

Note:

The following curriculum is a consolidated version. It is legally non-binding and for informational purposes only.

The legally binding versions are found in the University of Innsbruck Bulletins (in German).

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Consolidated version from 1 October 2018

Curriculum for the **Master Program in Accounting, Auditing and Taxation** at the University of Innsbruck Faculty of Business and Management

§ 1 Qualification profile and program objectives

- (1) The Master Program in Accounting, Auditing and Taxation forms part of the group of studies in the social and economic sciences.
- (2) The Master Program in Accounting, Auditing and Taxation aims at intensive career preparation in the social and economic sciences and qualifies students for careers which require the application of scientific knowledge and methods. As a scientific program, it essentially covers theories, methods and instruments of the social and economic sciences and, in particular, the fields of management accounting and control systems, company taxation, accounting and auditing. Findings from the field of gender research are also taken into consideration.
- (3) In addition to subject-specific competences, the Master Program in Accounting, Auditing and Taxation also promotes social skills.
- (4) The objective of the Master Program is for graduates to achieve advanced, scientifically sound theoretical and method-driven analytical skills, along with problem-solving competences applicable in science and practice. This combination of skills and competences should enable graduates
 - to deal with research questions independently, to reflect on scientific knowledge and apply it to new, especially research-relevant contexts, as well as to pursue PhD programs;
 - to handle pertinent responsibilities in their professional careers outside the university in a scientifically sound and practically relevant manner. Above and beyond the fields of management accounting and control systems, company taxation, as well as accounting and auditing, graduates of the Master Program are qualified to pursue careers in different occupational fields;
 - to reflect intensively on the ethical and social consequences and preconditions when applying their knowledge.

- (5) In particular, the Master Program in Accounting, Auditing and Taxation prepares students for
- careers in academic establishments and institutions and especially for pursuing a PhD program and/or
 - managerial, analytical, planning, auditing and consulting responsibilities in the areas of internal management and control systems, financial reporting and tax management in enterprises and other institutions, as well as tax and business consulting and auditing.

§ 2 Admission requirements

- (1) Admission to the Master Program in Accounting, Auditing and Taxation requires a thematically relevant bachelor program completed at a university or a university of applied science or other, equivalent studies completed at an acknowledged Austrian or non-Austrian post-secondary educational institution.
- (2) Thematically relevant studies include the Bachelor Program in Management and Economics completed at the University of Innsbruck. Based on the regulations for admission to master programs as defined by the University Act, the Rector's office decides whether other thematically relevant studies completed at an acknowledged Austrian or non-Austrian post-secondary educational institution can be accepted or considered equivalent.
- (3) In cases where only minor requirements are missing for full equivalency, the Rector's office may require applicants to take additional exams during the Master Program to have their degrees acknowledged as equivalent to the requirements stated above.
- (4) Additionally, the following qualitative admission requirements, which are related to knowledge in subjects on which the Master Program in Accounting, Auditing and Taxation is based, apply according to § 64.5 University Act:

Knowledge of accounting and the ability to solve problems in this area required for understanding the content of this curriculum. It is assumed that this knowledge has been attained, if a student has positively completed 15 ECTS credits in principles of financial and management accounting and a minimum of 15 ECTS credits from the areas of company taxation, controlling, management accounting, financial reporting or auditing.

§ 3 Workload and duration of the program

- (1) The Master Program in Accounting, Auditing and Taxation is the equivalent of 120 credits (ECTS); this corresponds to a program duration of four semesters.
- (2) The Program is organized in courses.

§ 4 Types of course units and number of participants

- (1) Course units without continuing performance assessment:
1. Lectures (VO) are held in the form of presentations and provide an introduction to the research topics, methods and theories of a subject area. The number of participants is not restricted.
 2. Work groups (AG) involve the joint consideration of theories, questions, methods and techniques of a subject area in the form of group work. The maximum number of participants is 20.
- (2) Course units with continuing performance assessment are:
1. Seminars (SE) offer the opportunity to focus intensively on scientific work through student presentations and discussions. The maximum number of participants is 30.

