



Accounting and Control - MSc (parttime)

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - School of Business and Economics - M Accounting and Control (deeltijd) - 2017-2018

All business enterprises, governmental entities and not-for-profit organizations rely on accounting systems to produce essential information for management, control, and accountability. Such systems operate in complex settings involving both institutions and markets. The Master's programme in Accounting and Control prepares students to embark on a career as preparer, user, or auditor of accounting information. By considering the technical aspects of accounting in relation to institutional setting and in the light of relevant academic research, students will learn to consider issues in accounting and control at an advanced academic level, and to reflect on the relationship between academic research in this area and issues in professional practice.

The Master's programme in Accounting and Control is offered in a fulltime and a parttime version. The two versions are identical in terms of learning outcomes, content and testing, but may differ in particular with respect to the scheduling and teaching formats. A separate study guide is available for the full-time programme.

Programme

In practice, the part-time Master's programme in Accounting and Control is offered in conjunction with the postgraduate programmes for 'Registeraccountant' and 'Registercontroller' and, for students whose prior education is at HBO-level, with a preparatory programme that must be completed before admission to the Master's programme ('premaster'). This study guide applies to the Master's programme only.

Study load

The study load of the Master's programme is 60 credits. Credits are expressed in EC (European Credit Transfer System). Each credit amounts to circa 28 hours of study. The programme will take two years when students take one course per period, which can be considered as a realistic study load in many typical work-life settings. However, students must take responsibility for finding sufficient time to devote to their studies.

Some courses may be offered in such a way that students can follow classes in two courses during a period. This is done to facilitate, for instance, excellent students who wish to accelerate their study progress, or students who need to retake a course while being confident that they can combine it with a new course. Such a scheduling does not imply that taking two courses at a time is a normal study load for parttime students, and students must themselves decide on a study planning that is appropriate for their circumstances and capabilities.

The MSc Accounting and Control is a part-time programme and consists of 60 EC. In addition, [a full-time programme](#) is offered as well.

[-General information](#)

[-Course schedule](#)

-Please note that this shows the scheduling of courses over the year. It does not imply that the programme can be completed in one year of part-time study

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Parttime Master Accounting and Control – Obligatory

Below are the obligatory courses

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Advanced Financial Reporting	Periode 1	6.0	E_PTACC_AFR
Advanced Management Accounting	Periode 2	6.0	E_PTACC_AMA
Empirical Research in Accounting	Periode 1	6.0	E_PTACC_ERA
Thesis	Ac. Jaar (september)	18.0	E_PTACC_THS

Parttime Master Accounting and Control - CLp4 /CLp5

Choose to follow the course in period 4 or period 5

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Corporate Law	Periode 4	6.0	E_PTACC_CL
Corporate Law	Periode 5	6.0	E_PTACC_CLBS

Parttime Master Accounting and Control - Electives

Choose 3 of 6 courses. The course Control and Audit will be offered twice a year.

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Advanced Corporate Finance for Accounting en Control	Periode 2	6.0	E_PTACC_ACF
Audit Theory	Periode 2	6.0	E_PTACC_AT
Control and Audit	Periode 2	6.0	E_PTACC_CAU
Control and Audit	Periode 5	6.0	E_PTACC_CABS
Financial Accounting Theory	Periode 4	6.0	E_PTACC_FAT
Information Risk Management	Periode 5	6.0	E_PTACC_IRM
Management Control	Periode 4	6.0	E_PTACC_MC

Advanced Corporate Finance for Accounting en Control

Vakcode	E_PTACC_ACF ()
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Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Nederlands
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	prof. dr. ir. H.A. Rijken
Examinator	prof. dr. ir. H.A. Rijken
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

This course is an advanced course in Corporate Finance. It is meant for students preparing for the VU RC program and students in the Master Accounting & Control program.

The Corporate Finance discipline is about matching companies' assets with investor's preferences. It has both a micro perspective on CFO decision making and a macro perspective on the functioning of Corporate Financial Markets. It applies to CFO's at non-financial companies and financial institutions and to policy makers.

This course has three main learning objectives.

1. Extending academic/ professional knowledge about Corporate Finance: learning about academic concepts in Corporate Finance. (Technical knowledge)
2. Applying academic concepts in Corporate Finance in real life cases: confrontation of academic concepts in Corporate Finance with real life situations. (Problem-solving skills; Conceptual reasoning; Communication skills)
3. Understanding the origin and empirical strength of academic concepts in Corporate Finance: test of underlying assumptions and robustness in empirical (academic) research. (Critical skills; Conceptual reasoning)

This course will give most attention to objectives 1 and 2. Objective 2 makes this course relevant for professional practice.

