

MSCIFM_FEM01_Financial Environment in International Markets - Tax, Law and Finance

06.09.2017

General Information

Module Code	W.MSCIFM_FEM01.13
Programme	Master of Science / International Financial Management
Type of Module	Core module in foundation
Level of Module	Intermediate
ECTS Credits / Workload	9 ECTS Credits (270 hours)

Module Dependencies

Pre-requisites

Follow-up modules

Module Aims

Modern financial management takes place in a global environment. Graduates of the MSc in International Financial Management need to be able to act in this environment professionally and with confidence, upholding the goals and values of their company. An important part of this confidence is the familiarity with international regulations, expectations and opportunities, as well as the ability to adapt to local circumstances and to manage the resulting complexity. Investor relations and financing possibilities rely heavily on these abilities.

Submodule 1: Corporate Finance in International Corporations

Submodule code CF

ECTS Credits / Workload 3 ECTS Credits (90 hours)

Learning Outcome 1

Students are able to apply capital budgeting concepts to a multinational context; they are able to make decisions on the appropriate capital structure; they carry out proper exchange-rate risk management in a multinational company and are able to manage assets and liabilities of a multinational company over the short and long term.

	Importance	Relevant NQF-Descriptors
Subject knowledge and skills: Students apply multinational capital budgeting; country risk analysis Asset and Liability Management Exchange Rate Risk Management in a multinational Company.	high	knowledge
Problem-solving: Students apply capital budgeting concepts to a multinational context Students value a company using traditional and modern valuation technique Students determine the value of a real-world investment project using traditional and modern valuation techniques Students determine the relevant cash flows for complex, real-world investment projects Students decide on the appropriate capital structure Students evaluate the different forms of equity and debt financing as well as debt and equity instruments against the background of an optimal capital structure	medium	knowledge; judgement
Methodology: Students know Corporate Evaluation	low	knowledge
Communication: Students argue in a constructive and factual way; students analyze the source of potential conflicts, perceive conflicts and solve them in a constructive way	medium	application; judgement; communication; learning autonomy

Social skills: Students make their personal and individual resources available to teams Students analyze and discuss problems, in teams, by considering, evaluating, substantiating and refuting a variety of different arguments	medium	judgement; communication; learning autonomy
Self-related skills: Students draw conclusions from their past experiences and apply them to their further studies and professional life; they also document these conclusions in their individual portfolio; students evidence stamina when confronted with problems during their studies and their professional life	medium	judgement; learning autonomy

Content Outline

- The International Financial Environment of a multinational company
- Exchange-rate risk management
- Long-term asset and liability management in a multinational company
- Short-term asset and liability management in a multinational company

Teaching and Learning Methods

Contact Hours	seminar; exercises; lecture; case studies
Directed Study	individual work; partner work; compulsory reading

Workload

Contact Hours	27 lessons / 20.25 hours (22.5%)
Directed Study	44 lessons / 33 hours (36.7%)
Private Study	36.75 hours (40.8%)

Assignments and Assessments

Assessment Type	Quantity	Weight	Form	Evaluation Type	Time
Written examination	120 minutes	100%	specified resources	grades	end of semester

Submodule 2: Global Financial Environment

Submodule code GFE
ECTS Credits / Workload 3 ECTS Credits (90 hours)

Learning Outcome 1

Students understand global capital markets and know their participants and their respective functions. They understand the reasons for exchange rates and know how to handle them. Students understand the main differences in capital markets, for example with regard to corruption. They are aware of current and future developments in financial markets and of their interaction with the national and global economies.

	Importance	Relevant NQF-Descriptors
Subject knowledge and skills: Students know capital markets and country risk analysis, institutions, partners, exchange rates, trade terms and financing, compliance & developments	high	knowledge
Problem-solving: Students understand the international trade and the capital flows Students understand and derive implications of different exchange rate regimes Students judge the impact of government influences on exchange rates	medium	knowledge; judgement
Methodology: Students reflect and challenge personal and external judgments and develop these with regard to the assignment and in debate with the client	medium	judgement; communication
Communication: Students argue in a constructive and factual way; students analyze the source of potential conflicts, perceive conflicts and solve them in a constructive way	medium	judgement; communication
Social skills: Students make their personal and individual resources available to teams Students analyze and discuss problems, in teams, by considering, evaluating, substantiating and refuting a variety of different arguments Students critically and appreciatively evaluate working results of peers	medium	knowledge; judgement; learning autonomy
Self-related skills: Students draw conclusions from their past experiences and apply them to their further studies and professional life; they also document these conclusions in their individual portfolio; students evidence stamina when confronted with problems during their studies and their professional life	medium	judgement; communication; learning autonomy

Content Outline

- International trade theory
- International trade policy

- Exchange rates, exchange rate systems and open-economy macroeconomics
- International macroeconomic policy

Teaching and Learning Methods

Contact Hours	seminar; exercises; lecture; presentations; group work
Directed Study	individual work; group work; partner work; compulsory reading

Workload

Contact Hours	27 lessons / 20.25 hours (22.5%)
Directed Study	12 lessons / 9 hours (10%)
Private Study	60.75 hours (67.5%)

Assignments and Assessments

Assessment Type	Quantity	Weight	Form	Evaluation Type	Time
Written examination	90 minutes	100%	specified resources	grades	end of semester

Submodule 3: International Tax and Law

Submodule code ITL

ECTS Credits / Workload 3 ECTS Credits (90 hours)

Learning Outcome 1

Students understand the basic principles of national and international law. They are able to recognize problems and show a certain providence and care when dealing with discussed aspects. Students are able to identify critical or potentially critical situations, knowing when and where to ask for legal advice or help.

