

Studying Finance in the MMM

Introduction to the Mannheim Finance
Department and its Courses



Prof. Ernst Maug, Ph.D.
Finance Area

Objective of this Session

- Introduce you to the Mannheim Finance Faculty
- Introduce you to the courses we offer in the MMM
- **Make the case that studying Finance can be extremely useful and valuable for you**

Why Finance?

- Creating value for the owners (and stakeholders?) of a firm is the central goal of all for-profit organizations
- Whether you start your career as...
 - ...financial manager
 - ...investment banker
 - ...portfolio manager
 - ...entrepreneur
 - ...consultant/accountant
 - ...etc...
- Creating value will be key to your success!
- How can Finance help?
 - provides tools to quantify how much value is created
 - Equips you with tools to understand your business better

Finance is also useful for non-profits!



Why Finance?

- We live through times of **profound societal challenges**
- Core economic questions revisited:
 - Shareholders vs. Stakeholders?
 - Corporate purpose?
 - Inequality and pay levels?
 - Usefulness of (shadow) banking?
 - Green Finance?
 - Sustainable pension systems?
- If we need a transformation, Finance will be at the heart of it!
- **Exciting times to do Finance!**
 - New challenges require better approaches and rethinking of old models
 - Might need to redefine value, but Finance toolbox still useful



The Mannheim Finance Area

Professors



Prof. Dr. Tabea Bucher-Koenen

Financial Markets



Prof. Ernst Maug, Ph.D.

Chair of Corporate Finance



Prof. Dr. Alexandra Niessen-Ruenzi

Chair of Corporate Governance



Prof. Dr. Stefan Ruenzi

Chair of International Finance



Prof. Dr. Oliver Spalt

Chair of Financial Markets and Financial Institutions

One of the
preeminent
departments in
Germany and
Europe



Prof. Dr. Erik Theissen

Chair of Finance



Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Martin Weber

Senior Professor



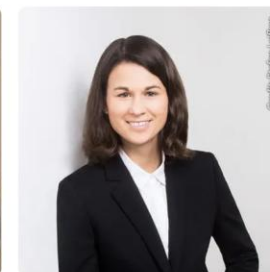
Prof. Dr. Simon Rother



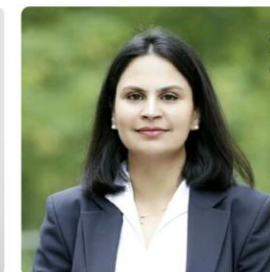
Dr. Thomas Johann



Dr. Stefan Scharnowski



Dr. Leah Zimmerer



Sehrish Usman

Assistant Professors and Postdocs



Dr. Thomas Cauthorn

The Mannheim Finance Area

- Currently 7 Full Professors and 6 Assistant Professors
 - We cover the full range of core financial areas
- A highly research active group of financial experts
 - We regularly publish in the best Finance journals in the world
 - Present our work at the top conferences and universities globally
 - Visible in the national and international press
 - Engage with businesses to bring our expertise to the table
 - We run a successful PhD program in Finance
- We passionately teach in the MMM!

Current Course Offering

- **Key source:** www.bwl.uni-mannheim.de/en/module-catalog-mmm/

Area Finance

Code	Module description	Credits	Spring	Fall
FIN 500	<u>Investments</u>	6		EN
FIN 540	<u>Corporate Finance I – Lecture (Capital Structure, Cost of Capital and Valuation)</u>	5		EN
FIN 541	<u>Corporate Finance I – Case Study (Capital Structure, Cost of Capital and Valuation)</u>	5		EN
FIN 550	<u>International Course – Banking, Finance and Insurance</u>		EN	EN
FIN 555	<u>Financial Markets and Employees</u>	6	EN	
FIN 580	<u>Derivatives – Basic Strategies and Pricing</u>	6		EN
FIN 590	<u>Financial Institutions I</u>	4		EN

How should you invest in the stock market?
How to set up a financial portfolio?
Which stocks to buy or sell?
What return should you expect?

Current Course Offering

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FIN 550	<u>International Course – Banking, Finance and Insurance</u>		EN	EN
FIN 555	<u>Financial Markets and Employees</u>	6	EN	
FIN 580	<u>Derivatives – Basic Strategies and Pricing</u>	6		EN
FIN 590	<u>Financial Institutions I</u>	4		EN

What is the value of a project?
 What is the value of a firm?
 How can you generate value in a firm?

Current Course Offering

- **Key source:** www.bwl.uni-mannheim.de/en/module-catalog-mmm/

Area Finance

Code	Module description	The human side. How do financial transaction affect employees? How do firms build human capital and intangible capital?		Fall
FIN 500	<u>Investments</u>	6		EN
FIN 540	<u>Corporate Finance I – Lecture (Capital Structure, Risk and Valuation)</u>	5		EN
FIN 541	<u>Corporate Finance I – Case Study (Capital Structure, Risk of Capital and Valuation)</u>	5		EN
FIN 550	<u>International Course – Banking, Finance and Insurance</u>		EN	EN
FIN 555	<u>Financial Markets and Employees</u>	6	EN	
FIN 580	<u>Derivatives – Basic Strategies and Pricing</u>	6		EN
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What is a put option or a swap contract?
Why are these instruments used so frequently?
What are they worth?

