<center>**Skill Enhancement Course (SEC) I: FINANCIAL ECONOMICS**</center>

Course Description

This course introduces students to the economics of finance. The course does not require any prior knowledge of economics. This course should be accessible to anyone with an exposure to elementary mathematics. The course is designed to impart the essential aspects of financial asset valuation. The students will be introduced to numerical techniques in finance using spreadsheet programmes such as Microsoft Excel. The course will impart skills that will be useful in a variety of business settings including investment banks, asset management companies and in the field of financial and business journalism.

Course Outline

1. Deterministic cash-flow streams
Basic theory of interest; discounting and present value; internal rate of return; evaluation criteria; fixed-income securities; bond prices and yields; interest rate sensitivity and duration; immunisation; the term structure of interest rates; yield curves; spot rates and forward rates.
2. Single-period random cash flows
Random asset returns; portfolios of assets; portfolio mean and variance; feasible combinations of mean and variance; mean-variance portfolio analysis: the Markowitz model and the two-fund theorem; risk-free assets and the one-fund theorem.
3. Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM)
The capital market line; the capital asset pricing model; the beta of an asset and of a portfolio; security market line; use of the CAPM model in investment analysis and as a pricing formula.

Readings

1. David G. Luenberger, *Investment Science*, Oxford University Press, USA, 1997.
2. Richard A. Brealey and Stewart C. Myers, *Principles of Corporate Finance*, McGraw-Hill, 7th edition, 2002.
3. Burton G. Malkiel, *A Random Walk Down Wall Street*, W.W. Norton & Company, 2003.
4. Simon Benninga, *Financial Modeling*, MIT Press, USA, 1997.