



Accounting & Control (MSc)

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - School of Business and Economics - M Accounting and Control - 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 MSc Accounting & 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 the 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 full-time and a part-time version. The two versions are identical in terms of learning outcomes, course content and assessment, but may differ with respect to the scheduling and teaching formats. This is the study guide for the full-time programme. A separate study guide is available for the part-time programme. The information in this study guide is organized as follows: under 'General Information' you will find information about the programme as a whole. The other sections provide information about the various components (course) of the programme.

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

- [General information](#)
- [Course schedule](#)
- [Academic and Examination Regulations \(OER\) SBE Master's degree programmes](#)
- [Regulations and Guidelines](#)
- [Academic year calendar](#)
- [Transitional arrangements due to curriculum changes](#)
- [VUnet & Services](#)

Inhoudsopgave

Master Accounting and Control - Obligatory	1
Master Accounting and Control - CL / CLIS	1
Master Accounting and Control - Electives	1
Vak: Advanced Corporate Finance for Accounting en Control (Periode 2)	2
Vak: Advanced Financial Reporting (Periode 1)	4
Vak: Advanced Management Accounting (Periode 2)	5
Vak: Audit Theory (Periode 2)	6
Vak: Control and Audit (Periode 5)	8
Vak: Corporate Law (Periode 4)	10
Vak: Corporate Law (for International Students) (Periode 4)	12
Vak: Empirical Research in Accounting (Periode 1)	13
Vak: Enterprising Skills (Periode 5)	14
Vak: Fieldwork Elective (Periode 5)	15
Vak: Financial Accounting Theory (Periode 4)	16
Vak: Information Risk Management (Periode 5)	18
Vak: Management Control (Periode 4)	19
Vak: Thesis (Ac. Jaar (september))	20

Master Accounting and Control - Obligatory

All students take the same mandatory courses with one exception: students must take either the (Dutch-language) course Corporate Law or the (English-language) course Corporate Law International Students (see paragraph Master Accounting and Control - CL / CLIS).

In addition to the course Corporate Law, all students are required to take the following four courses:

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Advanced Financial Reporting	Periode 1	6.0	E_ACC_AFR
Advanced Management Accounting	Periode 2	6.0	E_ACC_AMA
Empirical Research in Accounting	Periode 1	6.0	E_ACC_ERA
Thesis	Ac. Jaar (september)	18.0	E_ACC_THS

Master Accounting and Control - CL / CLIS

As part of the mandatory courses, all students are required to take either the (Dutch-language) course Corporate Law or the (English-language) course Corporate Law for International Students.

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Corporate Law	Periode 4	6.0	E_ACC_CL
Corporate Law (for International Students)	Periode 4	6.0	E_ACC_CLIS

Master Accounting and Control - Electives

Students can freely choose any three out of the eight electives listed for this programme. Please note the following:

The elective Advanced Corporate Finance for Accounting & Control assumes prior knowledge which goes beyond the admission criteria for the MSc Accounting & Control. This course requires at least intermediate knowledge of Corporate Finance. Completion of the third-year course Corporate Finance (BSc Economics and Business Economics), or its equivalent in other programmes, is a prerequisite for attending the Corporate Finance elective in the MSc programme.

Students can also choose their electives from among the courses offered in other master programmes taught in the School of Business and Economics. This requires prior approval by the Examination Board which will normally be granted for courses at master level not

overlapping with other courses in the programme. Similarly, with prior approval by the Examination Board, it is possible to choose master courses taught in other Faculties of VU University. Regardless of Examination Board approval, a course coordinator or programme director may refuse access to a course on the basis of capacity constraints. All electives from other master's programmes are offered under the condition that their scheduling may conflict with mandatory courses or regular electives of the MSc Accounting & Control.

Vakken:

Naam	Periode	Credits	Code
Advanced Corporate Finance for Accounting en Control	Periode 2	6.0	E_ACC_ACFAC
Audit Theory	Periode 2	6.0	E_ACC_AT
Control and Audit	Periode 5	6.0	E_ACC_CA
Enterprising Skills	Periode 5	6.0	E_ENT_ESK
Fieldwork Elective	Periode 5	6.0	E_ACC_FE
Financial Accounting Theory	Periode 4	6.0	E_ACC_FAT
Information Risk Management	Periode 5	6.0	E_ACC_IRM
Management Control	Periode 4	6.0	E_ACC_MC

Advanced Corporate Finance for Accounting en Control

Vakcode	E_ACC_ACFAC ()
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	prof. dr. ir. H.A. Rijken
Examinator	prof. dr. ir. H.A. Rijken
Docent(en)	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

The course consists of lectures and working classes. 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_ACC_AFR (60412050)
Periode	Periode 1
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	prof. dr. C. Camfferman RA
Examinator	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

Weblectures; lectures (4 hours per week); discussion classes (2 hours per week).

