EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN

Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences

Department of Finance

B500 Seminar Advanced Topics on Finance
Summer term 2026

Modern financial challenges and developments

Organization

The seminar is directed to master students who are interested in writing their thesis in the research area of Finance. It is particularly suited for students who participated in at least one course in the field of Finance and/or Financial Econometrics. Still, this is not a formal prerequisite.

Students have to register by sending an email with a one-page CV and current grade transcript to fin-education@wiwi.uni-tuebingen.de until **April 10 (end of day)**.

The kick-off event takes place on Wednesday, **April 15 at 10 AM (Fakultätssitzungsraum, Nauklerstraße 47)**. The attendance of all participants at the kick-off event is compulsory. At the kick-off, the topics will be shortly introduced and assigned to groups of 2 or 3 students (depending on the total number of participants), who will collaborate on the respective topic.

The final papers have to be submitted via ILIAS by Wednesday, **June 17 (end of day)**. The presentations will take place on Wednesday, **June 24**. The slides and research highlights have to be submitted on Tuesday, **June 23**. Each group member is expected to present a portion of the joint work. Each group has a net presentation time of 30 minutes. Great importance is attached to an interactive discussion between all participants and presenters to treat the topics from different perspectives and respond to questions intensely. Therefore, the total time available per group is about 90 minutes.

Topics:

1. **Behavioral Finance and Turbo Certificates**
   Explore why investors frequently purchase high-risk turbo certificates despite high aggregate losses, using an expected utility framework.

2. **Covered Call ETFs**
   Analyze the mechanics of ETFs that write call options against their underlyings to generate premiums.

3. **Volatility Index Derivatives**
   Examine the technical construction of volatility indices and the mechanism by which volatility becomes a tradable asset through e.g. futures or options.

4. **Hedging Geopolitical Risk**
   Investigate how modern financial markets hedge systemic shocks like wars, or sanctions.

5. **The Role of Derivatives in Corporate Hedging**
   Identify specific risks faced by major firms, such as airlines dealing with fuel price volatility, or cyber attacks, and discuss how well they can be hedged.

6. **Hedging Climate Risk Using Weather Derivatives**
   Analyze weather derivatives, where payouts are triggered by specific meteorological indices (e.g., temperature or rainfall) rather than price movements of underlying assets.

If you have different topic suggestions, which are in line with the overarching topic of this years seminar, feel free to discuss your ideas with us. Additionally, students may want to familiarize themselves with advanced academic software packages like LaTeX to prepare for their final thesis.