

Finance for Business Leaders

→ Develop the critical financial skills to interpret, communicate, and develop financial budgets and forecasts to drive real-time decisions and support your team or organisation's strategic goals.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS:   



Who this course is for

Our Finance for Business Leaders course is best suited for:

- **Aspiring or recently appointed managers** who are responsible for your team or department's financial forecasts and budgets. You're looking to expand your financial acumen and develop the ability to influence commercial decisions, develop commercial presentations, and manage budgets and financial strategies.
- **Professionals and existing managers** looking to upskill your financial capabilities to advance your career and secure a more financially responsible role.



Key details

Time commitment:

100% online, 6 weeks, approximately 8 hours per week

Course price:

\$1200 GST incl.

Prerequisites/level of study:

There are no prerequisites.

Method of study:

Online study, including interactive videos, assignments, prescheduled webinars, and a 1:1 online session with mentors and industry experts.

Enrolment:

You can enrol at any time, the whole process only takes a few minutes.

Why study Finance for Business Leaders

In today's business world, the ability to develop, interpret, and communicate a financial forecast is no longer reserved for accountants or finance teams. Whether you're a new, aspiring, or seasoned business leader, developing critical financial skills in research, budget and forecasting, financial reports analysis, and risk assessment is vital to the success of your team or organisation's strategic goals.

So why study Finance for Business Leaders with us?

- **Contemporary business-focused content:** Built with up-to-date and domestically relevant content, this course teaches real world financial skills applicable to an organisation's day to day. Finance for Business Leaders will equip traditionally non-finance managers with the relevant financial acumen to successfully forecast, and prepare financial budgets for their team or business. You'll gain an understanding of contemporary business finance practices as well as current industry trends allowing you to develop skills highly valued in any industry.
- **Application of tools, templates, and practical skills:** You'll learn the critical techniques used to forecast and manage financial and business performance. By delving into various techniques, you'll apply skills gained to templates from real-world businesses for your project or role.
- **Project-based learning with a BYO project:** You'll complete a final assessment that will validate the real-world application of knowledge gained and complete a presentation on:
 - Key performance metrics (KPIs)
 - Risk analysis
 - Profit and cost drivers leveraging relevant data

By the end of this course, you'll be able to:

- Critically analyse an organisation's key goals and financial drivers to develop a forecast, including key revenue drivers, cost structures, and risks.
- Operationalise a forecast by gathering key data, identifying KPIs, and determine a reporting strategy, in order to respond to actuals and influence real-time decisions
- Present a brief to key stakeholders on the stages and business outcomes of a forecast for a business unit, including justifying the decisions made, the key assumptions, risks and KPIs.

Over **81,000 roles** in 2019 advertised required fundamental financial skills

(BURNING GLASS, 2019)

"You are not going to be involved in running projects unless you **understand the financials.**"

(JOE KNIGHT, BUSINESS LITERACY INSTITUTE, 2017)

Why study with RMIT Online

RMIT Online is for students who want real world training from industry professionals. We call this the RMIT Online edge. Get ready to sharpen those skills.



Digital credential

The cutting-edge skills you'll learn are rigorously assessed and recognised by both a leading university and key employers in the field of study through a digital credential.

Connect with industry

Our courses are designed with high profile partners to ensure you're job ready, learning practical skills that align with industry best practice.

Real world skills

Our project-based assessments mean you'll roll up your sleeves and create a project for real a world business scenario, allowing you see the immediate impact of your learning within your organisation.

100% flexible learning

The freedom of online learning means you can study whenever you want, wherever you want, in a manner that suits your work and lifestyle.

Collaborative online experience

Never feel like you're studying alone and feel supported with our team of expert industry mentors, SMEs, and the learner success team.

What you'll learn

Learn how to analyse financial metrics, identify risks, and clearly communicate financially backed strategic decisions to stakeholders. Develop the capability to interpret reports and translate forecasts using the latest industry tools and templates.

MODULE 1

Finance and the big picture

- Understand common processes and structures that are integral to the financial environment including financial roles, organisational structures, and new ways of working
- Learn key financial drivers and how they may differ across businesses
- Comprehend the elements of a business strategy in order to identify and formulate critical KPIs

Milestone: Develop and reflect on your business's strategic goals, financial processes, and 5 most critical KPI's.