2. Project studies (PJ) promote scientific cooperation: two or more subject areas are combined by means of interdisciplinary questions and the application of diverse methods and techniques. The maximum number of participants is 20.
3. Lectures with practical elements (VU) focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. The maximum number of participants is 150

§ 5 Procedure for the admission to course units with a limited number of participants

In course units that have a maximum number of participants, places are allocated as follows:

1. Preference is given to students whose study time would be prolonged, if they did not obtain a place in the respective course unit.
2. If Point (1) does not suffice to regulate admission to a course unit, priority is given to students who have chosen it as part of a mandatory course over those who have chosen it as part of an elective course.
3. If the criteria according to Points (1) and (2) do not suffice to regulate admission to a course unit, a lottery system is used to allocate available course places.

§ 6 Overview of mandatory courses

The following mandatory courses amounting to 55 ECTS credits must be completed:

	Mandatory Course	SST	ECTS credits
1.	Research Methods	3	10
2.	Management Accounting	4	10
3.	Auditing	4	10
4.	Company Taxation	4	10
5.	Accounting	4	10
6.	Research Colloquium for Master Thesis	1	5

§ 7 Overview of elective courses

(1) One elective course must be completed from the following specialist courses:

	Elective Course	SST	ECTS credits
1	Management Control across Industries	4	10
2	Auditing according to International Standards on Auditing and Assurance Services	4	10
3	Tax Planning	4	10

(2) One elective course from the following list must be completed:

	Elective Course	SST	ECTS credits
1	Understanding and Designing Management Control Systems	4	10
2	Financial Reporting and Auditing	4	10
3	Special Topics in Taxation	4	10
4	Special Topics in International Accounting	4	10
5	Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting	4	10
6	Current Topics in Management Control	4	10
7	Case Studies in Management Control	4	10

- (3) One additional course with 10 ECTS must be chosen from the courses listed in § 7 (1) and § 7 (2) that have not been completed yet.
- (4) Elective courses from the following list amounting to 10 ECTS credits must be completed:

	Elective Course	SST	ECTS credits
1	One course from the courses referred to in § 7 (1) which has not been completed up to this point.	4	10
2	One course from the courses referred to in § 7 (2) which has not been completed up to this point.	4	10
3	Corporate Valuation	2	5
4	Information Economics	2	5
5	Applied Risk Management	2	5
6	Current Topics in Banking and Finance	2	5
7	Financial Regulation	2	5
8	Applied Behavioral Finance	2	5
9	Current Topics of Information Systems, especially the Digital Society	4	10
10	Ethics in Organizations	4	10
11	Art, Culture, and Expert Organizations	4	10
12	Gender, Work, and Organization	4	10
13	Management of Employment Relationships: Current Topics	4	10
14	Current Issues in Theory and Practice of Organizations	4	10
15	Organizational Communication and Governance	4	10
16	Entrepreneurship	4	10
17	Marketing Performance Management	4	10
18	Current Topics in Strategy & Marketing	4	10
19	Creativity & Change Management	4	10
20	Human Relations Management (I): Intercultural Human Resource Development	3	5
21	Human Relations Management (II): Employment-oriented Counseling	3	5
22	Courses for individual specialization		max. 10

§ 8 Description of mandatory and elective courses

- (1) Mandatory courses referred to in § 6:

1	Mandatory Course: Research Methods	SST	ECTS credits
a	VO Research Methods Overview of central research approaches and methods in accounting research	2	7
b	SE Research Methods Discussion of selected subject matter topics covered by the lecture	1	3
	Total	3	10
	Learning objectives: Basic knowledge of central research approaches and research methods in the subject area of the master program.		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of both the seminar of the mandatory course referred to in § 6 (5) and an elective course referred to in § 7 (1)		

2	Mandatory Course: Management Accounting	SST	ECTS credits
a	VO Management Accounting An overview of the most important concepts and instruments of management accounting	2	5
b	SE Management Accounting Detailed discussion of selected concepts and instruments of management accounting	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: An overview of the most important concepts and instruments of management accounting		
	Admission requirements: none		

3	Mandatory Course: Auditing	SST	ECTS credits
a	VO Audit Process and Reporting Responsibilities and objectives of an audit, audit evidence, audit planning and analytical auditing procedures, materiality and audit risks, internal control system, auditor's report	2	5
b	SE Audit Process Application of auditing process to selected areas of an audit (e.g. turnover/receipt of payment process)	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: A sound basic knowledge of auditing financial statements		
	Admission requirements: none		

