

MASTER OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY  
PROGRAM

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# Fundamentals of Corporate Finance

GBAT9123

Course Overview  
Semester 2 2012



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES

## **Important Notice**

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# Semester 2 2012 course schedule

w/c Monday

<b>Week 1</b>	16 July	Unit 1: Introduction to Corporate Finance
<b>Week 2</b>	23 July	Unit 2: Financial Mathematics: Time Value of Money
<b>Week 3</b>	30 July	Unit 3: Bond and Stock Valuation
<b>Week 4</b>	6 August	Unit 4: NPV and other Investment Criteria
<b>Week 5</b>	13 August	Unit 5: Making Capital Investment Decisions
<b>Week 6</b>	20 August	Unit 6: Lessons from Capital Market History
<b>Week 7</b>	27 August	Unit 7: Returns, Risk and the Security Market Line
<b>Mid-semester break: Saturday 1 September – Sunday 9 September</b>		
<b>Week 8</b>	10 September	Unit 8: Cost of Capital
<b>Week 9</b>	17 September	Unit 9: Dividends and Dividend Policy
<b>Week 10</b>	24 September	Unit 10: Financial Leverage and Capital Structure Policy
<b>Week 11</b>	1 October*	Unit 11: Options and Corporate Securities: Basics, Valuation and Applications
<b>Week 12</b>	8 October	Unit 12: Issuing Securities to the Public
<b>Week 13</b>	15 October	Examination week 1
<b>Week 14</b>	22 October	Examination week 2

\* Monday 1 October is a Public Holiday in NSW

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# Course staff

## Course Coordinator

Each course has a Course Coordinator who is responsible for the academic leadership and overall academic integrity of the course. The Course Coordinator selects content and sets assessment tasks, and takes responsibility for specific academic and administrative issues related to the course when it is being offered. Course Coordinators oversee Class Facilitators and ensure that the ongoing standard of facilitation in the course is consistent with the quality requirements of the program.



The Course Coordinator is:

Associate Professor Toan Pham,  
BEC Tas MCom PhD UNSW

email: [t.pham@unsw.edu.au](mailto:t.pham@unsw.edu.au)

Toan holds a BEc(Hons) from the University of Tasmania, and an MCom and PhD from UNSW. He is an Associate Professor at the UNSW Australian School of Business.

His teaching and research interests range from corporate finance to asset pricing and derivatives. He has published in international finance journals and presented papers at international conferences. He is a very experienced lecturer and thesis supervisor and has developed and taught a large number of courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

In recent years, Toan was involved in designing and teaching Master of Finance and Master of Commerce programs in Beijing and Guangzhou in China, a joint venture between the UNSW then Faculty of Commerce and Economics (now the Australian School of Business) and leading universities in China. Toan is currently the Director of the Master of Risk Management Program, School of Risk and Actuarial Studies, Australian School of Business.

# Class Facilitator

The role of your Class Facilitator is to support the learning process by encouraging interaction amongst participants, providing direction in understanding the course content, assessing participant progress through the course and providing feedback on work submitted. MBT Class Facilitators comprise both academics and industry practitioners with relevant backgrounds.

You will be notified of your Class Facilitator's name and contact details in your class confirmation email sent by MBT Student Services. Details will also be available in the gallery section of your online class for both face-to-face and distance classes.

# Course author

The Course Coordinator, A/Professor Toan Pham, is the author of this course.

## **Acknowledgement**

We wish to acknowledge the valuable assistance of Peter Pham, Associate Professor in the Australian School of Business, University of New South Wales, who acted as academic reviewer for the most recent course revisions.

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# Course information

## Units of credit

This course is worth six units of credit (UOC).

## Student responsibilities and conduct

The expected workload for each MBT course is on average 10 hours per week, including attending your face-to-face class or interaction in an online class. In periods where you need to complete assignments or prepare for examinations, the workload may be greater. Note that in Summer Term the teaching is compressed into six weeks, resulting in double the workload per week.