After following this course, you:

- Understand basic Corporate Finance concepts in economic terms, including their strengths and limitations.
- Have (quantitative skills) to apply these basic concepts.
- Understand the unique features of each concept and interrelationship between them.
- Are able to choose between various concepts and apply them in specific real life cases.

More specific learning objectives for the working classes and case solving are:

- Students are able to analyze and solve a case in Corporate Finance;
- write a (consulting) report on a case in Corporate Finance;
- Students are able to raise questions during the working class and to formulate their own position;
- Students are able to present their case solutions.

Inhoud vak

Most important topics in this course are

- leverage decision
- dividend decision

- risk management
- credit risk measurement (including rating agencies)
- credit risk pricing
- corporate debt market
- structured corporate finance (project finance, asset securitization, LBO)
- quantitative pricing of debt (value of debt in distress situations and convertible debt valuation).
- equity risk pricing

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures, including discussion of case assignments

Toetsvorm

TBA

Literatuur

TBA

Vereiste voorkennis

This course elaborates on classical text books like Corporate Finance (Berk and DeMarzo) and Principles of Corporate Finance (Brealey, Myers and Allen). These books mark the entry knowledge level of this course. The book Corporate Finance (Berk and DeMarzo) is comprehensively discussed and tested in the VU bachelor programme Economics and the VU bachelor programme Business Administration.

Students not very familiar with these books are advised to have a look at these books or even buy it for (required) background knowledge to this course.

Advanced Financial Reporting

Vakcode	E_PTACC_AFR ()
Periode	Periode 1
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Nederlands
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	prof. dr. C. Camfferman RA
Examinator	prof. dr. C. Camfferman RA
Docent(en)	prof. dr. C. Camfferman RA
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep
Niveau	400

Doel vak

This course provides an overview of the main accounting issues in preparing the financial statements of large listed enterprises (technical proficiency). In line with reporting requirements for listed companies in the European Union, the course is based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) (institutional awareness). In working with IFRS, you will learn to draw simultaneously on technical, institutional, and academic skills (problem-solving skills, compliance skills, and conceptual reasoning).

After following this course, you will be familiar with:

- the objectives of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and its general approach to standard-setting;
- the IASB's Framework and its key concepts with respect to recognition, measurement and performance presentation;
- the main requirements concerning recognition and measurement of the IAS/IFRS selected for this course. This course does not deal with disclosure and presentation requirements unless specifically indicated;
- the style in which accounting standards, and specifically those of the IASB, are written.

You should then be able to:

- read and understand an accounting standard by yourself, to understand at least its main provisions concerning recognition and measurement, to summarize these in the form of journal entries and to discuss the impact of the prescribed treatments, compared to possible alternatives, on reported income and financial position;
- give a reasoned opinion on questions concerning the application of the standards covered in this course;
- recognize and explain how IFRS has been applied in practice on the basis of extracts from financial statements of listed companies;
- discuss and evaluate aspects of standards in terms of their internal consistency, consistency with other standards, their agreement with the Framework, or the overall policies of the IASB.

Inhoud vak

At the core of company financial reporting is the representation of financial position and financial performance in the balance sheet and income statement. Measuring these accounting numbers can be complex (think of uncertainty in provisions, or of financial instruments). IFRS contains extensive guidance in dealing with this complexity. In practice, IFRS can function as just a set of rules that needs to be complied with. However, it can also be seen as an evolving body of knowledge in which relevant accounting issues are identified and analyzed, and in which solutions are offered that aim to be principles-based and that are consistent with a set of underlying concepts. That is how IFRS is used in this course. We don't use a textbook, but we use IFRS to become familiar with important accounting issues, to understand how they can be resolved, and to reflect on the solutions offered in IFRS.

While the course will not turn you into an IFRS specialist, you will acquire a knowledge of issues and concepts that will allow you to follow intelligently future developments in financial reporting. You will also develop your practical skills in working with accounting standards so that you can find and apply more detailed knowledge when needed in practice or further specialized studies.

Onderwijsvorm

Classes in groups of ca. 30 students on Friday, supported by weblectures. Students can opt for a regular 6-hour group or a condensed 4-hour group. Most groups have Dutch-language lecturers. Depending on student numbers, one or more groups may have lecturers from international staff.

Toetsvorm

Written exam; option to earn bonus points with assignments.

Literatuur

Vereiste voorkennis

This course requires intermediate knowledge of financial accounting, including preparation of consolidated financial statements, equivalent to the bachelor course Financial Accounting (E_EBE2_FAC).

Aanbevolen voorkennis

The course assumes basic knowledge of common transactions and arrangements, such as lease contracts, pension arrangements, business combinations, and common financial instruments including derivatives. The greater your familiarity with these topics, the easier it will be to appreciate their discussion in IFRS.

Overige informatie

In enrolling for the course, please take care to select the your preferred group type (morning/afternoon, four or six hours).

