

Studiegids

BSc Bedrijfskunde

BSc Economie & Bedrijfseconomie

BSc Econometrie en Operationele Research

BSc International Business Administration

MSc Accounting and Control

MSc Business Administration

MSc Business Administration: Financial Markets and Regulation

MSc Business in Society (Joint Research Master's programme)

MSc Econometrics and Operations Research

MSc Economics

MSc Entrepreneurship (Joint degree Master's programme)

MSc Finance

MSc Marketing

MSc Spatial, Transport and Environmental Economics

Parttime MSc Accounting & Control

Parttime MSc Business Administration

Parttime MSc Marketing

Premaster Accounting and Control

Premaster Business Administration

Premaster Entrepreneurship

Premaster Finance

Premaster Marketing

Vakbeschrijvingen

Accounting & Control - MSc (parttime)



De parttime opleiding Master Accounting & Control richt zich op studenten met een HBO- of BSc-vooropleiding die studie en werk combineren.

Afhankelijk van je vooropleiding is een premaster Accounting & Control noodzakelijk (schakeltraject instroom Master A&C).

Bekijk [de studiegids](#) (pdf) van de parttime opleiding Master Accounting & Control.

M Accounting and Control (deeltijd)

Course name	Code
PTM Accounting and Control - Accountancy	E_PT_ACC_ACC
PTM Accounting and Control - Controlling	E_PT_ACC_CON
PTM Accounting and Control - No spec	E_PT_ACC_NOS

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Faculty of Economics and Business Administration

MSc ACCOUNTING & CONTROL

Study Guide 2015-2016
Part-time programme

Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Learning outcomes.....	3
3.	Programme	4
3.1.	Electives	5
3.2.	Exemptions.....	5
3.3.	Busy season	5
3.4.	Specializations.....	6
4.	Teaching and assessment.....	6
4.1.	general.....	6
4.2.	Assessment	7
4.3.	Enrolment for courses and exams.....	7
4.4.	Language of instruction	7
5.	Thesis.....	8

1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

The following information is considered to be part of this study guide:

- Course descriptions, which can be found at <http://www.feweb.vu.nl/nl/studenten/studiegids/parttime-msc-accounting/index.asp>
- The applicable FEWEB Academic and Examination Regulations, which can be found in VUnet.

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

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master's programme in Accounting and Control has formulated the following learning outcomes:

1. **Technical proficiency:** Students are prepared, in terms of technical knowledge of accounting and control, to function effectively in their post-education professional environment, and to successfully participate in programmes for further professional training and specialization, in particular those for certified auditors and controllers. Technical proficiency consists of:
 - o **1a Technical knowledge:** Students know and understand commonly applied techniques and concepts for presenting, verifying and analysing financial information and related non-financial information, at a level building on first-cycle programmes.
 - o **1b Problem-solving skills:** Students are able to apply their knowledge to complex problems.
2. **Institutional awareness:** Students are aware of the significant role of institutions, in particular the legal and regulatory context, of accounting and control. Institutional awareness consists of:
 - o **2a Institutional knowledge:** students know the relevant institutions and sources of regulation, and have learned how to stay abreast of evolving law, standards, codes and best practice statements in areas such as financial reporting, auditing, and corporate governance.
 - o **2b Compliance skills:** Students can make informed judgments about how relevant regulations apply in complex situations.
3. **Academic competencies:** Students have the ability to consider specific phenomena in accounting and control (technical and/or institutional) in the light of the evolving body of relevant theory and research findings. Academic competencies consist of:
 - o **3a. Critical skills:** the ability to search, identify and read academic research that bears

- on a given issue in the domain of accounting and control, and to evaluate the research both in terms of execution and in terms of its contribution to the issue at hand.
- **3b. Conceptual reasoning:** the ability to frame accounting and control issues in terms of broader concepts and more general theoretical frameworks, to develop research questions using such broader concepts and to position these questions in the context of the existing literature
 - **3c. Technical research skills:** the ability to carry out a research project using appropriate methods for data gathering and analysis.
- 4. Communication skills:** Students have general skills in oral and written presentation appropriate at an academic level.
- 5. Reflection:** Students are able to reflect on their own responsibility, as well as that of organizations they may work for, in applying professional knowledge or academic skills. This includes knowledge of formal responsibilities for accounting and control practices as embedded in laws and regulations and an awareness of different conceptions of social responsibility. It also includes an ability to recognize ethical issues underlying practices and standards and ethical implications or assumptions of theoretical concepts and frameworks.