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FIN 580	<u>Derivatives – Basic Strategies and Pricing</u>	6		EN
FIN 590	<u>Financial Institutions I</u>	4		EN

What is a bank?
 What is the role of banking in society?
 What are challenges facing bank managers?

Current Course Offering

FIN 601	<u>Bond Markets</u>	6	EN	
FIN 602	<u>Trading and Exchanges</u>	6		EN
FIN 603	<u>Empirical Finance</u> no offering in spring 2026	10	EN	
FIN 604	<u>Stata in Finance</u>	2	EN	EN
FIN 606	<u>FinTech</u>	4		EN
FIN 620	<u>Behavioral Finance</u>	6	EN	
FIN 630	<u>Corporate Governance</u>	6		EN
FIN 640	<u>Corporate Finance II (Mergers, Acquisitions and Divestitures)</u>	8	EN	
FIN 661	<u>Responsible Leadership for Honors Program Students</u>	4		DE/EN
FIN 682	<u>International Asset Management – Modern Investment Management, Responsible Investing and Fintech</u>	6	EN	
FIN 684	<u>Financial Institutions II</u> no offering in spring 2026	4	EN	
FIN 685	<u>Banking Regulation</u>	6	EN	
FIN 686	<u>Sustainable Finance and Impact Investing</u> no offering in spring 2026	6	EN	
FIN 687	<u>Python in Finance</u>	2	EN	EN

- Please check out module catalogue as well as Chair homepages for details of the respective courses

Current Course Offering

- In addition, you have the option to write a **seminar and master thesis** in our area
- The theses offer you a chance to engage in depth with a financial topic of your choosing
- We have a **centralized system** for writing and allocating theses
- Find all relevant information here:
- [Seminar](#)
- [Master Thesis](#)

Current Course Offering

Seminar

General Information

The Finance Area will offer seminars for students every semester. There is a centralized allocation procedure for seminar topics in the Area of Finance. On this website you can find information on the centralized allocation procedure of seminar topics. The actual topics, formal requirements and supervision specifics are subject to the policies of the individual chairs. Please refer to the respective [chair websites](#) for more information in these regards.

- www.bwl.uni-mannheim.de/en/finance/teaching/master/seminar-thesis/

- ☐ General Timeline
- ☐ Prerequisites
- ☐ How Topics are allocated
- ☐ FIN 604 – Stata in Finance
- ☐ Learning Goals and Outcomes

Process Guide and Schedule

Date	Event	Additional Information
03.06.2025	Topics Announcement	Topics will be uploaded to the individual websites of the participating chairs.
05.06.2025-18.06.2025	Online Application	Students should submit an online application form indicating their preferences. The link to the corresponding Ilias group will be provided here .
26.06.2025	Topics Allocation Announcement and Starting Date	The allocation of topics will be published here (PDF, 73 kB) and the writing phase begins.
07.08.2025	Submission Date (6 weeks)	Last day to hand in your paper for 6 weeks topics.
21.08.2025	Submission Date (8 weeks)	Last day to hand in your thesis for 8 weeks topics.
Chair-specific	Seminar Presentations	Chair-specific seminar sessions where the work is presented and discussed.

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Current Course Offering

Master's Theses

General Information

The Finance Area will offer master's thesis topics for students every semester. There is a centralized allocation procedure for master's theses in the Area of Finance. On this website you can find information on the centralized allocation procedure of master's theses topics. The actual topics, formal requirements and supervision specifics are subject to the policies of the individual chairs. Please refer to the respective [chair websites](#) for more information in these regards.

- www.bwl.uni-mannheim.de/en/finance/teaching/master/masters-theses/

- + General Timeline
- + Prerequisites
- + How Topics are allocated

Process Guide and Schedule

Date	Event	Additional Information
04.03.2025	Topics Announcement	Topics will be uploaded to the individual websites of the participating chairs.
06.03.2025 – 14.03.2025	Online Application	Students should submit an online application form indicating their preferences. The link for the Ilias group will be provided here .
19.03.2025	Topics Allocation Announcement	The allocation of topics will be published here (PDF, 68 kB).
19.03.2025 – 26.03.2025	Registration Period	Ask your advisor to register your thesis at the student services office within this period.
19.03.2025	Starting Date	Formal starting date of the writing phase.
06.08.2025	Submission Deadline	Last day to hand in your thesis.

Further Information

- Check out our website:
- <https://www.bwl.uni-mannheim.de/en/finance/>
- Our site dedicated to the MMM:
- <https://www.bwl.uni-mannheim.de/en/programs/master/mmm/banking-finance/>
- Individual Chair websites
- **If in doubt, send us a message!**