

Graduate Certificate in Finance and Sustainability

Risk Management and Financial Modelling

****Alpha (α)****

: A measure of an investment's excess return relative to the benchmark index or risk-free rate. A positive alpha indicates that the investment has outperformed its benchmark, while a negative alpha indicates underperformance. Alpha is a key component of the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) and is often used to evaluate the performance of portfolio managers.

****Beta (β)****

: A measure of an investment's systematic risk or sensitivity to market movements. A beta of 1 indicates that the investment's price will move in line with the market, while a beta less than 1 indicates lower volatility and a beta greater than 1 indicates higher volatility. Beta is a key component of the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) and is used to calculate the expected return on an investment.

****Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM)****

: A financial model used to determine the expected return on an investment, based on its beta, the risk-free rate, and the expected return on the market. The CAPM is widely used in finance to evaluate the performance of portfolio managers and to price securities.

****Correlation****

: A statistical measure that describes the degree to which two variables move in relation to each other. A positive correlation indicates that the variables move in the same direction, while a negative correlation indicates that they move in opposite directions. Correlation is a key concept in risk management and financial modeling, as it is used to measure the relationship between different investments and to construct diversified portfolios.

****Covariance****

: A statistical measure of the degree to which two variables vary together. Covariance is similar to correlation, but it is not standardized and is measured in the same units as the variables being studied. Covariance is used in financial modeling to measure the risk of a portfolio, as it takes into account the relationships between the individual investments in the portfolio.

****Derivative****

: A financial instrument that derives its value from an underlying asset, such as a stock, bond, or commodity. Derivatives can be used for hedging or speculating, and include options, futures, and swaps.

****Diversification****

: The process of allocating investments among different asset classes, sectors, or geographic regions in

order to reduce risk. Diversification is a key concept in risk management and financial modeling, as it helps to smooth out the performance of a portfolio and to reduce the impact of any one investment on the overall portfolio return.

****Expected Return****

: The average return on an investment, calculated by multiplying the probability of each possible outcome by its corresponding return and summing the results. The expected return is a key concept in financial modeling, as it is used to evaluate the performance of different investments and to make decisions about portfolio allocation.

****Expected Value****

: The weighted average of all possible outcomes, calculated by multiplying each outcome by its corresponding probability and summing the results. Expected value is a key concept in financial modeling, as it is used to make decisions about investments and to evaluate the risks and rewards of different options.

****Factor Analysis****

: A statistical technique used to identify the underlying factors that drive the returns of a portfolio or asset class. Factor analysis is used in financial modeling to identify the sources of risk and return in a portfolio, and to construct portfolios that are optimally balanced in terms of these factors.

****Fama-French Three-Factor Model****

: A financial model that extends the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) by adding two additional factors: size and value. The Fama-French model is used to explain the returns of small-cap and value stocks, which are not fully captured by the CAPM.

****Historical Simulation****

: A method of estimating the value at risk (VaR) of a portfolio by simulating the historical returns of the individual investments in the portfolio. Historical simulation is a simple and intuitive method of VaR estimation, but it assumes that the future will be similar to the past, which may not always be the case.

****Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT)****

: A financial theory that suggests that it is possible to construct a portfolio of investments that maximizes returns for a given level of risk, or minimizes risk for a given level of return. MPT is based on the concept of diversification and the idea that different investments have different risk and return characteristics.

****Monte Carlo Simulation****

: A method of estimating the value at risk (VaR) of a portfolio by simulating the possible future outcomes of the individual investments in the portfolio. Monte Carlo simulation is a more sophisticated method of VaR estimation than historical simulation, as it takes into account the uncertainty and randomness of financial markets.

****Portfolio Management****

: The process of selecting and managing a portfolio of investments in order to achieve a specific financial goal, such as maximizing returns, minimizing risk, or generating income. Portfolio management is a key concept in finance, as it is used to make decisions about the allocation of resources, the selection of investments, and the monitoring of performance.

****Risk****

: The possibility of loss or negative consequences, such as the loss of capital, income, or reputation. Risk is a key concept in finance, as it is used to evaluate the potential rewards and drawbacks of different investments and to make decisions about portfolio allocation.

****Risk Management****

: The process of identifying, assessing, and mitigating the risks associated with a portfolio or investment. Risk management is a key function of finance, as it is used to protect the value of investments and to ensure the stability and sustainability of financial systems.

****Scenario Analysis****

: A method of estimating the value at risk (VaR) of a portfolio by simulating specific, plausible scenarios, such as a recession, a crisis, or a market shock. Scenario analysis is a more sophisticated method of VaR estimation than historical simulation, as it takes into account specific risks and events that may affect the portfolio.

****Value at Risk (VaR)****

: A statistical measure of the potential loss in the value of a portfolio over a given time horizon, at a given level of confidence. VaR is a key concept in risk management, as it is used to evaluate the risks and rewards of different investments and to make decisions about portfolio allocation.

****Volatility****

: A measure of the variability or uncertainty of the returns of an investment. Volatility is often measured using the standard deviation of returns, and is a key concept in risk management and financial modeling, as it is used to evaluate the risks and rewards of different investments and to make decisions about portfolio allocation.

****Yield Curve****

: A graph that shows the relationship between interest rates and the time to maturity of a bond. The yield curve is a key concept in finance, as it is used to evaluate the performance of different bonds and to make decisions about portfolio allocation. A normal yield curve slopes upward, indicating that longer-term bonds have higher yields than shorter-term bonds, while an inverted yield curve slopes downward, indicating that shorter-term bonds have higher yields than longer-term bonds. A flat yield curve indicates that there is little difference in yield between short- and long-term bonds.