

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 2019

Curriculum for the

Master's Programme Accounting, Auditing and Taxation

at the University of Innsbruck Faculty of Business and Management

§ 1 Qualification profile and programme objectives

- (1) The Master's Programme Accounting, Auditing and Taxation forms part of the group of studies in the social and economic sciences.
- (2) The Masters Programme 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 programme, 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's Programme Accounting, Auditing and Taxation also promotes social skills.
- (4) The objective of the Master's Programme 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 programmes;
 - 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's Programme 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's Programme Accounting, Auditing and Taxation prepares students for
 - careers in academic establishments and institutions and especially for pursuing a PhD programme 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's Programme Accounting, Auditing and Taxation requires a thematically relevant bachelor programme 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's Programme Management and Economics completed at the University of Innsbruck. Based on the regulations for admission to master programmes 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's Programme 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's Programme Accounting, Auditing and Taxation is based:

It is assumed that this knowledge has been attained, if a student has positively completed 15 ECTS-Credits in the areas of basic principles of management accounting and financial reporting as well as the areas of business taxation, controlling, management accounting, financial accounting or auditing.

§ 3 Workload and duration of the programme

- (1) The Master's Programme Accounting, Auditing and Taxation is the equivalent of 120 credits (ECTS); this corresponds to a programme duration of four semesters.
- (2) The Programme is organised in modules.

§ 4 Types of courses and maximum number of students per course

- (1) Courses 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) Courses 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 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

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

1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
2. If the criterion in No. 1 does not suffice, first, students who pass this course as part of a compulsory module come first, then students that pass the course as part of an elective module.
3. If the criteria in No. 1 and No. 2 do not suffice, according to Points (1) and (2) do not suffice to regulate admission to a course, then the places are raffled.

§ 6 Overview of compulsory modules

The following compulsory modules covering altogether 60 ECTS-Credits must be passed.

	Compulsory Module	h	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 the Master's Thesis	1	2.5
7.	Preparation of the Master's Thesis	0	7.5

§ 7 Overview of elective modules

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

	Elective Module	h	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 module from the following list must be completed:

	Elective Module	h	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 module with 10 ECTS must be chosen from the modules listed in § 7 (1) and § 7 (2) that have not been completed yet.

- (4) Elective modules from the following list amounting to 10 ECTS credits must be completed:

	Elective Module	h	ECTS credits
1	One module from the modules referred to in § 7 (1) which has not been completed up to this point.	4	10
2	One module from the modules 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 compulsory and elective modules

(1) Compulsory modules referred to in § 6:

1	Compulsory Module: Research Methods	h	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 Outcomes: Basic knowledge of central research approaches and research methods in the subject area of the master programme.		
	Prerequisites: 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	Compulsory Module: Management Accounting	h	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 Outcomes: An overview of the most important concepts and instruments of management accounting		
	Prerequisites: none		

3	Compulsory Module: Auditing	h	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 Outcomes: A sound basic knowledge of auditing financial statements		
	Prerequisites: none		

4	Compulsory Module: Company Taxation	h	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 Outcomes: A sound basic knowledge of company taxation		
	Prerequisites: none		

5	Compulsory Module: Accounting	h	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 Outcomes: A sound basic knowledge of accounting		
	Prerequisites: none		

6	Compulsory Module: Research Colloquium for Master's Thesis	h	ECTS credits
	AG Research Colloquium for Master's 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	2.5
	Total	1	2.5
	Learning Outcomes: 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.		
	Prerequisites: positive completion of the compulsory module seminar referred to in § 6 No. 1		

7	Compulsory Module: Preparation of the Master's Thesis	h	ECTS credits
	Agreement on the topic, the scope and the form of the Master's Thesis on the basis of a brief summary of the contents (abstract) as well as agreement on the work processes and the study progress. Planning of an appropriate time frame for the completion of the Master's Thesis.	-	7.5
	Total	-	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: After successful completion of this module, the students will be able to write a brief summary of the content of the planned Master's Thesis (abstract), to outline an anticipated schedule and to conclude a written Master's Thesis agreement.		
	Prerequisites: none		

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

1	Elective Module: Management Control across Industries	h	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 Outcomes: An overview of central controlling questions and challenges in different industries and organizational contexts		
	Prerequisites: positive completion of compulsory module § 6 No. 2		