4	Mandatory Course: Company Taxation	SST	ECTS credits
a	VO Company Taxation Company taxation, periodic and non-periodic taxation of companies, company tax planning	2	5
b	SE Company Taxation Company taxation, periodic and non-periodic taxation of companies, company tax planning	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: A sound basic knowledge of company taxation		
	Admission requirements: none		

5	Mandatory Course: Accounting	SST	ECTS credits
a	VO International Accounting An overview of the institutional framework and central concepts of International Financial Reporting Standards	2	5
b	SE International Accounting Detailed discussion of the institutional framework and application of central concepts of International Financial Reporting Standards	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: A sound basic knowledge of accounting		
	Admission requirements: none		

6	Mandatory Course: Research Colloquium for Master Thesis	SST	ECTS credits
	AG Research Colloquium for Master Thesis The research colloquium offers support to students while they are working on their master theses. The thesis is presented, and special aspects are discussed in detail with a focus on theoretical questions along with research methods.	1	5
	Total	1	5
	Learning objectives: Having completed the research colloquium, students are able to create the concept of a scientific study, to write it, and to present research results in different contexts.		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of the mandatory course seminar referred to in § 6 No. 1		

(2) Elective courses referred to in § 7 (1):

1	Elective Course: Management Control across Industries	SST	ECTS credits
a	VO Management Control across Industries An overview of central controlling questions and challenges in different industries and organizational contexts	2	5
b	SE Management Control across Industries Intensive discussion of central controlling questions and challenges in different industries and organizational contexts	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: An overview of central controlling questions and challenges in different industries and organizational contexts		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of compulsory module § 6 No. 2		

2	Elective Course: Auditing according to International Standards on Auditing and Assurance Services	SST	ECTS credits
a	VO Introduction to International Standards on Auditing Professional ethics for auditors, standards for assurance services, selected International Standards on Auditing	2	5
b	SE Application of International Standards on Auditing Application of professional ethics and auditing standards when auditing national and international financial statements	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: A detailed knowledge of the area of national and international auditing processes		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of compulsory module § 6 No. 3		

3	Elective Course: Tax Planning	SST	ECTS credits
a	VO Tax Planning Intensive work on and analysis of specific questions concerning tax planning	2	5
b	SE Tax Planning Intensive work on and analysis of specific questions concerning tax planning and tax effects in companies	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: Understanding, reflecting on and solving practical and theoretical problems concerning tax planning and tax effects in companies		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of compulsory module § 6 No. 4		

(3) Elective courses referred to in § 7 (2):

1	Elective Course: Understanding and Designing Controlling Practice	SST	ECTS credits
a	VO Understanding and Designing Management Intensive analysis of selected aspects of controlling practice and the design of management control systems	1	3
b	SE Understanding and Designing Management Detailed consideration of selected aspects of controlling practice and the design of management control systems	3	7
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: An advanced knowledge of selected aspects of controlling practice and the ability to design management control systems		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of the elective course referred to in § 7 (1) No. 1 and the mandatory course seminar referred to in § 6 No. 5		

2	Elective Course: Financial Reporting and Auditing	SST	ECTS credits
	PJ Financial Reporting and Auditing Work on specific aspects of financial reporting and auditing (including aspects of company valuation, due diligence, analysis of financial statements, consolidated financial statements and corporate governance)	4	10
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: Reflection on practical and theoretical auditing and financial reporting topics in an international context		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of the elective course referred to in § 7 (1) No. 2 and the mandatory course seminar referred to in § 6 No. 5		

3	Elective Course: Special Topics in Taxation	SST	ECTS credits
a	VO Special Topics in Taxation Detailed reflection on selected topics in taxation	2	5
b	SE Special Topics in Taxation Intensive work on selected topics in taxation	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: An intensive knowledge of taxation		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of the elective course referred to in § 7 (1) No. 3 and the mandatory course seminar referred to in § 6 No. 5		

4	Elective Course: Special Topics in International Accounting	SST	ECTS credits
a	VO Special Topics in International Accounting Detailed consideration of selected financial reporting aspects	2	5
b	SE Special Topics in International Accounting Intensive consideration of selected financial reporting aspects	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: An intensive knowledge of selected financial reporting aspects		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of the mandatory course seminar referred to in § 6 No. 5		