3. PROGRAMME

The following table lists the mandatory components of the programme and the main electives by the periods during which they are taught. The table should be read in conjunction with the information below.

Period 1 (Sept-Oct)	Empirical Research in Accounting Advanced Financial Reporting <i>Elective: E-Business and Information Management</i>	6 EC 6 EC 6 EC
Period 2 (Nov-Dec)	Advanced Management Accounting <i>Elective: Audit Theory</i> <i>Elective: Advanced Corporate Finance for Accounting & Control</i>	6 EC 6 EC 6 EC
Period 3 (January)	No classes	
Period 4 (Feb.-Mar)	Corporate Law <i>Elective: Financial Accounting Theory</i> <i>Elective: Management Control</i>	6 EC 6 EC 6 EC
Period 5 (Apr-May)	Corporate Governance, Risk Management and Control Busy Season: Financial Accounting Theory Busy Season: Corporate Law <i>Elective: Control & Audit</i>	6 EC 6 EC 6 EC 6 EC
Period 6 (June)	No classes	
Throughout the year	Thesis	18 EC

The academic year is divided into six teaching periods: four periods of eight weeks and two periods of four weeks. Classes are taught during the four eight-week periods. The two four week periods can be used for the thesis.

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

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

3.1. ELECTIVES

The programme consists of five mandatory courses, a minimum of two electives, and a thesis. Students can choose any two out of the six electives shown. However:

- the elective *E-Business and Information Management* is offered under the condition that its scheduling is oriented to fulltime students, which may therefore not be suitable for parttime students.
- the elective *Advanced Corporate Finance for Accounting & Control* assumes prior knowledge which goes beyond the admission criteria for the MSc Accounting & Control. This course requires at least intermediate knowledge of Corporate Finance. Completion of the third-year course Corporate Finance (BSc Economics and Business Economics), or its equivalent in other programmes, is a prerequisite for attending the Corporate Finance elective in the MSc programme.

Certain combinations of these six regular electives are considered as 'specializations' which will be separately mentioned on the diploma (see below). However, students are not required to choose such a combination in order to complete the MSc programme.

Students can choose their electives from among the courses offered in other master programmes taught in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration. This requires prior approval by the Examination Board which will normally be granted for courses at master level not overlapping with other courses in the programme. Similarly, with prior approval by the Examination Board, it is possible to choose master courses taught in other Faculties of VU University. However, all electives from other master's programmes are offered under the condition that their scheduling may not be suitable for parttime students.

3.2. EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions to take specific courses may be granted by the Examination Board under conditions specified in the applicable Academic and Examination Regulations. No exemption will be granted for the thesis, and the maximum number of courses for which an exemption may be granted is two.

3.3. BUSY SEASON

For students working in the audit profession, the scheduling offers the possibility to work fulltime during the months of January through March. For that purposes, the courses offered in period 4 that are relevant to the specialization Accountancy (Financial Accounting Theory and Corporate Law) are offered again in period 5. The general condition that students are restricted to two exam opportunities per course per

academic year continues to apply.

3.4. SPECIALIZATIONS

As indicated above, certain combinations of electives will be recognized as 'specializations'. These will be recorded on the diploma. Studies qualify simply by successfully completing the appropriate electives, i.e. there is no need to register the specialization in advance.

The specialization 'Accountancy' consists of the electives *Financial Accounting Theory* and *Audit Theory*. Students with this specialization are admissible to the postgraduate programme for 'Registeraccountant' at VU University. Students who consider this route may also take a third elective *Control & Audit*, which is not required to complete the Master's programme, nor a substitute for any mandatory part of the Master's programme, but which will have to be taken at some point by students in the postgraduate programme of Accountancy. Taking *Control & Audit* in combination with either *Financial Accounting Theory* or *Audit Theory* will satisfy the requirements of the MSc programme, but is not recognized as a 'specialization'.

