

W.MSCIFM_ICA03.25_Internal Control and Audit

26.08.2025

General Information

Module Code	W.MSCIFM_ICA03.25
Programme	Master of Science in International Financial Management
Type of Module	Core module in foundation
Level of Module	Intermediate
ECTS Credits / Workload	3 ECTS Credits (90 hours)

Module Dependencies

Pre-requisites

Follow-up modules

Module Aims

The module provides an overview of concepts, methods and processes of internal control and internal audit within an organisation. Financial managers need a solid understanding of internal control principles to ensure that business processes are designed and operated effectively, and of internal audit practices to provide independent assurance on their adequacy and efficiency. A particular emphasis is placed on monitoring financial instruments, accounts and data, where increasing complexity and innovation require robust control mechanisms and reliable audit procedures to safeguard accuracy, compliance and organisational objectives.

Learning Outcome 1

Students acquire knowledge of internal control policies, systems and procedures. They are able to identify, mitigate and manage control risks which may hamper the achievement of business objectives. Students understand the importance of implementing and maintaining adequate controls in order to ensure reliable financial reporting. Students understand the role of internal audit functions within organizations and are able to plan and assess audit objectives as well as basic audit plans. They gain knowledge of the COSO Internal Control framework.

	Importance	Relevant NQF-Descriptors
Subject knowledge and skills: Subject knowledge and skills: Students apply general IC policies and procedures; overall implementation process of an IC; COSO framework; monitoring and evaluation of an IC; internal audit objectives; audit areas and plans	medium	knowledge
Problem-solving: Problem-solving: Students know development of a specific draft paper for an internal control system for different organizations; general curiosity and broad understanding of the world in order to understand where fraudulent activities might origin from; development of controls related to financial reporting; efficiency of processes and compliance issues; evaluation of an internal control system in practice; planning audits and assessments of risks; designing audit programmes	medium	judgement
Methodology: Methodology: Students apply methods to mitigate process risks; establish an adequate control environment; methods to assess the internal control process; use of valuation methods to evaluate process risks; interview business teams about their working practices; project management within an IC and audit project; analytical skills to evaluate adequate internal controls and audit plans; plan risk assessment workshops; detect and handle fraudulent activities; develop audit strategies	high	knowledge; judgement
Communication: Communication: Students gain awareness of fraudulent behavior in one's own personal environment; presentation techniques; communication of internal control weaknesses concerning fraudulent activities; negotiation skills as an internal auditor	medium	communication
Social skills: Social skills: Students apply presentation skills; team work behavior; adequate numeracy; negotiation skills; self-assessment of one's own negotiation and analytical skills;	low	communication; learning autonomy

better reaction to the risk behavior of one's own personal environment

Self-related skills: Self-related skills: Students know personal organisation and planning skills; medium learning autonomy
persistence; an eye for detail and the ability to finish projects and keep to deadlines (with respect to risk management)

Content Outline

- Internal Control (IC) and Internal Audit as assurance functions within an organization
- Frameworks of IC and Internal Audits
- Basic concepts and definitions
- Identification of process risks, compliance risks and financial reporting risks
- Risk and control assessments
- Understanding the importance of an adequate control environment
- Designing of an IC draft paper- Control types and their effectiveness and efficiency
- Organizational issues of IC
- Detecting and communicationg fraudulent behavior
- Completing on-site business audits, evaluating the effectiveness of controls and writing up reports
- Monitoring and maintaining a healthy and secure environment, updating managers on risks and controlling weaknesses identified
- Providing assurance that all key risks and controls are being managed effectively
- Foundations of Internal Audit (Global Standards and Core Competencies)
- Conducting Audits: Methodologies, Practical Experience, and Insight
- Conceptual Foundations and Definitions of Fraud
- Preventive Measures and Practical Approaches- Identification, Assessment, and Evaluation of Key Stakeholders
- Standard Procedures and Processes in Investigations
- Building Practical Skills to Perform or Support Investigations
- Enhancing Analytical and Critical Thinking Capabilities

Teaching and Learning Methods

Contact Hours exercises; presentations; case studies; guest lectures; group work

Directed Study individual work; group work; compulsory reading

Workload

Contact Hours 32 lessons / 24 hours (26.7%)

Directed Study 16 lessons / 12 hours (13.3%)

Private Study 54 hours (60%)

Assignments and Assessments

Assessment Type	Quantity	Weight	Form	Evaluation Type	Time
Oral group examination	15 minutes	50%	presentation	grades	during semester
Written group assignment	10 pages	50%	report	grades	end of semester