5	Elective Course: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting	SST	ECTS credits
a	VU Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting A systematic overview and interdisciplinary perspective of how accounting is embedded in its institutional and societal contexts	2	5
b	SE Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting Intensive consideration of selected aspects of how accounting is embedded in its institutional and societal contexts – from an interdisciplinary perspective	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: Intensive knowledge of how accounting is embedded in its institutional and societal contexts; reflection on the relationship between accounting, organization and society		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of the seminars within the mandatory courses referred to in § 6 No. 2 to 4		

6	Elective Course: Current Topics in Management Control	SST	ECTS credits
a	VO Current Topics in Management Control A systematic overview of selected current topics in management control	2	5
b	SE Current Topics in Management Control Detailed consideration of selected aspects of current topics in the area of management control covered in the lecture	2	5
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: Intensive work on selected special topics and current issues in the area of management controlling		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of compulsory module § 6 No. 2		

7	Elective Course: Case Studies in Management Control	SST	ECTS credits
a	VO Case Studies in Management Control Work on case studies in management control; structured problem-solving; presentation techniques	1	3
b	SE Case Studies in Management Control Work on case studies in management control; structured problem-solving; presentation techniques	3	7
	Total	4	10
	Learning objectives: The ability to take a structured approach to solving specific management control problems and to present solutions effectively		
	Admission requirements: positive completion of compulsory module § 6 No. 2		

(4) Elective courses referred to in § 7 (4) (No. 3 to 21):

1. The following elective courses can be chosen from the Master Program in Banking and Finance (University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 4 May 2007, Issue 53, No. 227, in its applicable version):

- a) Corporate Valuation
- b) Information Economics
- c) Applied Risk Management
- d) Current Topics in Banking and Finance
- e) Financial Regulation
- f) Applied Behavioral Finance

Admission requirements for the course units: none

2. The following elective course can be chosen from the Master Program in Information Systems (University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 19 February 2008, Issue 22, No. 189, in its applicable version):

Current Topics of Information Systems, especially the Digital Society

Admission requirements for the course units: none

3. The following elective courses can be chosen from the Master Program in Organization Studies (University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 19 April 2007, Issue 24, No. 187, in its applicable version):

- a) Ethics in Organizations
- b) Art, Culture, and Expert Organizations
- c) Gender, Work, and Organization
- d) Management of Employment Relationships: Current Topics
- e) Current Issues in Theory and Practice of Organizations
- f) Organizational Communication and Governance

Admission requirements for the course units: none

4. The following elective courses can be chosen from the Master Program in Strategic Management (University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 19 April 2007, Issue 25, No. 188, in its applicable version):

- a) Entrepreneurship
- b) Marketing Performance Management
- c) Current Topics in Strategy & Marketing
- d) Creativity & Change Management

Admission requirements for the course units: none

5. The following elective courses can be chosen from the Master Program in Business Education (University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 10 March 2007, Issue 15, No. 143, in its applicable version):

- a) Human Relations Management (I): Intercultural Human Resource Development
- b) Human Relations Management (II): Employment-oriented Counseling

Admission requirements for the course units: none

- (5) Elective course/s referred to in § 7 (4) No. 22:

For individual specialization, courses with a maximum number of 10 ECTS credits can be chosen freely from all curricula of master programs offered at the University of Innsbruck according to § 54.1 University Act. Admission requirements apply as defined in the respective curricula.

§ 9 Master Thesis

- (1) In the Master Program in Accounting, Auditing and Taxation, a master thesis must be written. The topic of the thesis must be chosen from the subjects covered by the mandatory courses referred to in § 6 No. 1 to 5 or by the elective courses referred to in § 7 (1) and (2).
- (2) The master thesis is a scientific piece of work.
- (3) When creating the master thesis, students must demonstrate that they are able to apply the theoretical and methodical instruments of the subject area to a particular research question and to reflect on them independently and in a limited period of time.
- (4) Students have the right to propose the topic of the master thesis or to choose it from a number of proposals.
- (5) The master thesis is equivalent to a work load of 25 ECTS credits.
- (6) The topic and the supervisor of the master thesis may only be submitted on positive completion of the mandatory course seminar referred to in § 6 No. 1.
- (7) The completed master thesis must be submitted to the Dean of Studies in printed form and in an electronic form defined by the Dean of Studies.
- (8) It is permissible for several students to work jointly on one single master thesis topic, on the condition that each individual student's contribution is identified distinctly and can be assessed separately.

