

Course Descriptions NonDegree 2019-2020

Course Title	Assurance Services							
Course Code	EBC4037							
ECTS Credits	6,5							
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades							
Period	Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2-9-2019	25-10-2019	X/E			X/E	
Level	Advanced							
Coordinator	Ann Vanstraelen For more information:a.vanstraelen@maastrichtuniversity.nl							
Language of instruction	English							
Goals	<p>Solid knowledge of different types of assurance services; Deepen insight on the audit process with a particular emphasis on the use of data analytics and digital auditing; Develop understanding of auditor behavior and the functioning and regulation of the audit market with a particular emphasis on the concept of audit quality; Advanced knowledge of the academic literature on auditing and assurance services; Sharpen problem solving skills in auditing and assurance services settings and further develop experience in using and interpreting data in common decision contexts.</p> <p>Students who successfully complete this course will have sufficient knowledge of the process of assurance services to effectively perform entry-level assurance work in professional accounting firms. Furthermore, students will be able to read and critically evaluate audit research, and report the results of research on current and fundamental issues in the accounting profession.</p> <p>Graduates have profound, evidence-based and up-to-date academic knowledge and understanding of theories, methods and tools in business/economics. This includes demonstrating the ability to develop new ideas. Graduates can apply their profound knowledge and understanding to identify and solve also unstructured or semi-structured real life business/economic problems in unfamiliar environments within broader multidisciplinary contexts. This includes demonstrating analytical skills and a problem-solving attitude. Graduates can integrate various perspectives to formulate judgments even with incomplete information on complex theoretical and practical business/economic issues. Graduates can effectively communicate both to specialist and nonspecialist audiences. This includes demonstrating strong presentation skills, project- management skills, interpersonal skills, a high level of argumentation and context sensitivity. Graduates have self-directed learning skills and the ability to regulate their own learning process.</p>							
Description	<p>This course is organized around 3 key themes: 1) Different types of assurance services; 2) The audit process; and 3) Auditor behavior and the functioning and regulation of the audit market. For the first theme, the course focuses on those assurance services that improve the reliability of information (financial and non-financial) as perceived by decision makers such as shareholders. For the second theme, the course is aimed at deepen students insight on the different stages of the audit process with a particular emphasis on the use of data analytics in the audit of financial statements and digital auditing. For the third theme, academic research will be used to develop students' understanding of auditor behavior and the functioning and regulation of the audit market with a particular emphasis on the concept of audit quality. This will include a discussion of topics such as professional judgment and judgment biases; professional skepticism; ethical decision making; auditor independence; audit firm culture and governance; quality control; public oversight; audit market structure, concentration, competition and pricing. The course is linked to audit practice by means of case-studies, a workshop in collaboration with a large audit firm and/or a guest lecture.</p>							
Literature	Textbook and articles							
Prerequisites	<p>Courses and workload are very demanding for all IB Master courses. Exchange students need to have obtained a bachelor degree with a major in Business. Exchange students need to major in accounting in their Master.</p> <p>An advanced level of English.</p>							
Teaching methods	PBL / Lecture / Assignment							
Assessment methods	Participation / Written Exam							
Evaluation in previous academic year	For the complete evaluation of this course please click http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM							
This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation	Master Business Research - No specialisation				Year 1 Disc - IB Accountancy			
	Master Business Research - No specialisation				Year 1 Disc - IB Accounting and Control			
	Master Business Research - Operations Research				Year 1 Elective Course(s)			
	Master Business Research - Operations Research				Year 2 Elective Course(s)			
	Master Fiscal Economics				Economics Elective(s)			
	Master International Business - Accountancy				Compulsory Course(s)			
	Master International Business - Accounting & Control (parttime/NL)				Compulsory Course(s)			
	Master International Business - Controlling				Elective Course(s)			
	Master International Business - Entrepreneurship and SME Management				Elective Course(s)			
	Master International Business - Organisation: Management, Change and Consultancy				Elective Course(s)			
	Master International Business - Strategic Corporate Finance				Elective Course(s)			
	Master International Business - Strategy and Innovation				Elective Course(s)			
	Master International Business - Sustainable Finance				Elective Course(s)			
	SBE Exchange Master				Master Exchange Courses			
	SBE Non Degree Courses				Master Courses			