



## Accounting & Control (MSc)

VU University Amsterdam - Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk. - M Accounting and Control - 2015-2016

The Master's programme in Accounting and Control provides advanced study of accounting and financial management. It deals with all aspects of generating, reporting and using financial data in organisations, thus offering the student a thorough grounding in the field of financial management ('controlling'), financial reporting and auditing. The subjects covered include the provision of financial information, financial planning, financial operations management, the drawing up of the annual financial report and auditing the annual accounts. The programme draws on materials from the practice of accounting and control as well as on relevant academic research to equip students to become knowledgeable professionals, able to reflect independently on what they observe in practice.

Read the [full description](#) of the programme or use the schedule below for information on the individual courses in the programme.

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## ABRI Honours Programme

### M Accounting and Control - Accy

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
<a href="#">Advanced Financial Reporting</a>	Period 1	6.0	E_ACC_AFR
<a href="#">Advanced Management Accounting</a>	Period 2	6.0	E_ACC_AMA
<a href="#">Audit Theory</a>	Period 2	6.0	E_ACC_AT
<a href="#">Control and Audit</a>	Period 5	6.0	E_ACC_CA
<a href="#">Corporate Governance, Risk Management and Control</a>	Period 5	6.0	E_ACC_CGRMC
<a href="#">Corporate Law</a>	Period 4	6.0	E_ACC_CL
<a href="#">Corporate Law Int Students 4.4</a>	Period 4	6.0	E_ACC_CLIS
<a href="#">Empirical Research in Accounting</a>	Period 1	6.0	E_ACC_ERA
<a href="#">Financial Accounting Theory</a>	Period 4	6.0	E_ACC_FAT
<a href="#">Thesis</a>	Ac. Year (September)	18.0	E_ACC_THS

### M Accounting and Control - Contr

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
<a href="#">Advanced Corporate Finance for Accounting en Control</a>	Period 2	6.0	E_ACC_ACFAC
<a href="#">Advanced Financial Reporting</a>	Period 1	6.0	E_ACC_AFR
<a href="#">Advanced Management Accounting</a>	Period 2	6.0	E_ACC_AMA
<a href="#">Corporate Governance, Risk Management and Control</a>	Period 5	6.0	E_ACC_CGRMC
<a href="#">Corporate Law</a>	Period 4	6.0	E_ACC_CL
<a href="#">Empirical Research in Accounting</a>	Period 1	6.0	E_ACC_ERA
<a href="#">Management Control</a>	Period 4	6.0	E_ACC_MC
<a href="#">Thesis</a>	Ac. Year (September)	18.0	E_ACC_THS

## M Accounting and Control - InfM

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
<a href="#">Advanced Financial Reporting</a>	Period 1	6.0	E_ACC_AFR
<a href="#">Advanced Management Accounting</a>	Period 2	6.0	E_ACC_AMA
<a href="#">Control and Audit</a>	Period 5	6.0	E_ACC_CA
<a href="#">Corporate Governance, Risk Management and Control</a>	Period 5	6.0	E_ACC_CGRMC
<a href="#">Corporate Law</a>	Period 4	6.0	E_ACC_CL
<a href="#">E-Business and Information Management</a>	Period 1	6.0	E_BA_EBIM
<a href="#">Empirical Research in Accounting</a>	Period 1	6.0	E_ACC_ERA
<a href="#">Financial Accounting Theory</a>	Period 4	6.0	E_ACC_FAT
<a href="#">Thesis</a>	Ac. Year (September)	18.0	E_ACC_THS

## M Accounting and Control - No spec

Courses:

