



Microcredential Specification

Key Information			
Microcredential title	Supply Chain Finance and Risk Management		
FHEQ Level	7	Credit value	15
Federation Member	City St George's, University of London	Notional study hours and duration of course	150 hours
Course Academic Subject Expert	Dr Florian Lücker		

Rationale for the course
<p>Following increased globalisation, enhanced competition and rising customer expectations, today's businesses face more complexity and uncertainty than ever before. This has intensified the need for coordination among interdependent organisations and raised awareness that, besides material and information flows, managing financial flows within the supply chain is vital for performance. Supply chain finance provides a multidisciplinary approach that combines corporate finance and supply chain management to optimise financial flows and capital allocation, with the aim of improving supply chain performance and resilience. It comprises a range of financial instruments and techniques that partners can use to optimise financial flows and mitigate risks.</p>

Aims of the course
<p>The course aims to give you a deep understanding of the role of finance and risk management in supply chains, including techniques used by industry and banks. You will explore issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • working capital optimisation with a focus on receivables, payables and inventories • trade credit and financing techniques such as reverse factoring and dynamic discounting • risk management strategies, including the identification, assessment and mitigation of operational and financial risks within the supply chain.

Topics covered in this course:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to supply chain finance and risk management 2. Corporate finance basics 3. Working capital management 4. Working capital optimisation 5. Supply chain finance instruments 6. Supply chain finance in practice 7. Further financing solutions 8. Supply chain risk management I 9. Supply chain risk management II 10. Supply chain risk management III

Learning outcomes for the course
On successful completion of this course, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

1. Demonstrate a critical awareness of current problems and new insights in supply chain finance and risk management.
2. Define supply chain finance problems from different perspectives, including suppliers and retailers.
3. Understand the different types of structures used to finance trade over short, medium or long-term periods.
4. Evaluate solutions for financing goods and products as they move from origin to destination along the supply chain.
5. Identify key supply chain risks and assess risk mitigation strategies.

Skills

1. Evaluate current research and advanced scholarship in supply chain finance and risk management.
2. Assess methodologies, develop critiques and propose alternatives where appropriate.
3. Apply a range of techniques and research methods from supply chain finance and justify their use in specific scenarios.
4. Communicate findings effectively to colleagues through online discussion groups.
5. Learn independently and broaden knowledge through analysing relevant literature.

Values and attitudes

1. Demonstrate curiosity about how supply chain finance solutions can enhance or hinder business operations.
2. Appreciate the role of sustainability and ethics in supply chain finance and risk management, and explain associated challenges.

Learning and Teaching Strategy and Methods

The learning and teaching strategy for this course reflects the flexible, self-paced model required for microcredentials, ensuring that all students can progress in a structured yet adaptable way, regardless of their location, background or prior experience of online learning

The course is designed by subject specialists and supported by expert learning designers and online education teams to ensure that learning activities, digital media and assessment are aligned to the intended learning outcomes.

A structured sequence is embedded into every course, following a coherent approach to content acquisition, active learning, feedback and evaluation

- Content introduces and explains core concepts through a blend of video and digital reading.
- Activity enables students to apply learning through practice-based, professional and reflective tasks.
- Feedback is provided through automated quizzes, model responses and guidance from the AI study assistant.
- Evaluation encourages learners to reflect on their progress and identify next steps in their learning journey.

This approach ensures continuity throughout the ten modules and supports students in building confidence, competence and independence progressively across the course.

