Aims  The aim of this module is to introduce students to the fundamentals of financial and business computing, giving them a clear idea of the financial principles, the business organization and the software applications to support these domains. Moreover, the module will explore some basic information systems concepts and the role of IT departments in such large organizations.

Learning Outcomes  At the end of the course the student should be able to: be aware of some of the fundamental concepts, terminology and processes of the financial domain; understand the categories and functions of business and financial systems and applications; be aware of the different roles and functions of IT professionals within such organizations.

Methods  Lectures, tutorials and practical sessions together with course notes, recommended reading, worksheets and some additional handouts.

Assessment  Marked problem-based worksheets, class tests, traditional written problem-based examination.

Skills  Aims  To help students improve their analytical and problem solving skills.

Learning Outcomes  Students will be able to apply logical thinking in order to solve abstract and concrete problems and make decisions based on available information.

Methods  Class sessions together with worksheets

Explanation of Prerequisites  You will need to have a good understanding of object oriented programming and some knowledge of basic mathematics. It will be helpful to have an acquaintance with databases and web-based front ends, but these tools do not play a primary role in this module.

Course Description  Business organizations in general and financial services ones in particular are experiencing a number of events that have a significant impact on the way they used to think on and operate their IT systems. These events can be categorized into two interrelated dimensions: business and technology. On the business side, customers more and more require differentiated products and services according to their needs and lifestyle, are better informed and with different life patterns, regulation further intensifies after the 2008 economic crisis, mergers and acquisitions continue, the cost factor becomes even more critical and economy and business are more global and more dynamic. On the technology side, the advent of even more advanced communications technologies with new exciting capabilities, the increasing use of mobility solutions, the popularity of social networks, the Web 2.0, the Open-Source solutions and the Green movement among others. All the above are raising new challenges for IT professionals in such organizations. To be able to effectively compete in such an environment, sole technical knowledge and skills no longer suffice. A sound understanding of the fundamental principles according to which business and financial organizations operate, a good grasp of key business processes and of the relationship between business and IT has become a critical success factor. Taking the above into account, this module is designed to achieve the following: (i) introduce students to the fundamentals of financial and business computing, giving them a clear idea of the financial principles, the business organization and the software appli-
cations to support these domains (ii) explore some basic information systems concepts and (iii) provide a good overview of the role of IT departments in such large organizations.

**Detailed Syllabus**  
Topics to be covered include: The financial services domain (basic definitions and terminology), financial markets and organizations with emphasis in banks, key processes (e.g. loan origination, payments), types of information systems in such organizations and their functional and architectural perspectives, business intelligence systems, IT roles and functions, current industry trends and issues.

**Reading List**

[B]  

**Resources**  
Course notes, web page, study guide, worksheets, handouts, lecture rooms with two OHPs, past examination papers, past tests.

**Module Evaluation**  
Course questionnaires, course review.