

FINM3009/FINM6009 Student Managed Fund

Admission Procedure

1. Eligibility requirements¹

- Students must be enrolled in an ANU undergraduate or postgraduate degree
- A minimum GPA of 5.5
- Pre-requisites and Co-requisites:
 - Active Australian Equities team*
 - Pre-requisite: FINM3011 Investments or FINM7008 Applied Investments
 - Pre- or Co-requisite: FINM3005 Corporate Valuation or FINM6005 Applied Valuation
 - Asset Allocation team*
 - Pre-requisite: FINM3011 Investments or FINM7008 Applied Investments
 - The enrolment in FINM3008 Portfolio Construction or FINM6016 Applied Portfolio Construction is highly regarded for applicants to the Asset Allocation team
 - Relationship team*
 - Pre-requisite: FINM1001 Foundations of Finance or FINM7006 Applied Foundations of Finance
 - Risk and Compliance team*
 - Pre-requisite: FINM3011 Investments or FINM7008 Applied Investments
 - General comments*
 - Pre-requisites apply at the time of entering the Fund, rather than the time of submitting the application. For example, if FINM3005 is being undertaken in the current semester, it can be counted as a pre-requisite; and is to be identified as “U” (underway) in the application cover sheet (contained at the end of this document)
 - Co-requisites apply to subjects that will be undertaken next semester, and are identified as “N” (next semester) in the application cover sheet.
 - Applications to join particular teams on the basis of co-requisites will generally only be successful if the selection committee is convinced that the student has the required prior training or skill levels, perhaps because of prior experience. Students in this situation are required to include a short justification (maximum 150 words) of their suitability to join that particular team as part of their written application.
- The Student Managed Fund (SMF) comprises **12 units**, with 6 units completed in Semester 1, 2026 and 6 units completed in Semester 2, 2026. Note that:
 - Students will need to achieve a minimum mark of 60 in the first semester in order to proceed to the second semester.
 - If a student is entering their final semester of an Undergraduate program in Semester 1 2026, but intends to apply for Honours in either Finance or Statistics commencing Semester 2, 2026, they should specify this in their application.

2. Written Applications

Written applications must be submitted via email to hua.deng@anu.edu.au by no later than **5pm Tuesday 30 September (Week 9)**.

Applications **should be contained in a single pdf file**, and must include:

- A completed Application cover sheet (contained at the end of this document)
- A statement outlining the motivation for undertaking the course, career interests and skills the applicant would bring to the SMF (maximum 150 words)
- An investment recommendation: maximum 750 words, and no more than **2 pages** total

¹ The selection committee will strive for gender equity when admitting students to the course.

- Statement of suitability if relying on a co-requisite (maximum 150 words)
- Curriculum Vitae: maximum 2 pages
- ANU Statement of Results (all students) and the undergraduate transcript of postgraduate applicants

3. Investment Recommendation Guidelines

The investment recommendation provides applicants with an opportunity to showcase their potential to research and communicate a recommended course of action in an investing context. If granted an interview, students will be asked questions regarding their recommendation, i.e. it provides a conversation topic.

Guidelines are left deliberately broad, and applicants are encouraged to select a subject with which they are comfortable. Applicants are advised to choose the subject from the following list considering their preferred roles in the fund. For instance, if the applicant's first preference is Active Australian Equity team, the investment recommendation is best structured as a stock valuation to demonstrate their potential in equity research. If the applicant's first preference is Asset Allocation team, the investment recommendation is best structured as an analysis of any particular change of the market or asset class and explanation of how the asset allocation of the fund might be adjusted accordingly. When the investment recommendation is structured in a particular case in the Australian context, the applicant has the best chance to demonstrate their potentials working in that particular role.