MODULE 4

Implementing your forecast

- Conduct a sensitivity analysis for your own business
- Discover how to manage KPIs and track results through various metrics
- Learn how to build a successful business case, influence stakeholders, and craft an effective implementation plan

Milestone: Develop and communicate an implementation plan including justifying key assumptions, translating them into business objectives and outline a reporting strategy.

➔ *In this week, you'll also have a mentor check in.*

MODULE 2

Strengthening your financial acumen

- Identify data sources and learn data mapping and data-driven forecasting
- Explore cash flows, balance sheets, and understand how to calculate a profit and loss
- Examine key risk factors and risk analysis frameworks including PESTEL, Porter's Five Forces, and SWOT analysis

Milestone: Create a simple model for your business that breaks down your business profit, loss, and cashflow.

➔ *In this week, you'll also have a mentor check in.*

MODULE 5

Keeping up with the pace of change

- Understand how to calculate variances and learn how to isolate causes and control drivers to reduce variances
- Adjust a forecast and comprehend the benefits of a rolling forecast
- Examine your business's pivotal insights and identify opportunities to pivot

Milestone: Review and assess your forecast for risks and articulate how your business could pivot if faced with variances.

MODULE 3

Forecasting future performance

- Delve into qualitative and quantitative forecasting methods
- Explore key financial tools including Excel, templates, Tableau, and PowerBi
- Learn how revenue analysis can improve and maximise profitability
- Establish a forecast by predicting future revenue and forecasting expenses

Milestone: Develop a forward-looking financial forecast.

MODULE 6

Demonstrating your financial acumen

- Review resources and future financial business trends within the industry
- Finalise and prepare for your project submission

Milestone: In a 10-minute video presentation or less, present your final project; a financial forecast where you'll explain:

- The rationale of assumptions made
- Analysis of key risks and KPIs
- Translating a team's individual accountabilities
- A method to track and report on financial actuals

Who's supporting you

Just because it's online, doesn't mean you're on your own. RMIT Online's support network includes 1:1 feedback from our industry mentors, real-world insights, and study support from our learner success team. Here are those who may be part of your support team, ready to help you every step of the way.



BlueRock is an entrepreneurial advisory firm of 11 specialised divisions that work together to support our clients in every aspect of business. They help entrepreneurs and business owners grow ideas into 'wow' businesses by providing them with everything they need to succeed.



The REA group is a global online real estate company, aiming to help customers with all aspects of their property experience – not just buying, selling, and renting.



Medibank is a leading private health insurer, with more than 45 years of experience delivering better health to Australians. Medibank looks after the health cover needs of more than 3.7 million customers through the Medibank and ahm brands, and distribute travel, life and pet insurance. In addition, Medibank provides a range of health services in Australia including mental health support, preventative and better integrated primary, care and after-hours health support.



Luke Frazzetto
Subject Matter Expert

Our subject matter experts on this course include people like Luke Frazzetto. Luke is a Chartered Accountant and Head of Financial Operations at BlueRock where his focus is on partnering with the business units to build financial acumen, drive commercial strategy and achieve sustainable business growth. His consulting experience spans a wide spectrum of industries and organisations, from start-up businesses to ASX listed companies.



Learner success team,
RMIT Online

Our learner success team are here to help you with 1:1 coaching, tips on how to successfully study online, and any questions or concerns you may have.

How online learning works

This is a basic breakdown of how your course works. You can always find more information at online.rmit.edu.au



Before the course starts

Before we get cracking, you'll need access to a computer with broadband connection. Any 64-bit operating system with at least 8GB of RAM should work. We'll help you install any software you might need, but in the meantime, download Slack and Zoom, and make sure your webcam and speakers are working.

During the course

A lot of your RMIT Online Future Skills course will consist of video snippets. You can watch these whenever you like. There are also regular interactive webinars, online forums to chat with your peers and a scheduled 1:1 session with your industry mentor.

We'll set up Slack channels so you can connect with your classmates and grow your professional network. You can also reach out to your Course Manager if you ever need help.

Tools

- Video lectures
- 1:1 mentor session
- Webinars
- Slack channels and forums

Enrolment

RMIT Online have partnered with Australia-UK Chamber of Commerce to provide a membership discount to selected short courses from the Future Skills portfolio.

You can enrol online at any time. The whole process only takes a few minutes.

[Enrol now](#) →

Australia – United Kingdom
Chamber of Commerce

For more information about the course, head to our [FAQ](#) page.

If you have any questions about payment and enrolment, please get in touch via our [contact form](#) or talk to our team directly 1300 145 032.