Teaching methods

The following teaching methods are integrated into the course design:

- Video-based guidance delivering structured explanations of key ideas with visual aids
- Interactive learning activities enabling knowledge application to authentic workplace scenarios
- Self-directed independent learning through guided readings, online library exploration and personal research
- Frequent formative assessment including knowledge checks, worked examples and reflective questions to reinforce understanding and skills development
- AI-supported learning with 24/7 access to the AI study assistant for clarification, feedback and study support at the point of need
- Progress monitoring and reflection helping students assess achievement, review understanding and plan further study

Support for learning

Although this course does not include scheduled live teaching, students are never studying alone. The learning platform includes tools to track progress, submit assessments and access feedback, while the Online Library provides curated digital resources to enhance academic skills and knowledge

Clear guidance is provided to help students manage their study time, structure weekly goals and maintain consistency throughout the learning journey. Recommendations for integrating study into personal and professional schedules are included in the induction resources, promoting resilience, motivation and successful completion

Assessment strategy, assessment methods

This course uses a practical assessment approach that helps you show both your understanding of key ideas and your ability to apply them to real business situations. You will complete a coursework task that test how well you can use core theories and analytical techniques. This assessment focuses on developing real professional skills, such as interpreting business data, solving operational or financial problems, and explaining your decisions clearly using appropriate frameworks. This approach looks at your abilities as a whole—how you connect theory with practice—while also helping you build your analytical, critical-thinking, and communication skills over time. A mark of 50% is required to pass the assessment.

The assessment design is flexible and supports self-paced learning. For coursework tasks, students can choose from a range of assessment windows and submit their work at the point that best fits their personal schedule and study plans. This flexibility allows you to manage your learning in a way that suits your circumstances, while still meeting the module's academic requirements. It also encourages you to plan your time effectively and engage with the material at a pace that supports deeper understanding.

Assessment Elements

1. Coursework (100% weighting)
 - Students are required to apply the concepts and techniques learned in the module to a realistic business scenario.
 - The assessment is designed to develop your global employability skills.
 - The coursework is directly aligned with the module's learning outcomes, ensuring you are assessed on the knowledge, skills, and competencies you are expected to achieve.

Learning resources

This course is structured into ten modules, designed to support flexible self-paced study and the practical application of knowledge to professional contexts

The learning resources are curated to enable both directed learning and independent study, providing opportunities to acquire new knowledge, apply concepts in realistic scenarios, receive feedback and evaluate progress throughout the course

Each course follows a consistent learning sequence, incorporating a blend of the following resource types:

Video lessons

Concise explainer videos introduce key concepts and practical methods. Presenters utilise visual aids such as slides and screen demonstrations to enhance understanding and maintain clarity.

Interactive and practical activities

Learning activities provide opportunities to apply concepts to real-world and workplace scenarios. These include worked examples, reflective tasks and application-based exercises designed to build confidence and professional competence as you progress

Quizzes and knowledge checks

Automated quizzes provide rapid feedback to support mastery of key ideas. These may include multiple-choice questions, worked solution examples or feedback from the AI study assistant.

Quizzes are generally used formatively to reinforce learning, but some may contribute to assessment if completed under appropriate conditions.

AI-supported learning

A 24/7 AI study assistant is available throughout the course to provide guidance, help learners reflect on progress, clarify concepts and support completion of designated activities.

Self-evaluation tools

Regular opportunities are provided for learners to monitor progress, reflect on achievements and identify areas requiring further study, ensuring continuous learning and improvement

Project-based learning

Each learner develops a professional-quality project linked to a realistic scenario. This supports the development of globally relevant employability skills, including communication, digital capability, problem-solving and adaptability

E-resources and library access

All students receive full access to the University of London Online Library and VLE resources. Directed reading and recommended online sources are integrated into each course, supporting further research, information-literacy development and independent study

Materials are provided in accessible digital formats suitable for study across multiple devices. Learners are encouraged to extend their engagement with topics of interest through wider reading and exploration of online library holdings.