§ 10 Examination regulations

- (1) Course performance is evaluated by one the following methods:
 1. In courses consisting of a lecture and a course unit with continuing performance assessment, the final grade comprises the grade of the course unit with continuing performance assessment and the grade of an overall exam that covers the course content of both course units. Admission to the overall exam requires a positive grade in the course unit with continuing performance assessment.
 2. In courses consisting exclusively of one or more course unit/s with continuing performance assessment, the final grade is determined by the grades of this/these course unit/s.
 3. The final grade of a course consisting exclusively of a course unit without continuing performance assessment is determined by means of an exam in the course unit.
- (2) The examination method (written / oral / exam paper/s) for course units with continuing performance assessment, with the exception of the project study referred to in § 7 (2) No. 2, is determined by the instructor of the course unit at the beginning of the course unit.
- (3) The examination method (written / oral / exam paper/s) for course units with a single exam at the end of the course unit is determined by the instructor of the course unit at the beginning of the course unit.
- (4) The project study (PJ) referred to in § 7 (2) No. 2 requires both a written exam paper (project work) and a written exam. The final grade is determined as follows: the grade of the project work determines 60% and the written exam 40% of the overall grade.

- (5) Overall course exams cover the entire content of the course; the exams are administered by individual examiners. The overall exam is a written exam (maximum length: 90 minutes).
- (6) Performance evaluation in courses from other master programs referred to in § 7 (3) No. 3 to 22 is regulated by the curricula of the respective programs.

§ 11 Academic Degree

Graduates of the Master Program in Accounting, Auditing and Taxation are awarded the academic degree of "Master of Science", or "MSc", in brief.

§ 12 Implementation

- (1) This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2008.
- (2) Changes of the curriculum according to the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 2 June 2014, Issue 23, No. 391 come into force on 1 October 2014 and apply to all students.
- (3) Changes of the curriculum according to the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 15 February 2018, Issue 14, No. 201 come into force on 1 October 2018 and apply to all students.

§ 13 Interim regulations

- (1) Elective courses completed positively according to the curriculum as published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 4 May 2007, Issue 51, No. 225, are accredited as elective courses of the curriculum published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 2 June 2014, Issue 23, No. 391.
- (2) A list of equivalent courses will be published separately.

Equivalence list – Master Program in Accounting, Auditing and Taxation

Notice according to § 35 Para 1 of the "Regulations of Study Law", republished in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin in the version of 3 February 2006, Issue 16, No. 90:

- (1) Positively assessed exams, taken as part of the **Master Program in Accounting, Auditing and Taxation** at the University of Innsbruck (curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 4 May 2007, Issue 51, No. 225) will be recognized as equal towards the exams of the curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 2 June 2014, Issue 23, No. 391 as follows:

Curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 4 May 2007, Issue 51, No. 225		Curriculum published in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 2 June 2014, Issue 23, No. 391	
For already successfully completed compulsory courses or successfully completed course units, the following applies:			
§9(2)1b	SE Enterprise Resource Planning Systems (ERP Systems) (2 h/5 ECTS credits)	§8(1)2b	SE Management Accounting (2 h/5 ECTS credits)
§ 7 (2) No. 5 or §9 (2) 5	CM* The Social and Organizational Context of Accounting (4 h/10 ECTS credits)	§ 7 (2) No. 5 or §8(3)5	EM** Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting (4 h/10 ECTS credits)
	or: SE Reading Course in Accounting Theory (2 h/5 ECTS credits)		or: SE Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting (3 h/7 ECTS credits)
Already successfully completed elective courses		remain valid	
Individual, successfully completed course units of elective courses		§9(5)	Elective course for individual focus in the corresponding amount

- (2) Individual cases where the above does not apply will be decided so that no disadvantage shall arise for the student due to the modification.

*Compulsory course

** Elective course