	Importance	Relevant NQF-Descriptors
Subject knowledge and skills: Students know the basic principles and important aspects of corporate law, M&A, contract drafting & litigation, intellectual property and financial transactions; understand basic types of legal proceedings in general understand basic principles of national and international law know different mechanisms in civil/commercial litigation	medium	knowledge
Problem-solving: Students know how to avoid dispute resolution and to brace oneself for it when drafting/negotiating contracts; identify critical or potentially critical situations; knowing when and where to ask for legal advice or help; show a certain providence and care when dealing with discussed aspects (cf. Course content)	high	judgement
Methodology: Students apply and use their knowledge of corporate law, M&A, contract drafting & litigation, intellectual property and financial transactions; understand key features of the civil procedure	medium	knowledge; judgement
Self-related skills: Students reflect and challenge personal and external judgments and develop these with regard to the assignment	low	learning autonomy

Learning Outcome 2

Students analyze and apply Swiss domestic tax provisions to individuals and corporate entities as well as tax treaties based on the OECD Model in an inbound and outbound context. Students gain an overview of the worldwide corporate tax systems and policies and of their main tax principles, emphasizing on Swiss Corporate Tax Reform.

	Importance	Relevant NQF-Descriptors
Subject knowledge and skills: - Swiss Domestic Tax Law - Students apply provisions of the International Double Tax Conventions based on the OECD Model	medium	knowledge
Problem-solving: Students understand Swiss tax provisions in the context of individuals and companies in an inbound and outbound scenario. Students understand international tax principles in an inbound and outbound scenario Students understand tax-compliant structuring solutions for corporate entities Students understand exchange of information in tax matters	medium	judgement
Methodology: Students determine the relevant legal basis. Students analyse concrete situations. Students apply the Double Tax Convention. Students compare different tax systems. Students analyze and discuss problems in teams, by considering, evaluating, substantiating and refuting a variety of different arguments. Students critically and appreciatively evaluate working results.	high	knowledge; judgement
Self-related skills: Students reflect and challenge personal and external judgments and develop these with regard to the assignment.	medium	judgement; communication; learning autonomy

Content Outline

National and International Tax

- Introduction
- Tax law fundamentals
- Switzerland's tax law system in a nutshell
- Overview of selected, worldwide corporate tax systems
- Overall assessment and critical thoughts on the corporate tax policy of Switzerland, with particular attention to the Swiss Corporate Tax Reform III
- Introduction to double tax convention
- Selected case studies for individuals and corporate entities, applying Swiss domestic provisions and the OECD double tax convention

National and International Law

- Introduction - areas of law, global legal systems, interaction with a lawyer, finding law by yourself
- Corporate law - types of legal entities, focus stock corporations, how to name a corporation, nominal capital, limited liability, shares-structure, capital & transfer, organisation of a corporation, understanding the commercial registry, expanding to a new country
- Cases & exercises
- M&A - types of M&A, change of control, timeline, conditions precedent, closing actions, representations & warranties, indemnities, remedies, resignations of directors & auditors, covenants
- Litigation & draft of contracts - definition and legal background of litigation, types of proceedings, different proceedings, different mechanisms of civil and commercial dispute resolution, key elements of a civil procedure, enforcement of a judgement, drafting contracts
- Cases & exercises
- Intellectual property rights - what is an IP, why it is important, kinds of IP rights, IP rights in an international environment, IP from a business perspective-strategy & employment, how lawyers can help
- Cases & exercises
- Financing transactions - types of loan finance and agreement, conditions precedent, repayment & prepayment & cancellation, interest, financial covenants, representation, events of default, securities, syndication, upstream and cross-stream limitation
- Cases & exercises

Teaching and Learning Methods

Contact Hours	seminar; exercises; lecture; presentations; case studies; guest lectures
Directed Study	individual work; group work; compulsory reading

Workload

Contact Hours	27 lessons / 20.25 hours (22.5%)
Directed Study	9 lessons / 6.75 hours (7.5%)
Private Study	63 hours (70%)

Assignments and Assessments

Assessment Type	Quantity	Weight	Form	Evaluation Type	Time
Written examination	60 minutes	50%	specified resources	grades	during semester
Written group assignment	pages	50%	specified resources	grades	end of semester
