MN5611 – ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS

MODULE TYPE/SEMESTER: Option (20 credits), Semester 2

MODULE CO-ORDINATOR: Dr Kais Bouslah (kbhb@st-andrews.ac.uk)

MODULE LECTURERS: Dr Kais Bouslah and Professor Bert Scholtens

AIM:
The aim of this module is to introduce students to the basic concepts of alternative investments as opposed to traditional investments (i.e., stocks, bonds, and cash). Students will explore investments in a variety of alternative asset classes including hedge funds, private equity, commodities, real estate and structured debt investments. Furthermore, the module seeks to develop students’ understanding and ability to critically evaluate the features of alternative investment strategies.

Please note that this is an investment module which requires prior knowledge in finance.

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:
One lecture per week (online, audio recorded) supplemented by one seminar per week (online/in-class).

COURSE OUTLINE:

- **Topic 1**: Introduction to Alternative Investments
- **Topic 2**: Hedge Funds
- **Topic 2**: Private Equity
- **Topic 3**: Commodities
- **Topic 4**: Real Estate
- **Topic 5**: Credit derivatives

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Students will be able to: understand main concepts and features of various alternative investment strategies; appreciate the risk and return profile as well as evaluate the performance of these investment vehicles.

ASSESSMENT:

- Online Class Test (20%)
• Online Group Project (30%)
• 2500 word Essay (50%)

READING LIST:

Main textbooks


Please note that supplementary reading will be provided for each topic.

*Course descriptions apply to the period of dual-mode delivery in the academic year 2020/21. Organisation of courses may be subject to change without notice.*