Toetsvorm

Written exam; bonus points can be earned with optional assignments.

Literatuur

IFRS International Financial Reporting Standards: Official Pronouncements issued at 1 January 2017, Part A (IFRS Foundation, 2017)

Vereiste voorkennis

This course requires intermediate knowledge of financial accounting, including preparation of consolidated financial statements, equivalent to the contents of the 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.

Advanced Management Accounting

Vakcode	E_ACC_AMA (60442020)
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	dr. E. Wiersma
Examinator	dr. E. Wiersma
Docent(en)	dr. E. Wiersma
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege

Doel vak

This course provides an overview of the main issues that financial controllers will face in their daily work (technical proficiency). In the course we use both a set of quantitative methods and study academic papers to analyze how management accounting information will be used for decision making and evaluation (problem solving, critical skills, conceptual reasoning) Finally, this course discusses several issues where financial controllers face opposing forces to make decisions in their work (reflection).

After following the course, you should be able to:

- use quantitative methods (e.g., regression, linear programming, financial modelling), to assess the value of additional information, analyze the impact of uncertainty on profitability, analyze bottlenecks, and analyze cost behavior;
- read and understand academic papers and be able to formulate why results of these papers are informative for practical decisions;
- understand why the need for management accounting information has grown over time;
- recognize that financial controllers play a key role in decision making and performance evaluation;
- discuss and evaluate opposing forces that influence decisions that financial controller make (e.g, the watchdog role versus information supplier role of controllers).

Inhoud vak

Since management accounting information is not subject to a set of extent regulations, other principles will guide which accounting information firms need. These principles are often based on cost-benefit reasoning, and on understanding the set of incentives that different layers of managers have.

In the course we analyze the value of management accounting devices based on these principles.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures supported by slidecast lectures (slides and voiceover).

Toetsvorm

Written exam

Optional assignments yielding a maximum of 5 bonus points (out of 100 for final grade)

Literatuur

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

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

Aanbevolen voorkennis

The course assumes an understanding of management accounting at intermediate level.

Audit Theory

Vakcode	E_ACC_AT (60442030)
Periode	Periode 2
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	prof. dr. A.H. Gold
Examinator	prof. dr. A.H. Gold
Docent(en)	prof. dr. P. Wallage
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.

Control and Audit

Vakcode	E_ACC_CA (61452090)
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)	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep
Niveau	400

Doel vak

This course aims to enable students to assess and discuss the influence of business risks and controls on the financial reporting by organizations. The focus is on the discovery of risks of misstatements by starting with an evaluation of business risks (Technical knowledge, Problem-solving skills). This will be studied from a practical as well as an academic point of view (Academic competencies), and students will train their capacity to present the outcome of their analysis to a relevant audience (Communication skills).

After following this course, you will have knowledge and understanding of:

- a taxonomy of organizations
- a framework for risk assessment
- assessment of risks within an organization and design and assessment of an internal control system to mitigate these risks from managements perspective (control);
- assessment of risks for the audit opinion and assessment of 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.

You should then be able to:

- apply the knowledge on organizations by analyzing risk related topics in annual reports and other documents or sites from those organizations;
- read and analyze academic papers related to business risk audit;
- perform oral and written presentation of cases.

Inhoud 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 proper 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 amongst others. 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.

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.

Each week a case and an academic paper 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 (e.g. internet).

Toetsvorm

The maximum score possible is 100 points and is earned by:

- Attending the lectures
- Oral and written presentations
- Written exam

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

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 work at least once.