Study expectations

Courses include indicative timings to support planning and time management, with a total study commitment of approximately 150 hours for the full course. Learners may adjust weekly effort to suit their individual needs and availability whilst progressing through courses in the recommended learning sequence

READING LIST

- Anupindi, R. et al. *Managing business process flows*. (Harlow: Pearson, 2014) third edition.
- Berk, J. and P. DeMarzo *Corporate finance*. (Harlow: Pearson, 2017) fourth global edition.
- Berk, J., P. DeMarzo and J. Harford *Fundamentals of corporate finance*. (Harlow: Pearson, 2019) fourth edition.
- Chopra, S. and M.S. Sodhi 'Managing risk to avoid supply chain breakdown', *MIT Sloan Management Review* 46(1) 2004, pp.53–61.
- Chopra, S. and M.S. Sodhi 'Reducing the risk of supply chain disruptions', *MIT Sloan Management Review* 55(3) 2014, pp.72–80.
- Fernandes, R. and L. Ellram 'Unlocking the potential of supply chain working capital finance', *Supply Chain Management Review* May/June 2017, pp.13–19.
- Gelsomino, L.M., R. de Boer, M. Steeman and A. Perego 'An optimisation strategy for concurrent supply chain finance schemes', *Journal of Purchasing and Supply Management* 25(2) 2019, pp.185–196.
- Grosse-Ruyken, P.T., S.M. Wagner and R. Jönke 'What is the right cash conversion cycle for your supply chain?' *International Journal of Services and Operations Management* 10(1) 2011, pp.13–29.
- Hendricks, K.B. and V.R. Singhal 'An empirical analysis of the effect of supply chain disruptions on long-run stock price performance and equity risk of the firm', *Production and Operations Management* 14(1) 2005, pp.35–52.
- Hofmann, E. 'Inventory financing in supply chains: A logistics service provider-approach', *International Journal of Physical Distribution & Logistics Management* 39(9) 2009, pp.716–740.
- Hofmann, E. and O. Belin *Supply chain finance solutions*. (Heidelberg: Springer, 2011).
- Lekkakos, S.D. and A. Serrano 'Supply chain finance for small and medium sized enterprises: The case of reverse factoring', *International Journal of Physical Distribution & Logistics Management* 46(4) 2016, pp.367–392.
- Liebl, J., E. Hartmann and E. Feisel, 'Reverse factoring in the supply chain: Objectives, antecedents and implementation barriers', *International Journal of Physical Distribution & Logistics Management* 46(4) 2016, pp.393–413.
- Lücker, F., S. Chopra and R.W. Seifert 'Mitigating product shortage due to disruptions in multi-stage supply chains', *Production and Operations Management* 2020, pp.1–24.
- Moss, J.D. and B. Stine 'Cash conversion cycle and firm size: a study of retail firms', *Managerial Finance* 19(8) 1993, pp.25–34.
- Nienhuis, J.J., M. Cortet and D. Lycklama, 'Real-time financing: extending e-invoicing toward real-time SME financing', *Journal of Payments and Strategy Systems* 7(3) 2013, pp.232–245.
- Samii, R. and L. N. Van Wassenhove 'Fighting the flu: Tamiflu stockpiling – a pandemic preparedness policy', *INSEAD Case Study* 2008
- Seifert, D. and R.W. Seifert 'Supply chain finance – what's it worth?', *Perspectives for Managers* (Lausanne) 178, October 2009, pp.1–4.
- Seifert, R.W. and D. Seifert 'Financing the chain', *International Commerce Review* 10(1) 2011, pp.33–44.
- Sodhi, M. S. and C. S. Tang *Managing supply chain risk*. (New York: Springer, 2012).
- Tate, W., L. Bals and L. Ellram (eds) *Supply chain finance, risk management, resilience and supplier management*. (London: Kogan Page, 2019).
- Theodore Farris II, M. 'Cash-to-cash: the new supply chain management metric', *International Journal of Physical Distribution & Logistics Management* 32(4) 2002, pp.288–298.
- Wilson, J.M. 'Supplier credit in the Economic Order Quantity model', *International Journal of Operations and Production Management* 11(9) 1991, pp. 64–71.

Precise reading from this material will be specified as part of the course.

Additional recommended reading and other references will be available in the VLE.