You are encouraged to actively participate in your class, whether online or face to face. Note that class participation is an assessable part of the marks for every MBT course.

You should take note of all announcements made in your online or face-to-face class or on the MBT student website. From time to time, the university will send important announcements to your university e-mail address without providing you with a paper copy. You will be deemed to have received this information.

## MBT learning and teaching philosophy

The MBT learning and teaching philosophy is to create an interactive learning experience where participants from a wide range of professional, academic and geographic backgrounds actively participate with their Class Facilitator and each other. The MBT embraces the concept of real-world learning, which requires participants to leverage the professional experiences of all participants in the class to help understand, challenge and apply the course concepts. By sharing experiences with participants from different professional backgrounds across different organisational contexts, students are encouraged to broaden their frames of reference in relation to the course material.

## MBT learning process

To successfully complete each course in the MBT Program, you need to:

- work through the study guide and textbook (if prescribed), completing all readings and exercises in each Unit
- participate regularly and actively in learning activities within your class each week, either online or face to face
- successfully complete all set assessment tasks, including the examination.

## Unit readings and exercises

Each Unit is designed to cover the core course concepts for the week. Additional readings are usually included at the end of the Unit. If the course has a prescribed textbook, this will be integrated into the Unit. You will be told when to read particular sections of the textbook.

Throughout the Units you'll find exercises to complete as you study. These exercises aim to help you:

- actively make sense of what you are reading
- apply what you are reading to your own working context and experience.

Without stopping every so often to process what you are reading it's easy to lose concentration and miss the key learning points of the text. You'll find your own best approach to the exercises – jotting down notes, discussing with fellow students and colleagues or maybe writing complete answers for later reference and revision. You'll soon find the exercises a valuable way of assessing whether you're understanding and developing the concepts and theories presented in the Units.

## Class interaction

MBT classes, online and face-to-face, are designed to be an interactive experience. By interacting with your Class Facilitator and co-participants, you have the opportunity to develop your ideas and broaden your learning through a diversity of experiences and viewpoints. Discussing topics and issues in this way will help you understand the course more thoroughly – and improve your ability to think critically.

Facilitators will use a range of strategies to encourage interaction amongst participants and reinforce the Unit's concepts, and to help you engage with the week's learning and apply it to your own work situation. If there are aspects of the Unit you have not fully understood, this should be raised in your class, where your facilitator and other participants should be able to further clarify and explain the topic.

Every MBT class has an online classroom; face-to-face classes do not have an online seminar room. Distance students undertake their weekly interaction in the seminar room; face-to-face students do this in the physical classroom. The coffee shop is an ideal location for informal interaction for both online and face-to-face students in between classes and, in addition, the MBT office and your Class Facilitator will use the noticeboard to post additional information and bulletins. The login page for online classes is accessed via the MBT student website.

## Parallel teaching

All courses run in distance mode at least once each year, with a number also offered face to face on campus at Kensington.

To ensure an effective interactive learning experience, MBT class numbers are limited to 28 and, on average, usually comprise 20–25 participants.

If you are enrolled in a face-to-face class and are unable to attend your lecture on a particular evening, it may be possible to attend an alternative class for the same course, if available. Please consult the MBT timetable at [www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au](http://www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au).

If you find that you are unable to continue attending on campus once classes have begun, you may request to transfer to a distance class by contacting the MBT office.

# Course aims

A critical component of the knowledge base of graduates in business or commerce is financial management, or the study of corporate finance. This course provides a modern, unified treatment of financial management which meets the professional requirements of Australian accounting bodies while providing a framework for understanding the important areas of financial decision making.

Because it provides an overview of the role of finance in business activities, the course is particularly well suited to students not wishing to specialise in finance but for whom an understanding of the basics of financial decision-making is essential in developing their managerial skills. This course also forms a foundation of the assumed knowledge required for advanced courses in finance eg, portfolio management of financial assets, options and futures and other derivatives, funds management etc.

Being an introductory course, we avoid much of the highly technical and often mathematical analysis which characterises the study of finance at more advanced levels.