Advanced Management Accounting

Vakcode	E_PTACC_AMA ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Nederlands
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	prof. dr. T.L.C.M. Groot
Examinator	prof. dr. T.L.C.M. Groot
Docent(en)	prof. dr. T.L.C.M. Groot
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

Deze cursus geeft een overzicht van de belangrijkste onderwerpen die relevant zijn voor financieel managers en controllers in commerciële bedrijven en non-profitorganisaties, zoals strategische planning en besluitvorming, financiële planning, operationele planning budgettering, kostenanalyse, kostprijsberekening, transfer pricing, prestatie meting en -beoordeling. Voor elk onderwerp bespreken we de kwantitatieve technieken die voorhanden zijn en we bestuderen de meest recente empirische literatuur.

Aan het einde van deze cursus

- hebt u geleerd om met behulp van Excel kwantitatieve methoden te gebruiken, zoals lineair/integer programmeren, regressie-analyse, gevoeligheidsanalyses en Monte Carlo simulatie;
- bent u in staat om de toegevoegde waarde van informatie te beoordelen en te gebruiken in beslissingssituaties;
- bent u op de hoogte van recente inzichten op het gebied van management accounting;
- hebt u inzicht gekregen in de gedragstheorieën die relevant zijn voor management accounting en control;

Inhoud vak

De volgende onderwerpen komen in dit vak aan de orde:

- Geschiedenis van het vak Management Accounting
- Planning en Besluitvorming
- Financiële modellen ten behoeve van strategievorming
- Operationele planning en optimalisering van capaciteitsbenutting
- Budgettering
- Kostenanalyse
- Transfer pricing (interne verrekening)
- Prestatiemanagement: prestatie meting, -beoordeling en -beloning

Onderwijsvorm

Vier uur hoorcollege per week. Deze hoorcolleges worden ook op video opgenomen en kunnen thuis worden teruggekeken.

Daarnaast twee uur werkcollege, waarin vragen worden beantwoord, huiswerkvragen voorbereid en complexe berekeningen geoefend.

In vier van de zes weken worden door iedere student twee opdrachten thuis uitgewerkt en via Canvas ingeleverd. Bij zes goede opdrachten levert dat 0,5 bonuspunt dat bij de uitslag van het tentamen zal worden opgeteld.

Toetsvorm

Schriftelijk examen (50% over het boek en 50% over de artikelen)

Acht huiswerkopdrachten. Bij zes goede opdrachten wordt 0,5 punten bij de uitslag van het schriftelijk tentamen opgeteld.

Literatuur

Groot, T., & Selto, F. (2013), Advanced Management Accounting, Pearson Education, London. ISBN: 978-0-273-73018-7.

15 wetenschappelijke artikelen die op Canvas beschikbaar worden gesteld.

Vereiste voorkennis

Bachelor Economie of Bedrijfskunde, en parttime studenten die aan de toelatingseisen van het masterprogramma voldoen (entreetoets en premaster vakken).

Aanbevolen voorkennis

De cursus vereist kennis van Management Accounting op "intermediate" niveau. Dit meestal overeen met een inleidende cursus (op 100 niveau) en een vervolgcursus (op 200 of 300 niveau) in het vakgebied van Management Accounting.

Audit Theory

Vakcode	E_PTACC_AT ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Nederlands
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	prof. dr. A.H. Gold
Examinator	prof. dr. A.H. Gold
Docent(en)	prof. dr. A.H. Gold, prof. dr. P. Wallage, drs. J.L. van Gestel RA
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep, Responsiecollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

The focus of this course is to provide students an understanding of a range of topics (see course content for some examples) related to the financial statement audit process and the auditing profession from both an academic and practical perspective (technical knowledge). We apply academic papers, practice literature, and auditing cases to analyse how auditing is affected by these topics (institutional knowledge, problem-solving, critical skills, conceptual reasoning, communication skills, reflection). After completion of this course students will have knowledge of the theoretical foundation, research streams, practice applications, and understand some of the current developments the areas of both the audit process and the audit profession.

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- formulate why the results of academic auditing research is relevant for audit practice;
- understand the economic and regulatory setting of auditing;
- understand the main factors that influence audit quality and auditor independence;
- understand the various risks that auditors assess during their work and the interrelationships between those risks;
- understand auditor communications with various stakeholders (including auditor reporting);
- understand the importance of cognitive limitations in auditing judgment and decision making;
- apply their obtained knowledge to basic practice-based cases.

Inhoud vak

Auditing involves the testing and evaluation of evidence against agreed norms or criteria. It is embedded in a highly regulated institutional setting and has an important societal function because financial statement users and other stakeholders require assurance on the information found in the financial statements.