Literatuur

Required reading:

- Vaassen, E., Meuwissen, R., Schelleman, C. (2013), Accounting Information Systems and Internal Control, 2nd edition, Chichester, United Kingdom: Wiley
- Arens, A.A., Elder, R.J. & Beasley, M.S. (2014), Auditing and Assurance Services, An integrated Approach, 15th edition, Upper Saddle River, United States of America: Pearson 2014
- Several academic papers that will be published on Canvas

Vereiste voorkennis

Knowledge is assumed of:

- business processes and the relation with financial reporting, equivalent to the VU bachelor course Accounting Information Systems
- The content of the Audit Theory course in the MSc Accounting &

Control

Aanbevolen voorkennis

Knowledge is assumed of:

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

This knowledge is provided in the VU-courses Accounting Information Systems and Audit Theory and can be found 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

This course is mandatory for post-graduate accountancy students but can be taken as an elective as part of the master programme Accounting & Control.

Corporate Law

Vakcode	E_ACC_CL (60422000)
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, 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 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 description relates to the Dutch-language version of the course Corporate Law (E_ACC_CL). Please note that there is also an English-language version (E_ACC_CLIS).

The Dutch-taught version of Corporate law is mandatory for all Dutch-speaking full-time students and all part-time students from the MSc Programme Accounting and Control. The Dutch-taught course is recommended to students from other Master programs who aspire to a career in which elements of law play an important role (for instance corporate finance and banking).

International students should follow the course Corporate Law (International students), for which there is a separate course description.

Please make sure you register for the right course!

Corporate Law (for International Students)

Vakcode	E_ACC_CLIS ()
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	mr. J.E. Brink-van der Meer
Examinator	mr. J.E. Brink-van der Meer
Lesmethode(n)	Werkgroep
Niveau	400

Doel vak

The objective of this course is to deepen the participants' knowledge and insight of how companies work and problems related to companies (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 companies are organized
- have insight of problems related to companies
- have knowledge of the subjects listed below

You should then be able to:

- give a reasoned opinion on questions concerning corporate law
- make an informed judgment about how corporate law applies in different cases
- reflect on legal responsibilities of management of a organization
- understand the similarities and differences of company law and corporate governance in different jurisdictions

Inhoud vak

The course is organized around several subjects:

- Introduction and basics of company law
- Different approaches in company law
- Basics of European company law
- Corporate governance
- Shareholders
- Liability of (supervisory) directors
- Creditor and investor protection through financial reporting

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

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures, study groups

Toetsvorm

Written examination and an oral presentation, appropriate at an academic level. The grade for the written examination must be at least a 5.0.

Literatuur

To be announced.

Overige informatie

This course description relates to the English-language version of the course Corporate Law (E_ACC_CLIS). Please note that there is also a Dutch-language version (E_ACC_CL). International students should follow this version of the course Corporate Law.

The Dutch-taught version of Corporate law is mandatory for all Dutch-speaking full-time students and all part-time students from the MSc Programme Accounting and Control.

Please make sure you register for the right course!

Please contact Annelies Brink at jebrink@feweb.vu.nl if you have any questions.

Empirical Research in Accounting

Vakcode	E_ACC_ERA (60412000)
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, dr. E. Wiersma
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 (4 hours a week).

Discussion classes (2 hours a week).

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 Quantitative Research Methods III AM is required.

Enterprising Skills

Vakcode	E_ENT_ESK ()
Periode	Periode 5
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	dr. M.W. van Gelderen
Examinator	dr. M.W. van Gelderen
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep, Instructiecollege

Doel vak

Upon completion of this course, students have:

- acquired knowledge with regard to enterprising skills;

- gained insight into, and developed enterprising skills;
- developed coaching and mentoring skills.

Inhoud vak

This course allows students to study as well as practice the so-called soft skills underlying entrepreneurship, such as generating ideas for opportunities, taking action, perseverance, teamwork, networking, and influence. These skills are becoming ever more essential whether the student is an entrepreneur (by any definition), self-employed (or zzp'er), freelancer, contract worker, or as an employee. Students will study the research and theory with regard to these skills (or competencies), and then practice these skills in the context of their own life. Moreover, students will also develop coaching and mentoring skills which are also highly relevant to any work in the entrepreneurial context. Students not only develop their skills but also learn a skill acquisition method.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures and experiential learning

Toetsvorm

All (3) assignments are individual. Percentage: 40/30/30. All assignments need to be passed (no compensation).

Resit

A second chance is allowed for all 3 assignments. However, the mark that one can obtain for a revision is capped at 6. For second chance submissions of entirely new assignments, no grade cap applies.

Literatuur

Articles to be found at <http://www.enterprisingcompetencies.com> URL.
Geoff Colvin - Talent is Overrated (2010)
Additional literature to be announced.