## Course structure

Unit 1: *Introduction to Corporate Finance*, introduces the framework in which the finance discipline operates. We begin with a discussion of what constitutes the goals of an organisation, followed by the major decisions that must be made to achieve those goals. Some key concepts related to the business environment are also briefly explained and discussed.

Unit 2: *Financial Mathematics: Time Value of Money*. Here, we will compare business propositions or choices that involve future cash flows (incomes and/or costs) and use the techniques of financial mathematics to solve financial problems.

Unit 3: *Bond and Stock Valuation*. In this Unit, we will use the concepts and techniques developed in Unit 2 to value two main types of financial securities: fixed interest rate securities (bonds, debentures, notes, commercial papers, etc) and equity shares.

Unit 4: *NPV and other Investment Criteria*, explains the techniques that can be used in the selection of investment projects. We survey a number of criteria by which investment projects are assessed and ranked in terms of their contributions to corporate value., then

Unit 5: *Making Capital Investment Decisions*, provides the methodology for correct calculations of investment cash flows using accounting numbers in financial statements.

Unit 6: *Lessons from Capital Market History*, and Unit 7 *Returns, Risk and the Security Market Line*, provide a framework whereby risk can be quantified.

Unit 8: *Cost of Capital*, explores the cost of capital further, with a view to quantifying it for practical purposes.

Unit 9: *Dividends and Dividend Policy*, will help you to form an informed opinion on the relevance/irrelevance of dividend policy, and identify real-world factors that should be considered in making a dividend distribution decision.

Unit 10: *Financial Leverage and Capital Structure Policy*, continues the preceding theme. We further develop the financing decision by exploring the theoretical approach, and bring real world factors into play.

Unit 11: *Options and Corporate Securities: Basics, Valuation and Applications*, introduces a special type of derivatives called an 'option'. We explore the valuation of option contracts; then recast some corporate financial problems in the option framework.

Unit 12: *Issuing Securities to the Public*, looks at how companies in Australia raise capital from the public.

## Learning outcomes

When you have completed this course you should be able to:

- explain the basic concepts of corporate finance
- demonstrate application of these basic concepts to the primary areas of financial decision-making or financial management
- discuss how the interests of owners, debt holders and management of a firm may conflict and how those conflicts may influence financial decisions
- explain how financial securities are priced, and hence make an informed decision on investing (for yourself or your firm) in the stock market
- apply the basic tools and techniques of financial management to real-world financial situations such as valuation of securities and management of financial risk.

## Skills you will need

While previous knowledge of accounting is helpful, it is not a prerequisite as the required accounting concepts will be explained and developed within the course. However, a minimal knowledge of quantitative methods is assumed. What is desirable, however, is that students feel comfortable with numbers because, after all, finance is about money and financial decisions are often supported by numbers and figures.

Formulae will be provided in the examination, and therefore no derivation and memorisation is required. If you have concerns about your background in these areas, please consult your Class Facilitator.

## **Help with terminology**

You are directed to the Glossary at the end of the prescribed textbook. This will prove invaluable, as you will be introduced to many financial terms that may be new to you throughout the course.

## **How course relates to other MBT courses and overall program**

This course provides an overview of the role of finance in business activities. It is particularly well suited to students who don't wish to specialise in finance but are seeking an understanding of the basics of financial decision making to develop their managerial skills. It is equally suited to those who wish to embark on a specialisation in finance; in particular, funds management, investment banking, electronic trading in financial securities, financial planning or corporate financial consulting. It will also suit those who simply wish to gain a better understanding of financial decision making in business entities.

While financial management is related to other areas of commerce (accounting and economics), it is not necessary to have a prior knowledge of these courses – this course can be taken as an independent unit. What is more important is a keen interest in financial matters and decisions either personally and/or in the context of the workplace – mortgage rates, investing in the stock/bond market, managed funds, real estate, initial public offerings of stocks, dividends/capital gains, risk management of financial assets etc.