Audit Theory covers a wide range of topics that are of interest to audit researchers and practitioners. Topics include (but are not limited to) audit demand, audit quality, auditor independence, auditor judgment and decision making, and regulatory and institutional elements.

Onderwijsvorm

Plenary lectures

Smaller group tutorials (max. 30 students per group)

Case college sessions ("responsiecolleges")

Toetsvorm

Written final exam

Individual assignment(s)

Team assignment(s)

Literatuur

- A selection of academic and practice papers, to be published on Canvas.

- Selected chapters of Hayes, R., H. Gortemaker & Wallage, Ph. (2014), Principles of Auditing, Harlow, United Kingdom: Pearson Education, 3rd Edition.

Vereiste voorkennis

Students should have a basic knowledge of the audit process, to be obtained by e.g., reading the following textbook:

- Hayes, R., H. Gortemaker & Wallage, Ph. (2014), Principles of Auditing, Harlow, United Kingdom: Pearson Education, 3rd Edition.

Overige informatie

This course is also offered in a busy season variant during period 5.

The regular and busy season variants are offered as alternatives. The total number of exam attempts for this course during each academic year cannot exceed two.

Control and Audit

Vakcode	E_PTACC_CAU ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Nederlands
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	drs. J.G.I. van den Belt RA
Examinator	drs. J.G.I. van den Belt RA
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

Management is responsible for controlling the company in order to reach the company goals. An important part of this is the design and the well functioning of internal controls.

Auditors are responsible for an adequate audit and a correct audit opinion. For this they use the internal control system of the company. So both management and auditors rely on the internal control system, but from different perspectives.

In this course both worlds are brought together. Similarities and differences between both perspectives are analyzed by applying knowledge in and understanding of:

- assessing risks within an organization and designing and assessing an internal control system to mitigate these risks from managements perspective (control);
- assessing risks for the audit opinion and assessing an internal control system to mitigate these risks;
- determination of audit steps necessary to audit an internal control system;
- the principles of business risk audit and the relation with financial audit.

A taxonomy of organizations as well as a framework for risk assessment are used in this course.

Inhoud vak

Each week cases and academic papers need to be prepared in advance and presented. Preparation consists of answering a set of questions by studying the annual report of a company as well as acquiring information from other sources (internet f.i.).

In order to be admitted to the exam, every student needs to participate in the discussions and preparation of the cases and papers.

Preparation of cases and papers is done by a team consisting of 4-6 students (teams are formed during the first lecture) and must be delivered by an upload on Canvas a few days before the lecture in which this is presented and discussed.

Prepared cases and papers are graded by the lecturer.

Every team has to present their workout at least one time.

Onderwijsvorm

The course is given during six lectures of 4 hours in which the theory will be covered in 1 hour and discussion and application of the theory in 3-hour interactive workgroup tutorials.

Students are encouraged to ask questions and participate actively to discuss the topic at hand.

Toetsvorm

The grading is done by participation in the tutorials, preparation of cases and a written exam.

The grade for attending lecture constitutes 5% and preparing and presenting cases constitutes 20% of the overall grade. The final exam accounts for 80% and will be a closed book exam.

Grades for attending lectures and preparation and presenting cases are valid up to the end of the academic year.

Literatuur

- E. Vaassen, R. Meuwissen, C. Schelleman, Accounting Information Systems and Internal Control, 2nd edition, Wiley 2013
- A.A. Arens, R.J. Elder, M.S. Beasley, Auditing and Assurance Services, An integrated Approach, 15th edition, Pearson 2014
- Several academic papers that will be published on Canvas

Vereiste voorkennis

Knowledge is assumed of:

- taxonomy of organizations;
- business processes and the relation with financial reporting;
- elementary audit theory.

This knowledge is lectured in the VU-courses Accounting Information Systems and Audit Theory and can be read in the following literature:

- Oscar van Leeuwen en Jon Bergsma, Bestuurlijke informatieverzorging in perspectief. Relevante en betrouwbare informatie voor sturing en beheersing, Noordhoff, 2012.
- George H. Bodnar en William S. Hopwood, Accounting Information Systems, 10th or 11th edition, Pearson, 2010.
- R.W. Starrveld en O.C. van Leeuwen, Bestuurlijke informatieverzorging, deel 2A Fasen van de waardekringloop, 5e druk, Noordhoff.
- Hayes, Wallage, and Gortemaker, Principles of Auditing, 3rd edition, Pearson 2014.

Control and Audit

Vakcode	E_PTACC_CABS ()
Periode	Periode 5
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	drs. J.G.I. van den Belt RA

Examinator	drs. J.G.I. van den Belt RA
Lesmethode(n)	Werkgroep, Hoorcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

Management is responsible for controlling the company in order to reach the company goals. An important part of this is the design and the well functioning of internal controls.

