

# Course Descriptions None 2025-2026

Course Title Behavioural Finance  
 Course Code EBC4053  
 ECTS Credits 6,5  
 Assessment Whole/Half Grades

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
4	2-2-2026	27-3-2026	X		X		

Level Intermediate  
 Coordinator Thomas Post For more information:t.post@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Language of instruction English

Goals The purpose of this course is to provide an understanding of the psychological underpinnings of the behaviour of individuals and the effect that has on financial markets and the financial decision making processes in corporations.

Description Traditional finance literature is based on the assumption of rational and omniscient investors who optimize the risk/return profile of their portfolios. This approach has merits in the development of theoretical foundations like the Capital Asset Pricing Model and the Arbitrage Pricing Theory for a stylized world with efficient markets. However, treating investors as being utility optimizing, omniscient, and unboundedly rational individuals, sets limits to understanding and explaining real-life investors' behaviour. The limitations of traditional finance are well-known in the field of behavioural finance and the extant literature in the latter field has contributed to understanding many facets of both micro level individual investor as well as macro level stock market behaviour that were inexplicable from a traditional finance perspective. behavioural finance is a relatively new discipline that studies how psychology affects finance. This course serves to provide a broad overview of what constitutes behavioural finance and how its findings may be used to better understand and possibly improve both the financial decision-making behaviour of individual investors as well as that of corporate executives and provides first insights in how we may apply this knowledge when developing financial products.

Literature There will be a opening lecture.  
 Both a textbook and a collection of articles will be used:  
 Textbook:  
 Statman, Meier, 2017, Finance for Normal People - How Investors and Markets Behave, Oxford University Press

Articles:  
 A selection of later to be announced scientific articles will be used.

Prerequisites <ul><li>Exchange students need to have obtained a Bachelor degree in business.</li><li>Exchange students need to major in finance in their Master.</li><li>Students are expected to understand the basics of CAPM and portfolio choice as well as financial markets and investor behaviour.</li></ul><p>Note that courses and workload are very demanding for all master International Business courses.</p>

Transitional Regulations <div class="trreg"><div class="subtitle">TRANSITIONAL REGULATIONS</div><ul class="trcohorts"><li>Master Business Research</li><li>Master Business Research - Operations Research</li></ul><ol><li>In 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 education and exam/resit opportunities are offered.</li><li>In 2026-2027 exam/resit opportunities are offered.</li><li>From 2027-2028 onwards, the course is cancelled.</li></ol><table><col style="width: 200px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><thead><tr><th>Academic Year</th><th>Education</th><th>Exam/Resit</th><th>Replacement(s)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2024-2025 - 2025-2026</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>&nbsp;</td></tr><tr><td>2026-2027</td><td>&nbsp;</td><td>X</td><td>&nbsp;</td></tr><tr><td>2027-2028 onwards</td><td>&nbsp;</td><td>&nbsp;</td><td>&nbsp;</td></tr></tbody></table></div>

Teaching methods PBL / Presentation / Lecture / Papers / Groupwork / Research

Assessment methods Final Paper / Participation / Written Exam / Presentation

Evaluation in previous academic year For the complete evaluation of this course please click <http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM>

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation	Master Business Research - No specialisation	In transition - Y1 Disc IB Marketing-Finance
	Master Business Research - No specialisation	In transition - Y1 Disc IB Strategic Corporate Fin
	Master Business Research - Operations Research	In transition - Year 1+2 Elective Courses
	Master Business Research - Operations Research	Transitional Regulation
	Master Human Decision Science	Elective Courses
	Master International Business - Marketing-Finance	Compulsory Courses
	Master International Business - Strategic Corporate Finance	Compulsory Courses
	SBE Exchange Master	Master Exchange Courses
	SBE Non Degree Courses	Master Courses