The specialization 'Controlling' consists of the electives *Advanced Corporate Finance for Accounting and Control* and *Management Control*. This specialization offers access to the VU University postgraduate programme for 'Registercontroller'.

The specialization 'Information Management' consists of the elective *E-Business and Information Management* and either *Financial Accounting Theory* or *Control & Audit*. This specialization gives access to the VU University postgraduate programme for Registered EDP-Auditor.

Specialization	Specialization courses:	Leads to postgraduate programme
Accountancy	Audit Theory Financial Accounting Theory [Control & Audit: additional relevant elective]	Registeraccountant
Controlling	Advanced Corporate Finance for Accounting and Control Management Control	Registercontroller
Information Management	E-Business and Information Management Choice between: - Financial Accounting Theory - Control & Audit	Register EDP-Auditor

4. TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

4.1. GENERAL

Courses in the Accounting & Control programme use a variety of teaching methods, but typically combine plenary lectures and some form of teaching in smaller groups. Some courses rely entirely on individual work, others will include a component of group work. The outline of the teaching approach of each course is shown in the course descriptions that form part of this study guide. Details of the teaching format of each course are included in a course manual which is published on the Blackboard site for the course. The course manual explains what the student can expect and what is expected of the student, for instance with respect to the study programme by week, guidance on using the required reading, instructions for preparing cases, the determination of the final grade, etcetera. To increase their chance of success,

students should take good note of the course manuals before attending their first class in a course.

In the parttime programme, classes are offered on Fridays. Only in order to meet unforeseen problems with teaching capacity, classes may by way of exception be offered on weekday evenings. In such cases facilities such as video recordings will be provided to students who cannot attend.

4.2. ASSESSMENT

Modes of assessment vary from course to course, and may include papers and reports handed in during the course, or participation during lectures and tutorials. All courses include a written exam. Examinations are held at the end of each teaching period. Resits are held at the end of the next period. The programme structure and the organization of individual course can be subject to change. In such cases, a transition regulation will apply.

Examinations and assessments are governed by:

- The applicable FEWEB Academic and Examination Regulations (with respect to the general examination provisions in the MSc programme)
- Regulations and Guidelines regarding examinations FEWEB (with respect to the specific procedures surrounding examinations).

The current version of both documents is available on VUnet.

For practical purposes, you are advised to consult at least the 'Exam Code' (Appendix A to the Regulations and Guidelines regarding Examinations), which contains information on important matters such as the requirement to bring an ID to the exam, late admission to exam locations, and materials you are or are not allowed to bring into the exam location.

4.3. ENROLMENT FOR COURSES AND EXAMS

For all courses and all examinations you wish to take you are required to register in advance (through VUnet) in order to be admitted, following general procedures and deadlines applicable across FEWEB MSc programmes. The relevant information can be found on VUnet under 'Registration Terms Educational Activities'.

4.4. LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

The parttime MSc programme Accounting & Control uses the same English-language teaching materials (required reading, lecture slides, weblectures) as the fulltime programme. However, the language used in class will typically be Dutch. Given the international composition of the teaching staff at VU University, all or part of courses may be taught by English-speaking instructors. Exam questions in written exams will normally be posed in English but may be answered in Dutch. The thesis may be written in Dutch or English. Normally, thesis supervisors in the parttime programme will be able to read Dutch, but peak demands on capacity may imply that a student will be assigned an English-speaking supervisor if the student wishes to complete the thesis in a given period.

The diploma of the parttime MSc programme does not identify the programme as an English-language programme, but is otherwise fully equivalent to the diploma of the fulltime programme,

5. THESIS

By writing an individual thesis, students show that they are able to set up and conduct a research project on a topic of their choice, and to relate the question, the research approach, and the findings to the relevant academic and professional literature. Students are assigned supervisors through an enrolment procedure held three or four times a year. Following a general introductory session, students will be asked to submit a request for supervision, including a statement in general terms of the research question(s) they intend to investigate in their thesis. This is the basis for assigning a supervisor. In consultation with the supervisor, students develop a research plan for approval by a second reader. Allocation of supervisors is conditional on completing an approved research plan within a stated timeframe. Following approval of the research plan, supervision is continued for a stated number of months during which the thesis will need to be completed.

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