Examples of possible subjects include:

- Stock recommendation of an Australian listed company
- Asset class or Managed fund
- Asset allocation for a particular investor
- Economic outlook and implications for financial markets (eg. interest rate) or a diversified portfolio held by an Australian investor
- Any other investment opportunity of interest (no crypto currencies)
- ***If applying for the Relationship Team: instead of an investment recommendation, we would welcome a recommendation on how to enhance the communication of SMF activities (see "Relevant links" below for SMF communication platforms)***

The recommendation does not have to be specifically targeted towards the Student Managed Fund, but applicants are welcome to do so if they wish.

The team(s) that a student is applying for and the courses they have completed will be taken into consideration in assessing the investment case and the application. For example, lower depth of investment analysis and understanding is expected from a student applying for the Relationship Team who has only undertaken Foundations of Finance, than a student applying for the Active Australian Equities team who has completed Corporate Valuation. However, a Relationship Team applicant would be expected to demonstrate strong communication skills. The successful completion of FINM3008 or FINM6016 Portfolio Construction is highly regarded for applicants interested in the Asset Allocation team.

4. Timeline

The intended timeline for admitting students into the SMF course is as follows:

Application workshop (via zoom):	5:30 pm Tuesday 16 September (Week 7)
<i>To sign up for the application workshop, please fill in the form here</i>	
Written applications due:	5pm Tuesday 30 September (Week 9)
Interviews held (via zoom):	7 – 10 October (Week 10)
Successful applicants notified by:	Friday 17 October (Week 11)

5. Outline of teams within the SMF

The SMF comprises the following teams:

- *Active Australian Equities (AAE) team*: roles include undertaking research and making investment proposals regarding the purchase and sale of Australian shares.
- *Asset Allocation (AA) team*: roles include undertaking research and making investment proposals regarding changes to the Fund's broad asset mix.
- *Relationship team (RT)*: roles include the communication of SMF activities to external parties including preparation of reports, managing social media platforms and fostering engagement with parties outside of the Fund.
- *Risk and Compliance (R&C) team*: roles include the monitoring of risks faced by the Fund, reporting on portfolio performance, and ensuring that the Fund complies with policy (including socially responsible investing).

6. Relevant links

- SMF Website: <https://www.rsfas.anu.edu.au/rsfas-education/student-managed-fund/>
- SMF Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/smfANU/>
- SMF LinkedIn: <https://au.linkedin.com/company/anu-smf>
- Course pages: undergraduate: <http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/FINM3009>; postgraduate: <http://programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/course/FINM6009>

Any further questions regarding applications should be sent to the course convenor Hua Deng, hua.deng@anu.edu.au.

Application cover sheet

Applicant details

Title	
First name	
Last name	
Uni ID	
Gender	
Email	
Phone	
Enrolled Program	
GPA (minimum 5.5)	

Team selection and requirements

Team:	Interest in teams	Pre- and co-requisites (complete blank boxes) C = completed, U = underway; N = next semester			
	Rank 1 up to 4; leave blank if no interest	FINM1001 FINM7006	FINM3011 FINM7008	FINM3005 FINM6005	FINM3008 FINM6016
Active Australian Equities (AAE)					
Asset Allocation (AA)					
Relationship (RT)					
Risk and Compliance (R&C)					
If applicable: Statement justifying suitability if interest in a team relies on a co-requisite					Yes / No
12 units available to enroll in the fund (i.e. two semesters)					Yes / No

Application checklist

1. Application cover sheet	Yes / No
2. Statement detailing motivation, career interests and relevant skills: 150 word max	Yes / No
3. Written Investment recommendation: 750 words / 2 pages max	Yes / No
4. Curriculum Vitae: 2 pages max	Yes / No
5. Current ANU Statement of Results (all students) & undergraduate transcript (postgraduates)	Yes / No

Declaration

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is true and correct.

Name			
Signature		Date	

Submission

The complete application must be submitted to hua.deng@anu.edu.au with the subject header 'SMF course application – [insert name]'. All documents should be combined into a **single pdf file** (it is acceptable to scan the documents in order to do so if required).

Applications close: 5pm, Tuesday 30 September 2025 (Week 9)