Name	Period	Credits	Code
<a href="#">Advanced Financial Reporting</a>	Period 1	6.0	E_ACC_AFR
<a href="#">Advanced Management Accounting</a>	Period 2	6.0	E_ACC_AMA
<a href="#">Audit Theory</a>	Period 2	6.0	E_ACC_AT
<a href="#">Control and Audit</a>	Period 5	6.0	E_ACC_CA
<a href="#">Corporate Governance, Risk Management and Control</a>	Period 5	6.0	E_ACC_CGRMC
<a href="#">Corporate Law</a>	Period 4	6.0	E_ACC_CL
<a href="#">E-Business and Information Management</a>	Period 1	6.0	E_BA_EBIM
<a href="#">Empirical Research in Accounting</a>	Period 1	6.0	E_ACC_ERA
<a href="#">Enterprising Skills</a>	Period 5	6.0	E_ENT_ESK
<a href="#">Financial Accounting Theory</a>	Period 4	6.0	E_ACC_FAT
<a href="#">Management Control</a>	Period 4	6.0	E_ACC_MC
<a href="#">Thesis</a>	Ac. Year (September)	18.0	E_ACC_THS

## Advanced Corporate Finance for Accounting en Control

<b>Course code</b>	E_ACC_ACFAC ()
<b>Period</b>	Period 2
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	prof. dr. ir. H.A. Rijken
<b>Examinator</b>	prof. dr. ir. H.A. Rijken
<b>Teaching staff</b>	prof. dr. ir. H.A. Rijken
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture
<b>Level</b>	400

### Course objective

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.

### Course content

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).

### Form of tuition

Lectures, including discussion of case assignments

### Type of assessment

Written exam (80%) and case assignments (20%)

### Course reading

Custom book, in addition an access code to a pdf file is delivered. More details to be announced at the beginning of the course.

### Entry requirements

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

<b>Course code</b>	E_ACC_AFR (60412050)
<b>Period</b>	Period 1
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	prof. dr. C. Camfferman RA
<b>Examinator</b>	prof. dr. C. Camfferman RA
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture, Study Group
<b>Level</b>	400

### Course objective

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.

### **Course content**

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.

### **Form of tuition**

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

### **Type of assessment**

Written exam; optional assignments yielding a maximum of 5 bonus points (out of 100 for final grade)



## Course reading

IFRS International Financial Reporting Standards: Official Pronouncements issued at 1 January 2015, Part A (IFRS Foundation, 2015)

## Entry requirements

This course requires intermediate knowledge of financial accounting, including preparation of consolidated financial statements. In practice, knowledge of financial accounting equivalent to Financial Accounting 3.1. is required.

## Recommended background knowledge

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

<b>Course code</b>	E_ACC_AMA (60442020)
<b>Period</b>	Period 2
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	prof. dr. T.L.C.M. Groot
<b>Examinator</b>	prof. dr. T.L.C.M. Groot
<b>Teaching staff</b>	dr. E. Wiersma
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture
<b>Level</b>	400

## Course objective

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).

### Course content

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.

### Form of tuition

Lectures supported by slidecast lectures (slides and voiceover).

### Type of assessment

Written exam

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

### Course reading

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 Blackboard.

### Recommended background knowledge

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

## Audit Theory

<b>Course code</b>	E_ACC_AT (60442030)
<b>Period</b>	Period 2
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	prof. dr. A.H. Gold
<b>Examinator</b>	prof. dr. A.H. Gold
<b>Teaching staff</b>	prof. dr. P. Wallage
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture, Study Group
<b>Level</b>	400

### Course objective

The course provides an overview of auditing, with a clear emphasis on the conduct of the audit of financial statements (technical knowledge) and the application of such knowledge to hands-on cases (problem-solving skills). While specific knowledge of the exact application of auditing standards (e.g., ISA) is beyond the scope of this course, students are expected to obtain a general awareness and understanding of relevant institutions (institutional knowledge) and sources of regulations (compliance skills) in the context of auditing. Students will further obtain a basic understanding of theoretical foundations of the academic discipline of auditing by critically assessing academic research (critical skills) and applying relevant theories to the context of

auditing (conceptual reasoning). Finally, an important objective of this course is to obtain the ability of recognizing ethical dilemmas in the audit profession (reflection).