As this course does not have a pre-requisite it can be taken early in your MBT program

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# Assessment

## Assessment tasks Semester 2 2012

There are two assignments and an examination for GBAT9123 *Fundamentals of Corporate Finance*. Note that assignments must be received by 9.30 am Sydney time on the due dates.

Participation	<b>Throughout the semester</b>	10%
Assignment 1	<b>Friday 10 August 2012</b> (Week 4)	15%
Assignment 2	<b>Friday 14 September 2012</b> (Week 8)	25%
Examination*	<b>Monday 22 October 2012</b> (2 pm if sitting on campus)	50%

\*Examination is 2.5 hours; open book

**Examination dates are fixed and cannot be varied.** You must consider whether you will be available to sit the exam on the above date when making your course selection; if not, you should choose another course.

## Satisfactory performance

To pass this course, you must:

- achieve a composite mark of at least 50 and
- achieve a satisfactory level of performance in **all** assessment tasks.

## Extensions/penalties for late lodgement of assignments

Extensions to assignment deadlines will be granted **only in exceptional circumstances**, and where adequate supporting documentation can be provided. While your Class Facilitator will be sensitive to problems that you may encounter, it is only fair that all students submit their work at the same time.

In the case of late lodgement without an approved extension, 10% of the assignment weighting will be deducted **for each day late**.

# Special consideration

The UNSW policy for special consideration applies, see:

<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/SpecialConsideration.html>

You must make formal application for special consideration as soon as practicable after the problem occurs and within three working days of the assessment task to which it refers. The application must be made on the *Request for special consideration* form available at the above website and submitted to the MBT office, who will notify the respective Class Facilitator and/or Course Coordinator.

It should be noted that:

- applying for special consideration does not automatically mean that it will be granted or that you will be awarded an amended result
- a request for a variation to a specified examination date will be considered **only in exceptional circumstances**. If granted, you must sit a supplementary examination on the published MBT supplementary examination date for this semester.
- a register of applications for special consideration is maintained; the student's history of previous applications for Special Consideration is taken into account when considering each case.

## Further advice on assessment

Please refer to the *Participant Information Guide* and the *MBT Learning Guide: Studying successfully in the MBT* to find out about:

- learning resources and support services
- how to prepare for and write your assignments
- presentation, format and referencing guidelines
- how to submit your assignments
- what to do if your assignment may be late
- examinations.

Both these guides are available for downloading from the MBT student website: [www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au/Forms\\_Guides.html](http://www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au/Forms_Guides.html)

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# Academic honesty and plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presentation of the thoughts or work of another as one's own.\*

Examples include:

- direct duplication of the thoughts or work of another, including by copying work, or knowingly permitting it to be copied. This includes copying material, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document (whether published or unpublished), composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, Internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement;
- paraphrasing another person's work with very minor changes keeping the meaning, form and/or progression of ideas of the original;
- piecing together sections of the work of others into a new whole;
- presenting an assessment item as independent work when it has been produced in whole or part in collusion with other people, for example, another student or a tutor; and,
- claiming credit for a proportion a work contributed to a group assessment item that is greater than that actually contributed.†

Submitting an assessment item that has already been submitted for academic credit elsewhere may also be considered plagiarism.

The inclusion of the thoughts or work of another with attribution appropriate to the academic discipline does *not* amount to plagiarism.

Students are reminded of their Rights and Responsibilities in respect of plagiarism, as set out in the University Undergraduate and Postgraduate Handbooks, and are encouraged to seek advice from academic staff whenever necessary to ensure they avoid plagiarism in all its forms.

The Learning Centre website is the central University online resource for staff and student information on plagiarism and academic honesty. It can be located at: [www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism)

The Learning Centre also provides substantial educational written materials, workshops, and tutorials to aid students, for example, in:

- correct referencing practices
- paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing, and time management
- appropriate use of, and attribution for, a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre.

Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting, and the proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

\* Based on that proposed to the University of Newcastle by the St James Ethics Centre. Used with kind permission from the University of Newcastle

† Adapted with kind permission from the University of Melbourne.

