300 Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics

This module is Option list A for:

- UMAA-G100 Undergraduate Mathematics (BSc)
 - Year 3 of G100 Mathematics
 - Year 3 of G100 Mathematics
 - Year 3 of G100 Mathematics
- Year 3 of UMAA-G103 Undergraduate Mathematics (MMath)
- USTA-G1G3 Undergraduate Mathematics and Statistics (BSc MMathStat)
 - Year 3 of G1G3 Mathematics and Statistics (BSc MMathStat)

- Year 4 of G1G3 Mathematics and Statistics (BSc MMathStat)
- Year 4 of USTA-G1G4 Undergraduate Mathematics and Statistics (BSc MMathStat) (with Intercalated Year)
- USTA-GG14 Undergraduate Mathematics and Statistics (BSc)
 - Year 3 of GG14 Mathematics and Statistics
 - Year 3 of GG14 Mathematics and Statistics
- Year 4 of USTA-GG17 Undergraduate Mathematics and Statistics (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 4 of UMAA-G101 Undergraduate Mathematics with Intercalated Year
- USTA-Y602 Undergraduate Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Economics
 - Year 3 of Y602 Mathematics, Operational Research, Stats, Economics
 - Year 3 of Y602 Mathematics, Operational Research, Stats, Economics
- Year 4 of USTA-Y603 Undergraduate Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics, Economics (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list B for:

- USTA-G302 Undergraduate Data Science
 - Year 3 of G302 Data Science
 - Year 3 of G302 Data Science
- Year 3 of USTA-G304 Undergraduate Data Science (MSci)
- Year 4 of USTA-G303 Undergraduate Data Science (with Intercalated Year)
- UMAA-G105 Undergraduate Master of Mathematics (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 3 of G105 Mathematics (MMath) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 5 of G105 Mathematics (MMath) with Intercalated Year
- UMAA-G103 Undergraduate Mathematics (MMath)
 - Year 3 of G103 Mathematics (MMath)
 - Year 3 of G103 Mathematics (MMath)
 - Year 4 of G103 Mathematics (MMath)
 - Year 4 of G103 Mathematics (MMath)
- UMAA-G106 Undergraduate Mathematics (MMath) with Study in Europe
 - Year 3 of G106 Mathematics (MMath) with Study in Europe
 - Year 4 of G106 Mathematics (MMath) with Study in Europe