More specifically, on successful completion of this course, students should:

- have a thorough understanding of the economic role of financial statement audits;
- know about the main concepts of auditing and audit theories and be familiar with some key academic articles in this field;
- understand the professional (including ethical) and regulatory requirements that guide the conduct of audits;
- know the management assertions related to accounts, transactions and presentation and disclosure;
- be familiar with the main audit concepts, such as reasonable assurance and materiality;
- be able to describe how auditors acquire knowledge about the client's industry and business;
- be able to explain the types of audit evidence an auditor obtains to test management assertions;
- interpret the audit risk model and the relationship between the risk of material misstatements (consisting of inherent risk and control risk) and detection risk (i.e. the inverse of the extent of substantive testing);
- know which audit reports an auditor can issue, and what the criteria for each type of audit report are.

### **Course content**

Auditing involves the testing and evaluation of evidence against agreed norms or criteria. It has an important societal function because financial statement users (e.g., shareholders) and other stakeholders require some level of assurance on the qualitative aspects of information found in the financial statements, such as information reliability and relevance. For example, shareholders require primarily assurance about the reliability of financial statements, since they use these statements for their professional decision-making. Providers of debt financing, such as banks, need to know whether the presented liquidity ratios are accurate. Fiscal authorities are interested in the accuracy of costs as disclosed in fiscal reports.

The course will focus on the role of the auditor in society and what demands this role imposes on the auditor. We start by giving an introduction to the demand for auditing, relying on the theoretical foundations of the profession. This is followed by an examination of the audit profession's need for ethical behavior and professional skepticism. Next, the course follows the main stages of the audit process, starting with the planning stage of the audit, where the auditor obtains an understanding of the client and its business and designs the audit plan, while paying careful attention to the audit risk model. The next two audit stages discussed at a general level in this course include the performance of different kinds of audit procedures. Auditors can obtain various types of audit evidence to test management assertions. We then consider the conclusion of the audit process and the auditor's ultimate decision on which type of auditor's report to issue. The course concludes with a discussion of the auditor's role with respect to fraud and an overview of other assurance services. In addition, throughout the course, academic (research) articles will be read and discussed. In summary, the course focuses on what, why and how questions regarding (financial) auditing phenomena.

**Form of tuition**

Plenary lectures, web-lectures, smaller group tutorials (max. 30 students per group)

**Type of assessment**

Written final exam (open questions)  
Midterm exam (multiple choice)  
Individual or team assignment(s)

**Course reading**

- Hayes, R., H. Gortemaker & Wallage, Ph. (2014), Principles of Auditing, Harlow, United Kingdom: Pearson Education, 3rd Edition.  
- A selection of Academic Papers (available on Blackboard)  
- Specific Laws and Regulations (available on Blackboard)

**Entry requirements**

Basic understanding of financial accounting and accounting information systems

**Control and Audit**

<b>Course code</b>	E_ACC_CA (61452090)
<b>Period</b>	Period 5
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	drs. J.G.I. van den Belt RA
<b>Examinator</b>	drs. J.G.I. van den Belt RA
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture, Study Group
<b>Level</b>	400

**Course objective**

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.

### **Course content**

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.

### **Form of tuition**

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).

### **Type of assessment**

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 BlackBoard, 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.

### **Course reading**

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 BlackBoard.

### **Entry requirements**

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

### Recommended background knowledge

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.

### Remarks

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 Governance, Risk Management and Control

<b>Course code</b>	E_ACC_CGRMC (60452000)
<b>Period</b>	Period 5
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	dr. G. Budding
<b>Examinator</b>	dr. G. Budding
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture, Study Group
<b>Level</b>	400

### Course objective

This course aims to provide students with an understanding of how financial reporting processes are embedded in a wider context of corporate governance, internal control and risk management. Students learn to consider issues relating to financial reporting integrity at the intersection of regulations and codes (Institutional awareness), tools and concepts of information systems, risk management and control (Technical knowledge), and ethical issues (Reflection). Using a case-based approach, the course develops students' Problem-solving skills and Communication skills.