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# Resources for students

## Course components

- this study guide
- the prescribed textbook
- the current MBT Participant Information Guide
- Internet access so you can interact with your online class (where applicable) and access reference material located on the Internet
- access to further reading resources as required (e.g. UNSW Library).

## Prescribed textbook

Your prescribed textbook for the course is:



Ross, Trayler, Bird, Westerfield, Jordan, 2011, *Essentials of Corporate Finance*, 2nd edn, McGraw-Hill.  
ISBN 9780071012270

This text is supported by electronic resources from the publisher called “Connect Plus”. Details of how to access these resources will be provided in the online course at the start of semester.

### Help with terminology

You are directed to the Glossary of Terms at the end of your text. This will prove invaluable as you will be introduced to many financial terms in this course which may be new to you.

**Important:** Note that we do not cover all 18 chapters of the textbook. Moreover, in some of the assigned chapters not all sections may be required reading for the topic. Read the study guide notes carefully to determine which sections or pages of the chapter are required reading, and therefore assessable.

# Recommended reading

## Books

If you would like to refer to a more advanced (but optional) textbook to enhance your understanding, the following texts could be of some assistance:

Meggison W L and Smart S B, 2009, *Introduction to Corporate Finance*, 2nd edn, Cengage Learning.

Ross S A, Westerfield R W and Jaffe J, 2005, *Corporate Finance*, 7th edn, McGraw-Hill, Sydney.

## Journals, newspapers etc.

If you are interested in extending your knowledge of finance beyond the assessable material for this course, you will find a financial newspaper useful supplementary reading; e.g. *Australian Financial Review* or *Wall Street Journal*.

Your Class Facilitator will refer regularly to current financial events (e.g. the global financial crisis) in order to illustrate how financial decisions are made and how finance theory is relevant to such critical decisions.

Reading the financial press and being able to analyse financial events should better equip you to make informed financial decisions.

## MBT student website

The MBT Program provides a wide range of information and support for students. This information is available to students via the MBT student website: [www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au](http://www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au). This site also contains important links to other UNSW resources.

## Other useful resources

### MBT Learning Guide: Studying successfully in the MBT

This guide is a detailed reference on academic issues associated with studying in the MBT, including tips and strategies on studying successfully at Masters level, advice on structuring and writing essays and reports, and information on UNSW resources such as the Educational Development Unit, UNSW Learning Centre and UNSW Library. The guide is available from the MBT student website:

[www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au/Forms\\_Guides.html](http://www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au/Forms_Guides.html)

### Google Scholar

The Google Scholar search engine allows you to search for scholarly literature across the web. You can specifically search against just academic material, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research. Google Scholar also automatically analyses and extracts citations and presents them as separate results, even if the documents they refer to are not online. This means your search results may include citations of older works and seminal articles that appear only in books or other offline publications:

<http://scholar.google.com/>

### UNSW Library

#### **ELISE library tutorials**

To perform your best at UNSW, learning how to find, use and evaluate the mass of information out there is important. You'll also need to know how to use information ethically. Plagiarism or not adequately acknowledging where your information or ideas come from is a serious offence.

ELISE online tutorials teach you how to access and use library resources to locate research information relevant to your studies.

The basic tutorial (ELISE) is primarily aimed at undergraduates and those who have not studied in higher education previously.

The more advanced tutorial (ELISE Plus) is aimed at all students including postgraduates who hold an undergraduate qualification or have completed the basic tutorial.

The ELISE tutorials are available from the main library homepage under the title “Support”. Additional help is available in finding a range of resources such as journal articles, course items, books/e-books and using the university databases under the heading “How do I find”.

UNSW Library: [www.library.unsw.edu.au/](http://www.library.unsw.edu.au/)

Access the tutorials at any time to brush up on the library and information literacy skills you will need throughout your MBT studies.

### **Library subject guides**

The library has developed a range of subject guides that cover most of the disciplines you are likely to study during your time with the MBT Program. Each Subject Guide will lead you to the most important resources, grouped by discipline, when commencing your research.