Auditors are responsible for an adequate audit and a correct audit opinion. For this they use the internal control system of the company. So both management and auditors rely on the internal control system, but from different perspectives.

In this course both worlds are brought together. Similarities and differences between both perspectives are analyzed by applying knowledge in and understanding of:

- assessing risks within an organization and designing and assessing an internal control system to mitigate these risks from managements perspective (control);
- assessing risks for the audit opinion and assessing an internal control system to mitigate these risks;
- determination of audit steps necessary to audit an internal control system;
- the principles of business risk audit and the relation with financial audit.

A taxonomy of organizations as well as a framework for risk assessment are used in this course.

Inhoud vak

Each week cases and academic papers need to be prepared in advance and presented. Preparation consists of answering a set of questions by studying the annual report of a company as well as acquiring information from other sources (internet f.i.).

In order to be admitted to the exam, every student needs to participate in the discussions and preparation of the cases and papers.

Preparation of cases and papers is done by a team consisting of 4-6 students (teams are formed during the first lecture) and must be delivered by an upload on Canvas a few days before the lecture in which this is presented and discussed.

Prepared cases and papers are graded by the lecturer.

Every team has to present their workout at least one time.

Onderwijsvorm

The course is given during six lectures of 4 hours in which the theory will be covered in 1 hour and discussion and application of the theory in 3-hour interactive workgroup tutorials.

Students are encouraged to ask questions and participate actively to discuss the topic at hand.

Toetsvorm

The grading is done by participation in the tutorials, preparation of cases and a written exam.

The grade for attending lecture constitutes 5% and preparing and presenting cases constitutes 20% of the overall grade. The final exam accounts for 80% and will be a closed book exam.

Grades for attending lectures and preparation and presenting cases are valid up to the end of the academic year.

Literatuur

- E. Vaassen, R. Meuwissen, C. Schelleman, Accounting Information Systems and Internal Control, 2nd edition, Wiley 2013
- A.A. Arens, R.J. Elder, M.S. Beasley, Auditing and Assurance Services, An integrated Approach, 15th edition, Pearson 2014
- Several academic papers that will be published on Canvas

Vereiste voorkennis

Knowledge is assumed of:

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- business processes and the relation with financial reporting;
- elementary audit theory.

This knowledge is lectured in the VU-courses Accounting Information Systems and Audit Theory and can be read in the following literature:

- Oscar van Leeuwen en Jon Bergsma, Bestuurlijke informatieverzorging in perspectief. Relevante en betrouwbare informatie voor sturing en beheersing, Noordhoff, 2012.
- George H. Bodnar en William S. Hopwood, Accounting Information Systems, 10th or 11th edition, Pearson, 2010.
- R.W. Starrveld en O.C. van Leeuwen, Bestuurlijke informatieverzorging, deel 2A Fasen van de waardekringloop, 5e druk, Noordhoff.
- Hayes, Wallage, and Gortemaker, Principles of Auditing, 3rd edition, Pearson 2014.

Overige informatie

For latest news on the course see Canvas

Corporate Law

Vakcode	E_PTACC_CL ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Nederlands
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	mr. J.E. Brink-van der Meer
Examinator	mr. J.E. Brink-van der Meer
Docent(en)	mr. P.A. Ledeboer
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep
Niveau	400

Doel vak

This course deals with the key issues of Dutch company law, mainly concentrating on corporations (BV's and NV's). The objective of this course is to deepen the participants' knowledge and insight of how Dutch corporations work and problems related to Dutch corporations (Institutional awareness). In working with corporate law, you will learn to improve your compliance skills and communication skills and will develop your capacity for reflection.

After following this course, you:

- have knowledge and insight of how Dutch corporations are organized
- have insight of problems related to Dutch corporations
- have knowledge of the 13 subjects listed below

- have worked with and discussed (real life) cases concerning Dutch corporations
- are informed on current affairs of the NV and BV, including recent case law of the Dutch Supreme Court

You should then be able to:

- give a reasoned opinion on questions concerning Dutch corporate law
- make an informed judgment about how corporate law applies in complex situations
- reflect on legal responsibilities of organizations and its management
- follow recent developments in the media concerning current affairs of the NV and BV, including recent case law of the Dutch Supreme Court

Inhoud vak

The course is organized around 13 subjects:

- Introduction and basics of Dutch company law
- European company law
- Concern law
- Internal governance of companies
- Corporate governance
- Capital protection
- Liability of (supervisory) directors and shareholders
- Listed and non-listed companies
- Protective devices
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Law regarding annual accounts
- Disputes
- Legal aspects of IT

The subjects form a basic toolbox of corporate law. They are relevant to your career in accounting and control. We will discuss the subjects in a practical way.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures, study group

Toetsvorm

Written examination and an optional assignment or midterm test for bonus points.