After following this course, students:

- Can explain the importance, meaning and inter-relations between Corporate Governance, Internal Control and Risk Management;

- Can discuss the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in a private or public organization;
- Know the content of the vital Corporate Governance codes and understand the substantial similarities and differences between various codes;
- Understand how risk management can be embedded into the internal control structure of the organization;
- Understand the importance of proper information systems in the implementation of an internal control system
- Understand the limitations of Corporate Governance codes with respect to ensuring "proper" management
- Can apply and combine the knowledge and understanding as outlined above to analyze and discuss issues related to financial reporting integrity in the context of complex case settings.

### Course content

Corporate governance is the process and structure used to direct and manage the business and affairs of the corporations with the objective of enhancing shareholder value, which includes ensuring the financial viability of the business.

Corporate governance covers a wide range of issues that are of interest to different disciplines including economics and law. In this course, we approach corporate governance from an accounting angle, because the integrity of financial reporting processes is a key aspect of corporate governance. In practice, corporate governance problems frequently come to light in the form of accounting scandals. In this course, we consider the causes and circumstances of such scandals, and we apply concepts from enterprise risk management and internal control to the financial reporting process to identify and understand potential governance issues and their resolution. We also consider issues relating to (un)ethical behavior in a corporate environment.

### Form of tuition

Plenary lectures and discussion classes based on cases, prepared by students in advance. Participation in the discussion classes is mandatory.

In addition, students will work in small groups on one large case, on which a written paper needs to be submitted before the end of the course, and which has to be presented by students.

### Type of assessment

Written closed-book exam  
Paper and presentation

### Course reading

To be announced.

## Corporate Law

<b>Course code</b>	E_ACC_CL (60422000)
<b>Period</b>	Period 4
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	Dutch
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	mr. J.E. Brink-van der Meer

<b>Examinator</b>	mr. J.E. Brink-van der Meer
<b>Teaching staff</b>	mr. J.E. Brink-van der Meer
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture, Study Group
<b>Level</b>	400

### **Course objective**

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 12 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

### **Course content**

The course is organized around 12 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

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.

### **Form of tuition**

Lectures, study group

### **Type of assessment**



Written examination and one assignment. The written exam accounts for 80 percent of the final mark and the assignment accounts for 20 percent of the final mark. The grade for the written examination must be at least a 5.0.

### Course reading

- 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 Blackboard, including but not limited to syllabus J.E. Brink- van der Meer

### Remarks

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 Int Students 4.4

<b>Course code</b>	E_ACC_CLIS ()
<b>Period</b>	Period 4
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	mr. J.E. Brink-van der Meer
<b>Examinator</b>	mr. J.E. Brink-van der Meer
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Study Group
<b>Level</b>	400

### Course objective

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 above

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 complex situations
- Reflect on legal responsibilities of organizations and its management

### Course content

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.

### Form of tuition

Lectures

### Type of assessment

Written examination and an oral presentation, appropriate at an academic level. The written exam accounts for 80 percent of the final mark and the presentation accounts for 20 percent of the final mark. The grade for the written examination must be at least a 5.0.

### Course reading

To be announced.

### Remarks

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

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).

Please make sure you register for the right course!

Please contact Annelies Brink at [jebrink@feweb.vu.nl](mailto:jebrink@feweb.vu.nl) if you have any questions.

## E-Business and Information Management

<b>Course code</b>	E_BA_EBIM (61412310)
<b>Period</b>	Period 1

<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	prof. dr. J.F.M. Feldberg
<b>Examinator</b>	prof. dr. J.F.M. Feldberg
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture, Study Group
<b>Level</b>	400

### Course objective

This course aims at getting students acquainted with the strategic issues concerning organizational information systems (IS) as well as fostering a critical academic attitude towards information systems related theories, topics and opinions. Central to this course is the development of an understanding of the roles information technology can play in achieving organizational objectives. Students that have successfully accomplished this course will:

- Have an academic attitude towards information systems theories and business issues.
- Have the appropriate knowledge to sensibly think about information systems in an organizational context.
- Be able to decide on the appropriate role(s) of information technology (IT) given the objectives of the organization
- Be able to identify the (break through) opportunities of information technology in realizing sustainable competitive advantage.
- Be able to participate in project teams that decide on the design, development, implementation, and use of information systems.
- Be able to apply scientific IS theories in an organizational context.
- Be able to write an academic paper on a selected IS topic.
- Have the appropriate knowledge and skills to self- reliantly deepen their knowledge on organizational information systems.