Intekenprocedure

Please note that there is a capacity cap of 45 students

Overige informatie

This course is organised by the VU. For more information, please go to <http://www.feweb.vu.nl/en/students/study-guide/msc-entrepreneurship/programme/index.asp> URL.

Fieldwork Elective

Vakcode	E_ACC_FE ()
Periode	Periode 5
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	prof. dr. C. Camfferman RA
Examinator	prof. dr. C. Camfferman RA
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	400

Doel vak

In this course students will learn to analyze real-life issues in accounting and control arising in the setting of a specific business organization (problem solving skills) and to report the results of their analysis including recommendations to management (communication).

Inhoud vak

The course is built around one or more participating business organizations proposing issues for the students to consider. Issues may include any topics covered in this course, including financial reporting, management accounting and control, accounting information systems and corporate governance. Students work on an assigned problem in small teams, using a combination of site visits, interviews, literature review and data analysis. The course is concluded with a written report which must be orally presented to company representatives.

Onderwijsvorm

An introductory session, progress meetings and final presentation.

Toetsvorm

Grade for final report and presentation. Team grade adjusted for individual participation rated by staff and fellow-students.

Literatuur

No specific requirements. Students are expected to draw on materials from other courses and to search for other relevant literature.

Doelgroep

All students in MSc Accounting & Control. However, for practical reasons the course is limited to a maximum of 25 students. If more than this number apply, students will be admitted in descending rank order based on the sum of grades for all courses passed during the fall semester. To see whether selection will be necessary, expressions of interest in this course will be invited during period 2.

Financial Accounting Theory

Vakcode	E_ACC_FAT (60442010)
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	prof. dr. J.L. Wielhouwer
Examinator	prof. dr. J.L. Wielhouwer
Docent(en)	prof. dr. J.L. Wielhouwer
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkcollege
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

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. The course is based on academic papers covering a wide variety of topics in the area of economics of financial accounting.

Onderwijsvorm

Lectures; weblectures; discussion classes with paper presentations and assignments

Toetsvorm

Written exam with open questions (80%); presentations of papers (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 (complex) academic papers based on the mainstream empirical research methods in accounting. It is highly recommended that students have knowledge of empirical research at the level of Empirical Research in Accounting.

Doelgroep

Students specializing in financial accounting or auditing or those trying to get a broader understanding of the economic rationale for accounting and its applications by preparers and users of accounting information

Information Risk Management

Vakcode	E_ACC_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)	drs. J.B.T. Bergsma RA, drs. W. de Kater RA
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege, Werkgroep
Niveau	400

Doel vak

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of how internal controls have to be designed to realize reliable management information from a perspective of risk management.

Inhoud vak

The content of the course concerns an introduction of the management control systems, the internal control systems and management information of organizations, the Internal control framework of COSO, and the design of control activities in processes and taxonomies of organizations. Also some cases are added to the course by which students can practice in describing control activities of organizations.

Onderwijsvorm

The course consists of 6 tutorials in which the literature and the solutions of the cases will be explained.

Toetsvorm

At the end of the course there will be an examination. This will be a closed book examination. Student have to design control activities of organisation to realize reliable management information The case looks like the cases that have been made during the course and are explained in the tutorials.

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

Students are assumed to have a knowledge of accounting information systems equivalent to the SBE Bachelor course Accounting Information Systems (E_EBE3_ACIS).

Doelgroep

The course is relevant both for students who wish to continue in auditing and those who wish to pursue a career in controlling. Students who continue with the postgraduate education for certified auditor (RA) and who do not complete this course as part of the MSc Accounting & Control will be required to take the course as part of their postgraduate programme.

Management Control

Vakcode	E_ACC_MC (60442110)
Periode	Periode 4
Credits	6.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	prof. dr. H.C. Dekker
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 on Monday and Thursday.

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, Pearson, 4rd 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_ACC_THS ()
Periode	Ac. Jaar (september)
Credits	18.0
Voertaal	Engels
Faculteit	School of Business and Economics
Coördinator	dr. P.C.M. Claes
Examinator	dr. P.C.M. Claes
Lesmethode(n)	Hoorcollege
Niveau	500

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 for approval by a second reader. Allocation of supervisors is conditional on completing an approved research plan within a stated timeframe. Following approval 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 explaining thesis requirements in more detail.