The grade for the written examination must be at least a 5.0.

Literatuur

- Huizink, J.B., Rechtspersoon, vennootschap en onderneming, Deventer: Kluwer, most recent edition
- Wettenbundel Rechtspersonen, inclusief ondernemings- en handelsrecht met toekomstige wetgeving. Kluwer, most recent edition
- Documents placed on Canvas, including but not limited to syllabus J.E. Brink- van der Meer

Overige informatie

This course is also offered in a busy season variant during period 5. The regular and busy season variants are offered as alternatives. The total number of exam attempts for this course during each academic year cannot exceed two.

Corporate Law

Vakcode	E_PTACC_CLBS ()
Periode	Periode 5
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Nederlands
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	mr. J.E. Brink-van der Meer
Examinator	mr. J.E. Brink-van der Meer
Docent(en)	mr. J.E. Brink-van der Meer
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep
Niveau	400

Doel vak

This course deals with the key issues of Dutch company law, mainly concentrating on corporations (BV's and NV's). The objective of this course is to deepen the participants' knowledge and insight of how Dutch corporations work and problems related to Dutch corporations (Institutional awareness). In working with corporate law, you will learn to improve your compliance skills and communication skills and will develop your capacity for reflection.

After following this course, you:

- have knowledge and insight of how Dutch corporations are organized
- have insight of problems related to Dutch corporations
- have knowledge of the 13 subjects listed below
- have worked with and discussed (real life) cases concerning Dutch corporations
- are informed on current affairs of the NV and BV, including recent case law of the Dutch Supreme Court

You should then be able to:

- give a reasoned opinion on questions concerning Dutch corporate law
- make an informed judgment about how corporate law applies in complex situations
- reflect on legal responsibilities of organizations and its management
- follow recent developments in the media concerning current affairs of the NV and BV, including recent case law of the Dutch Supreme Court

Inhoud vak

The course is organized around 13 subjects:

- Introduction and basics of Dutch company law
- European company law
- Concern law
- Internal governance of companies
- Corporate governance
- Capital protection
- Liability of (supervisory) directors and shareholders
- Listed and non-listed companies
- Protective devices
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Law regarding annual accounts
- Disputes
- Legal aspects IT

The subjects form a basic toolbox of corporate law. They are relevant to your career in accounting and control. We will discuss the subjects in a practical way.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures, study group

Toetsvorm

Written examination and an optional assignment or midterm test for bonus point. The grade for the written examination must be at least a 5.0.

Literatuur

- Huizink, J.B., Rechtspersoon, vennootschap en onderneming, Deventer: Kluwer, most recent edition
- Wettenbundel Rechtspersonen, inclusief ondernemings- en handelsrecht met toekomstige wetgeving. Kluwer, most recent edition
- Documents placed on Canvas, including but not limited to syllabus J.E. Brink- van der Meer

Overige informatie

This is the busy season variant of the regular course Corporate Law offered in period 4. The regular and busy season variants are offered as alternatives. The total number of exam attempts for this course during each academic year cannot exceed two.

Empirical Research in Accounting

Vakcode	E_PTACC_ERA ()
Periode	Periode 1
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	dr. M. Schoute
Examinator	dr. M. Schoute
Docent(en)	dr. M. Schoute
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep
Niveau	400

Doel vak

The purpose of this course is to explore and provide an understanding of the different research methods employed in empirical accounting research. At the end of the course the student should have a strong enough understanding of the different methods discussed to be able to interpret and critically evaluate empirical accounting studies (critical skills), and to be able to use these methods to conduct an empirical accounting study him/herself (technical research skills).

After following this course, you:

- will have a better understanding of the main research methods used in empirical accounting research, and their strengths and weaknesses;
- will be better able to interpret and critically evaluate empirical accounting research;

- will be better able to conduct empirical accounting research yourself.

Inhoud vak

Empirical research in accounting relates to financial accounting, management accounting and auditing. In accounting research, a wide variety of empirical research methods are used. This variety stems from the diversity of theories used, topics and questions studied and the research methods researchers have at hand. Some general patterns can be observed, though. For instance, while financial accounting research often builds on publicly available data archives, management accounting research often builds on company-specific data. This difference partly stems from the difference in questions these domains of accounting are interested in, but also from the availability of data. The course starts with an overview of the types of questions studied in empirical research in financial accounting, management accounting, and auditing, and the types of methods and data used for analysis. After this overview the remainder of the course is structured following the research methods most frequently employed in accounting research. Each method will be studied in depth in relation to the type of question it is suitable for. In this analysis, the focus will lie on both the use of the method and the (accounting) domain it is being used in. Some of these methods are also widely used for more practical applications. Overall, the course aims to prepare students for writing their Master thesis, as well as for other Master courses that build strongly on empirical accounting papers.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures on Friday. Students can opt for a regular '6 hours of classes a week' option or a condensed '4 hours of classes a week' option.