In order to fulfill these objectives a selected group of external organizations will be closely involved with this course. Theory will go hand in hand with practice.

### Course content

Although information technology plays an important role the primary focus of this course will not be on technology but instead be on the managerial issues associated with organizational information systems. Most of the course matter will be dealt with in context of the question: How can information systems contribute to the realization of sustainable competitive advantage? To answer this question this course will consider an organization's (actual) IS resources in context of the IT- driven developments and trends that can be observed on the internet (WEB 2. 0, Big data, Social Media etc.). Today's business managers must be able to address the implications of significant trends like digital social networking (e.g. Facebook, Instagram and Twitter), co- creation (e. g. wiki's and crowd sourcing), web enabled information and knowledge sharing (e. g. Blogs, Youtube and Flickr) and the emergence of virtual worlds (e. g. e.g. Active Worlds, World of Warcraft and Habbo Hotel) for their businesses and related IS solutions. Exemplary questions in this context are: how does online social networking influence our marketing information systems can we use wiki's to improve our product development do we have to be present in 3D virtual worlds, how can online social networks be integrated with our CRM systems, what are the implications of these trends for our ERP system? Point of departure for answering

these questions is a framework that distinguishes the roles information technology can play in the accomplishment of organizational objectives. The following roles are distinguished by this framework:

- automate (IT used to make the organization more efficient)
- informate (IT used to provide and distribute information and knowledge)
- transform (IT used as a vehicle for change)
- innovate (IT used to develop new IT- driven business models)

Besides an introduction of these four roles, and the alignment between strategic objectives and the use of information technology, this course will elaborate on the most important enterprise information systems (enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, customer relationship management (CRM) systems) and will also consider the information systems an organization needs to fulfill its role as a member of organizational networks (interorganizational information systems, supply chain management (SCM) systems, electronic market places). This course will also concentrate on issues that are associated with the successful use (technology acceptance) and implementation (critical success factors) of information systems as well as on information systems investment analysis and outsourcing. The use of information systems to improve decision making, to generate business intelligence (big data and data science) and to enhance knowledge management will also be dealt with.

**Form of tuition**

lecture  
Lectures, workshops, tutorials and individual feedback sessions.

**Type of assessment**

paper  
45 percent  
written interim examination  
55 percent

**Course reading**

Obligatory course literature will include papers (provided on Blackboard).

**Entry requirements**

Basic knowledge of information systems theory is assumed (bachelor).

## Empirical Research in Accounting

<b>Course code</b>	E_ACC_ERA (60412000)
<b>Period</b>	Period 1
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	dr. M. Schoute
<b>Examinator</b>	dr. M. Schoute
<b>Teaching staff</b>	dr. M. Schoute, dr. E. Wiersma
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture, Study Group

**Course objective**

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 yourself conduct empirical accounting research.

**Course content**

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.

**Form of tuition**

Lectures (4 hours a week).

Discussion classes (2 hours a week).

**Type of assessment**

Written exam (60% of the final grade).

Team assignment (40% of the final grade).

**Course reading**

Smith, M. 2015. Research Methods in Accounting (3rd Edition). London, UK: Sage.

A series of empirical accounting papers.

### Entry requirements

The course assumes basic background knowledge of business research methods and statistics. Knowledge of research methods equivalent to Methoden en Technieken BE 3.2. is required.

## Enterprising Skills

<b>Course code</b>	E_ENT_ESK ()
<b>Period</b>	Period 5
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	dr. M.W. van Gelderen
<b>Examinator</b>	dr. M.W. van Gelderen
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture

### Course objective

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.