These can be accessed at:

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au>

Due to the multidisciplinary nature of the program relevant guides include:

Business

Law

Engineering

Technology

Science

Environment.

If you require access to the full range of UNSW resources you should search via Sirius (gateway to UNSW databases and e-journals), and Library catalogue (location details for all print materials and access to e-resources).

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# Continual course improvement

MBT courses are revised each time they run, with updated course overviews and assessment tasks. All courses are reviewed and revised every two years and significant course updates are carried out in line with industry developments, and also when new editions of prescribed textbooks are published.

The MBT surveys students via the UNSW CATEI system each time a course is offered. The data collected provides anonymous feedback from students on the quality of course content and materials, class facilitation, student support services and the MBT Program in general. This student feedback is taken into account in all course revisions.

The Australian School of Business (ASB) also monitors the quality of students' learning experiences in all its programs. A random selection of completed assessment tasks may be used for quality assurance purposes. This information will be aggregated and used:

- to determine the extent to which program learning goals are being achieved for accreditation purposes
- to improve the quality of ASB programs.

All material used will be treated as confidential and these processes will have no bearing on course grades.

## Student evaluations from the last presentation of the course

- Some typographical errors were identified in the Study Guide.
- Students found the differences within each class in mathematical/financial abilities (some have very little in one or both) caused issues when working and collaborating within the group.
- Quizzes while recognized as helpful did not provide fully worked out solutions.

## Coordinator's response

- A comprehensive effort has been made to correct errors.
- Fully worked solutions will be provided in Session 2 2012 as more quizzes and sample questions are added. More examples will also be provided to show how to use a financial calculator or Excel to solve financial mathematical problems.

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# Administrative matters

The MBT Program produces an annual *Participant Information Guide*, which includes a wealth of necessary information for students to successfully complete their MBT studies. It includes information on the MBT learning style, MBT resources, re-enrolment process, fees, assessment and results, progression and graduation, and administrative and general issues.

Please note that it is each student's responsibility to become familiar with all MBT policies and procedures. The *Participant Information Guide* booklet is sent in hard copy to all commencing students in their first semester of study. Re-enrolling students can obtain a hard copy of the booklet by contacting MBT Student Services. Alternatively, an electronic version can be downloaded from:

[www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au/Forms\\_Guides.html](http://www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au/Forms_Guides.html)

UNSW provides a wide range of support services, including:

- learning and study support
- counselling support
- library training and support services
- disability support services.

These services are linked from the MBT student website at:

[www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au/Links\\_Resources.html](http://www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au/Links_Resources.html)

In addition, it is important that all students are familiar with university policies in relation to issues such as:

- examination procedures and advice concerning misadventure and illness
- academic standing and probation
- program upgrades and graduation
- occupational health and safety policies and expectations
- equity and diversity.

Please visit <https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/resources/Policies.html> for further information.

For any further information or general enquiries regarding the MBT Program or your enrolment, please contact MBT Student Services.

# Contact details

## MBT Program mailing address

Master of Business & Technology

Australian School of Business

The University of New South Wales

UNSW Sydney NSW 2052

AUSTRALIA

Telephone +61 2 9385 6660

Fax +61 2 9385 6661

Email: [mbt.student.support@unsw.edu.au](mailto:mbt.student.support@unsw.edu.au)

## Location

Level 1 AGSM Building (Campus grid G27)

University of New South Wales

Kensington NSW 2033

The AGSM building is located on the eastern side of upper campus.

Vehicular and pedestrian access to the MBT office is via Gate 11 on Botany Street, near the corner of Botany and High Streets.

[www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au/location.html](http://www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au/location.html)

## Websites

MBT student website: [www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au](http://www.student.mbt.unsw.edu.au)

Resources for participants enrolled in the MBT Program

MBT Program website: [www.asb.unsw.edu.au/mbt](http://www.asb.unsw.edu.au/mbt)

Information for prospective participants