Toetsvorm

Written exam (60% of the final grade).
Team assignment (40% of the final grade).

Literatuur

To be announced.

Vereiste voorkennis

The course assumes basic background knowledge of business research methods and statistics. Knowledge of research methods equivalent to Introduction to Accounting Research is required.

Overige informatie

In enrolling for the course, please take care to select your preferred option (i.e., for the regular '6 hours of classes a week' option or the condensed '4 hours of classes a week' option). The '4 hours of classes a week' option is intended mainly for the minority of students who can do a fast track, and for students who almost passed last year, and feel they just need a refresher rather than doing the course all over again.

Financial Accounting Theory

Vakcode	E_PTACC_FAT ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Nederlands
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics

Coördinator	prof. dr. J.L. Wielhouwer
Examinator	prof. dr. J.L. Wielhouwer
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep
Niveau	400

Doel vak

The prominence and complexity of financial reporting standards such as IFRS encourages people to think about financial reporting primarily in terms of compliance with rules. However, other questions about financial reporting than 'is this allowed or not' are highly relevant, in particular questions like: 'when, how and to whom is which information valuable?' 'how do accounting rules affect management decisions?'. Such questions require us to think beyond the rules.

Opinions on accounting (e.g., whether a particular IFRS-standard is 'good' or not) tend to differ in practice for example because of different interests. This course aims to provide students with factual knowledge and understanding of theoretical concepts to:

1. understand the role of accounting (more specifically financial reporting) in the economic environment, such as the capital market;
2. think about the usefulness of accounting from the point of view of the different users;
3. understand and see through the interests of different stakeholders (users) of financial accounting information in order to properly judge on their proposals and reasoning.

Furthermore, this course intends to make students more familiar with research concepts how to measure the impact and relevance of financial accounting information. The concepts are discussed in relation with the audit profession and standard setting to understand and question the rationale for accounting standards and practices.

Students are therefore introduced to the mainstream economics-based approaches to accounting theory development and research.

Inhoud vak

Financial Accounting has a rich tradition of theory and research. This course introduces students to an important part of the research literature, which takes its starting point in mainstream economics. The basic assumption is that financial accounting can be understood as part of the rational economic decision-making of firms and individuals. Important topics are: how accounting information can be (and is) used as source of information in decision making such as investment decisions; how this information value can be investigated empirically; how the efficiency of capital markets may influence the opinion on the role of accounting; how accounting information is used in contracting and what the consequences are when looking at the incentives of different stakeholders, and what aspects are important when developing or judging standard setting. The course has a strong focus on the economics of accounting.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures; weblectures; discussion classes based on paper presentations and assignments

Toetsvorm

Written exam with open questions (80%); paper presentations (20%)

Literatuur

A selection of academic papers

Aanbevolen voorkennis

The course is intended for students who have obtained at least an intermediate knowledge of current financial reporting regulation and are able to read and understand academic papers based on the (mainstream) empirical research methods in accounting. Understanding empirical accounting research methods at the level of the course Empirical Accounting Research is strongly recommended.

Doelgroep

Students specializing in financial accounting or auditing or those interested in gaining more insight in the economic rationale for accounting and its use and application by users and preparers.

Information Risk Management

Vakcode	E_PTACC_IRM ()
Periode	Periode 5
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	J. Droogsma MSc
Examinator	J. Droogsma MSc
Docent(en)	J. Droogsma MSc, drs. D.R. Sadal RA, J. Sulkers RA
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep
Niveau	400

Doel vak

Het doel van dit vak is studenten inzicht te geven in hoe interne controles ontworpen moeten worden om te komen tot betrouwbare management informatie vanuit het perspectief van risicomanagement

Inhoud vak

De inhoud van het vak betreft een introductie van management control systemen, interne controle systemen en management informatie, het internal control framework van COSO en het ontwerpen van interne controles in processen en bij typologieën van organisaties. Tevens zijn cases in het programma opgenomen waarmee studenten oefenen met het beschrijven van interne controlemaatregelen bij organisaties.

Onderwijsvorm

Het vak bestaat uit 6 werkcolleges waarin de literatuur en de uitwerkingen van de cases worden toegelicht.

Toetsvorm

Het vak wordt afgesloten met een gesloten boek tentamen in de vorm van een uit te werken case. De studenten moeten komen tot een beschrijving van interne controlemaatregelen die de betrouwbaarheid van de management informatie waarborgen voor de in de case beschreven organisatie. De case is vergelijkbaar met de cases die gedurende de looptijd van het vak zijn gemaakt en waarvan de uitwerkingen in de werkcolleges zijn besproken.