### Course content

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 even 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. The level of analysis in this course is the individual: this course is not about enterprising firms but about enterprising people. Enterprising behaviour can be expressed in starting a new venture but also in a multitude of other endeavours. Still, while the unit of analysis in this course is the individual, the competencies that are studied and practiced are highly relevant in the case that someone starts or run her own venture.

### Form of tuition

Lectures and experiential learning

### Type of assessment

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.

### Course reading

Articles to be found at <http://www.enterprisingcompetencies.com> URL.

Additional literature to be announced.

### Remarks

This course is organised by the VU. For more information, please go to

[http://www.feweb.vu.nl/en/students/study-guide/msc-](http://www.feweb.vu.nl/en/students/study-guide/msc-entrepreneurship/programme/index.asp)

[entrepreneurship/programme/index.asp](http://www.feweb.vu.nl/en/students/study-guide/msc-entrepreneurship/programme/index.asp) URL.

## Financial Accounting Theory

<b>Course code</b>	E_ACC_FAT (60442010)
<b>Period</b>	Period 4
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	dr. R. Koenigsgruber
<b>Examinator</b>	dr. R. Koenigsgruber
<b>Teaching staff</b>	prof. dr. J.L. Wielhouwer
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture, Seminar
<b>Level</b>	400

### Course objective

This course aims to provide students with a broader perspective to think about the quality of financial accounting and reporting than just compliance with existing rules and standards. The aim is to make students acquainted with and aware of the mainstream economics-based concepts and approaches to accounting theory development and empirical research (Academic competencies). These concepts are discussed in relation with the audit profession and standard setting to understand and question the rationale for accounting standards and practices (Institutional awareness, Reflection).

After following this course, students will have the factual knowledge and understanding of theoretical concepts to:

- understand the role of accounting (more specifically financial reporting) in the economic environment, in particular in capital markets
- understand the economic interests of different stakeholders (preparers, users, auditors, regulators) in financial accounting information and to use these interests as a framework to analyze and evaluate existing or proposed practices and requirements, as well reasoning advanced in support of such practices and regulations
- interpret and evaluate the outcome of empirical research that aims to measure the impact, relevance and consequences of accounting information.

### Course content

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.

### Form of tuition

Lectures; weblectures; discussion classes based on assignments

### Type of assessment

Written exam with open questions; optional assignments yielding a maximum of 5 bonus points (out of 100 for final grade)

### Course reading

To be announced

### Recommended background knowledge

Knowledge of financial reporting equivalent to Advanced Financial Reporting 4.1 will be assumed as well as knowledge of basic methods of accounting research (as covered in Empirical Research in Accounting).

## Management Control

<b>Course code</b>	E_ACC_MC (60442110)
<b>Period</b>	Period 4
<b>Credits</b>	6.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	prof. dr. H.C. Dekker
<b>Examinator</b>	prof. dr. H.C. Dekker
<b>Teaching staff</b>	dr. P.C.M. Claes, prof. dr. H.C. Dekker
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture
<b>Level</b>	400

### Course objective

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.

### **Course content**

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.

### **Form of tuition**

Class in a group of ca. 30 students on Monday and Thursday.

### **Type of assessment**

- 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.

### **Course reading**

- Merchant, K.A. & Van der Stede, W.A. (2012). Management Control Systems: Performance Measurement, Evaluation and Incentives, Harlow, United Kingdom: Prentice Hall, 3rd Edition.
- Selected articles for review, presentation and discussion (to be announced in the course manual).

### **Recommended background knowledge**

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).

### **Remarks**

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

<b>Course code</b>	E_ACC_THS ()
<b>Period</b>	Ac. Year (September)
<b>Credits</b>	18.0
<b>Language of tuition</b>	English
<b>Faculty</b>	Fac. der Economische Wet. en Bedrijfsk.
<b>Coordinator</b>	dr. P.C.M. Claes
<b>Examinator</b>	dr. P.C.M. Claes
<b>Teaching method(s)</b>	Lecture
<b>Level</b>	500