2	Elective Module: Auditing according to International Standards on Auditing and Assurance Services	h	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 Outcomes: A detailed knowledge of the area of national and international auditing processes		
	Prerequisites: positive completion of compulsory module § 6 No. 3		

3	Elective Module: Tax Planning	h	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 Outcomes: Understanding, reflecting on and solving practical and theoretical problems concerning tax planning and tax effects in companies		
	Prerequisites: positive completion of compulsory module § 6 No. 4		

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

1	Elective Module: Understanding and Designing Controlling Practice	h	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 Outcomes: An advanced knowledge of selected aspects of controlling practice and the ability to design management control systems		
	Prerequisites: positive completion of the elective module referred to in § 7 (1) No. 1 and the compulsory module seminar referred to in § 6 No. 5		

2	Elective Module: Financial Reporting and Auditing	h	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 Outcomes: Reflection on practical and theoretical auditing and financial reporting topics in an international context		
	Prerequisites: positive completion of the elective module referred to in § 7 (1) No. 2 and the compulsory module seminar referred to in § 6 No. 5		

3	Elective Module: Special Topics in Taxation	h	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 Outcomes: An intensive knowledge of taxation		
	Prerequisites: positive completion of the elective module referred to in § 7 (1) No. 3 and the compulsory module seminar referred to in § 6 No. 5		

4	Elective Module: Special Topics in International Accounting	h	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 Outcomes: An intensive knowledge of selected financial reporting aspects		
	Prerequisites: positive completion of the compulsory module seminar referred to in § 6 No. 5		

5	Elective Module: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Accounting	h	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 Outcomes: Intensive knowledge of how accounting is embedded in its institutional and societal contexts; reflection on the relationship between accounting, organization and society		
	Prerequisites: positive completion of the seminars within the compulsory modules referred to in § 6 No. 2 to 4		

6	Elective Module: Current Topics in Management Control	h	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 Outcomes: Intensive work on selected special topics and current issues in the area of management controlling		
	Prerequisites: positive completion of compulsory module § 6 No. 2		

7	Elective Module: Case Studies in Management Control	h	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 Outcomes: The ability to take a structured approach to solving specific management control problems and to present solutions effectively		
	Prerequisites: positive completion of compulsory module § 6 No. 2		

- (4) Elective Modules referred to in § 7 (4) (No. 3 to 21):
1. The following elective modules can be chosen from the Master's Programme 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 modules: none
 2. The following elective module can be chosen from the Master's Programme 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 modules: none
 3. The following elective modules can be chosen from the Master's Programme 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 modules: none
 4. The following elective modules can be chosen from the Master's Programme 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 modules: none
 5. The following elective modules can be chosen from the Master's Programme 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 modules: none
- (5) Elective module/s referred to in § 7 (4) No. 22:
- For individual specialisation, courses with a maximum number of 10 ECTS credits can be chosen freely from all curricula of master programmes offered at the University of Innsbruck according to § 54 (1) University Act. Admission requirements apply as defined in the respective curricula.

§ 9 Master's Thesis

- (1) In the Master's Programme Accounting, Auditing and Taxation, a master thesis must be written. The topic of the thesis must be chosen from the subjects covered by the compulsory modules referred to in § 6 No. 1 to 5 or by the elective modules referred to in § 7 (1) and (2).
- (2) The Master's 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's Thesis corresponds to a workload of 20 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 programmes referred to in § 7 (3) No. 3 to 22 is regulated by the curricula of the respective programs.
- (7) The compulsory module acc. to §6 no. 7 is evaluated by the supervisor of the Master's Thesis based on an abstract. Positive evaluation reads "participated with success", negative evaluation "participated without success".

§ 11 Academic Degree

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

§ 12 Coming into force

- (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.
- (4) The changes of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 13 February 2019, Issue 15, No. 264 come into effect on 1 October 2019.
- (5) The changes of the curriculum acc. to the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 28 June 2019, Issue 65, No. 568 come into effect on 1 October 2019 and are to be applied to all students.

§ 13 Interim regulations

- (1) Elective modules 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 modules 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’s Programme 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’s Programme 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 recognised 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 modules 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 module		remain valid	
Individual, successfully completed module units of elective module		§9(5)	Elective module 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 module

** Elective module