



**COLLEGE OF ACCOUNTANCY AND FINANCE**  
**Study programme “Accounting and Finance” Study**  
**Course description**

<b><i>Study Course Title</i></b>	
<i>In Latvian</i>	<b>Ievads finansēs</b>
<i>In English</i>	<b>Introduction to Finance</b>
<b><i>Programme part</i></b>	Compulsory professional education study course
<b><i>ECTS</i></b>	4
<b><i>Study course summarized:</i></b> Students gain understanding of the nature of the financial system, the functions and role of the financial market in the national economy, financial instruments and services of Latvian credit institutions and state financial institutions, and learn to apply them in assessing the most beneficial ones for legal and physical entities.	
<b><i>Goal of the study course:</i></b> The goal of the course is to provide necessary theoretical and practical knowledge on the major financial, monetary and credit issues.	
<b><i>Tasks of the course:</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to gain understanding of the nature of finance and its functions, characteristics of the financial system participants, financial markets and instruments;</li> <li>• to understand the role of credit institutions in the financial system;</li> <li>• to acquire knowledge of the state financial system, financial management and control, state and municipal budget revenue and expenditure, budget deficit;</li> <li>• to learn the types and forms of money, commercial bank resources and financial services;</li> <li>• to acquire knowledge of the classification of loans and accessibility of loans in Latvia, insurance funds and types, types of securities and transactions with them, Latvian government bonds and promissory notes;</li> <li>• to gain understanding of the operating principles of investment funds and products;</li> <li>• to acquire knowledge of corporate finance, services of public financial institutions, financial risks, their assessment and control;</li> <li>• to acquire practical skills in attracting additional sources of financing for companies in Latvia;</li> <li>• to understand the role and functions of the FCMC;</li> <li>• to develop theoretical and practical skills in the financial analysis of a company.</li> </ul>	
<b><i>Learning outcomes obtained in the result of the study course acquisition:</i></b> <b><i>Knowledge:</i></b> Will know the essence of finance system, markets and participants. Will explain processes in finance markets. Will predict finance market participants' behavior. Will form investment portfolio using financial market instruments. Will systematize, compare and evaluate data of financial instruments.	
<b><i>Skills:</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ability to generate and substantiate ideas using acquired theoretical foundations and skills;</li> <li>• understanding of the economic and financial interrelationships of a company, ability to forecast the factors influencing the financial performance of a company or institution, ability to analyze, evaluate and optimize the capital structure of a company;</li> <li>• ability to analyze public and business finance, to assess risks and make appropriate decisions;</li> <li>• ability to explain and cogently discuss corporate and public finance, crediting, securities and investment opportunities.</li> </ul>	

**Competencies:**

- ability to independently acquire, select and analyze financial information and use it in business start-up and realization;
  - ability to independently evaluate emerging financial opportunities; and to manage financial risks in doing business;
  - ability to define and provide solutions to financial problems of a company, to be aware of the legal aspects of the entrepreneur's financial activity and understand its impact on the overall business environment;
- ability to work in a team, thus contributing to the development of a business enterprise.

**Study course content (themes):**

1.	The nature and functions of finance. Finance markets, finance system, financial institutions and financial instruments.
2.	Financial stability and crisis. Financial tools of money market. Financial tools of Capital market. World's Stock markets.
3.	The role of credit institutions in the financial system.
4.	State-operated finance system. Financial management and control.
5.	State and municipal budget revenue and expenditure, budget deficit.
6.	Types and forms of money.
7.	Resources of commercial banks and financial services.
8.	Classification of loans and accessibility of loans in Latvia.
9.	Insurance funds. Types of insurance.
10.	Types of securities and transactions with securities. Latvian government bonds and promissory notes.
11.	Investment funds: operating principles and products.
12.	Corporate finance. Services of state financial institutions.
13.	Financial risks, their assessment and control.
14.	The role and functions of FCMC.

**Students' independent work:**

No.	Themes, tasks	Proportion in academic hours	Form of control
1.	Money: historical background	6	Test
2.	State financial system in Latvia	6	Test
3.	Commercial bank services	7	Table
4.	Accessibility of loans in Latvia – Altera, etc.	15	Table
5.	Estimation of a financial risk for an existing company	10	Calculations and comments
6.	Revision prior to progress check	4	Progress check
7.	Pre-exam revision	4	Written exam

**The structure of cumulative assessment of students' academic achievement:**

Final evaluation of the study course according to ten point system consists of: assessment of independent work, situation analysis and knowledge test.

**Requirements:**

Students must **complete two** independently performed tasks and pass the exam

Assessment criteria	Proportion	Time limit for completion
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Independently implemented tasks	15%	Before the date of pre-exam consultation
Progress check	30 %	Before the date of pre-exam consultation
Activity and participation in seminars and workshops	5%	Before the date of pre-exam consultation
Examination test	50 %	The date of exam according to the timetable
<b>Language of instruction:</b> English		
<b>Methods used in study course acquisition:</b> lectures, tests, practical assignments, home tasks, interactive lectures, exam, explanatory-illustrative method, presentations, case studies, discussions.		