Literatuur

Leeuwen, O.C., The introduction to the spinning topmodel (most actual version)

Vaassen, E., Meuwissen, R and Schelleman, C., Accounting Information Systems and Internal Control (most actual version)

Papers and other documents on Canvas

Aanbevolen voorkennis

Het is aanbevolen dat studenten het vak Accounting Information Systems succesvol hebben afgerond.

Doelgroep

Het is een verplicht keuzevak voor studenten van de MSc Accounting & Control die de postgraduate opleiding Accountancy willen volgen.

Intekenprocedure

Studenten kunnen zich voor het vak aanmelden via VUNET.

Management Control

Vakcode	E_PTACC_MC ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Nederlands
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	dr. P.C.M. Claes
Examinator	prof. dr. H.C. Dekker
Docent(en)	dr. P.C.M. Claes, prof. dr. H.C. Dekker
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

This course provides in-depth knowledge that relates to how firms create the conditions to achieve predetermined or desirable outcomes (technical proficiency). It allows students by means of a textbook, cases and academic papers to consider a wide range of control mechanisms that can be used to achieve this purpose of achieving organizational objectives, ranging from formal information-based mechanisms to more informal personnel and social control mechanisms (academic competencies). Students share their thoughts on application and use of controls by presenting cases and paper reviews and lead classroom discussions (communication skills), balancing pros and cons - also from an ethical point of view, to express their suggestions on the application of controls in practice (reflection).

After following this course, you will be familiar with:

- Acquiring a thorough understanding of the components of MCS, their effects on human behavior, their interrelationships and design criteria.
- Active learning using the case method, in which the analysis of actual events of companies stimulates learning, and identification and application of relevant knowledge to complex problems.
- Developing skills to critically evaluate how empirical (accounting) research and its outcomes contribute to a theoretical

understanding of the field and to implications for practice.
- Further development of competencies in presenting and discussing business analyses and academic papers.

Inhoud vak

The contents of this course can broadly be divided into two sections. The first section deals with the control function of management and management control system design. This section includes topics such as the cause of control problems and the need for management control systems (MCS) in organizations, management control alternatives and their effects on behavior, and the determinants of MCS design. This part of the course will build mainly on the book by Merchant and van der Stede as referred to below, and case presentations and discussions. The second section of the course uses these insights from part I to study MCS in different organizational forms: (1) performance measurement and incentive compensation in profit seeking firms, (2) management control in hospitals and (3) management control in interfirm relationships. In analyzing the control function in these three different forms of organization, contemporary empirical accounting and management research is examined, by critically studying, presenting and reporting on articles from the accounting literature. This section therefore also builds on both theory insight from part I and skills in research methods acquired earlier during the economics and business administration curriculum.

Onderwijsvorm

Class in a group of ca. 30 students.

Toetsvorm

Case reports (2 * 7.5% of final grade)
Presentation (case or paper review – 7.5% of final grade)
Paper review (7.5% of final grade)
Written exam (70% of final grade)
Optional assignment yielding a maximum of 1 full point on top of final grade.

Literatuur

- Merchant, K.A. & Van der Stede, W.A. (2017). Management Control Systems: Performance Measurement, Evaluation and Incentives, Harlow, United Kingdom: Prentice Hall, 4th Edition.
- Selected articles for review, presentation and discussion (to be announced in the course manual).

Aanbevolen voorkennis

The course assumes basic knowledge of common economic theories (e.g., transaction cost economics, agency theory) and accounting knowledge (e.g., cost behavior, investment decisions).

Overige informatie

In enrolling for the course, please take note of the fact that presentation, cases and paper reviews are subject to team work (of max 3 students, to be formed during the first lecture). This means that once starting this course, you must finish it!

Thesis

Vakcode	E_PTACC_THS ()
Periode	Ac. Jaar (september)

Credits	18.0
Voertaal	Nederlands
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	dr. P.C.M. Claes
Examinator	dr. P.C.M. Claes
Niveau	400

Inhoud vak

By writing an individual thesis, students show that they are able to set up and conduct a research project on a topic of their choice, and to relate the question, the research approach, and the findings to the relevant academic and professional literature. Students are assigned supervisors through an enrolment procedure held twice a year. Following a general introductory session, students will be asked to submit a request for supervision, including a statement in general terms of the research question(s) they intend to investigate in their thesis. This is the basis for assigning a supervisor. In consultation with the supervisor, students develop a research plan which has to be presented to a group of students and staff within a given time-frame. Following approval of the of the research plan, supervision is continued for a stated number of months during which the thesis will need to be completed.

Intekenprocedure

Please consult the Canvas site 'Thesis MSc Accounting & Control' for details and information about the enrolment procedure and the scheduling of enrolments. The Canvas site also contains a thesis manual (scriptiehandleiding) explaining thesis requirements in more detail.