

# Information for students enrolled in the FACTS Master's programme of study

## 1. General information

General information can be found on the website of the Master's programme of study. (<http://wiwiss.fu-berlin.de/studium-lehre/master/facts/index.html>). There, also the courses currently offered are indicated.

There is a broad range of professional possibilities. When you opt for a subsequent employment as practitioner in the fields of finance, accounting and taxation, knowledge of financial accounting is indispensable. This applies regardless whether you intend to work in the field of accounting or auditing, or whether you will be in charge of other management or leadership tasks in the company. Should you consider an employment in the field of auditing, the acquisition of the professional qualification as auditor is on the agenda after having completed your study. Further information on the auditor's profession can be found on the website of the WPK (<http://www.wpk.de/publikationen/>). In spite of a difficult job market the career prospects are momentarily very good.

For an academic career, which should finally aim at a doctorate, manifold branches of research are possible. Within this field, a certain empirical orientation is indispensable at the moment. The use of methods ranges here from experiments, questioning, and evaluation of archival data to capital market oriented studies. Here, econometric knowledge is of advantage. The doctorate is also useful for a subsequent practitioner's career.

It is also possible to combine a practitioner's career with Ph.D. studies. For example, the Big 4 auditing companies very often offer the opportunity to work with them during the so-called "busy season". Afterwards, the doctoral candidate is exempted from work for 6 months to continue the Ph.D. studies. Otherwise, the doctorate is generally reserved for research assistants working at the chair.

(<http://www.wiwiss.fu-berlin.de/institute/pruefungs-steuerlehre/ruhnke/Promotion/index.html>).

## 2. Choice of course modules

Within the FACTS Master's programme of study, the following course modules are offered by the chair:

- Internationale Unternehmenspublizität - International corporate reporting (in winter semesters)
- Wirtschaftsprüfung - Auditing (in summer semesters)
- Selected questions of financial accounting and auditing (seminar) (in winter semesters)

The seminar alternately focusses on application and practice (mainly in co-operation with a company listed on the stock exchange and an auditing company) or on research. The practice-oriented seminar deals regularly with the analyses of an IFRS company report of a listed company and the working of case studies. This external block seminar takes place at the location of the listed company and comprises also a presentation of the company, a tour on the company's premises and a final discussion of open questions with the management and the acting auditor as well. The research seminar, however, very often focuses on the working of an empirical oriented question; for example a simple event study or uni- and multivariate analyses with reference to a given data set.

Should you be particularly interested in questions concerning the field of accounting and auditing, we recommend that you additionally enroll in the courses "accounting of financial instruments" and "audit practice".

Guest lectures (within the Dahlem Lectures on FACTS or the FACTS scientific workshop) are also part of the course programme.

### **3. Master's thesis**

Please have a look at the organizational details regarding the writing of a master's thesis on [http://wiwiss.fu-berlin.de/institute/pruefungs-steuerlehre/ruhnke/Lehre/Master\\_Studium/Master-Arbeit/index.html](http://wiwiss.fu-berlin.de/institute/pruefungs-steuerlehre/ruhnke/Lehre/Master_Studium/Master-Arbeit/index.html).

There, you will also find suggestions for possible subjects of a thesis. Should you aim at doing a doctorate after having completed your study, we urgently recommend that you orient your Master's thesis empirically.

### **4. Accreditation of the equalency of study results from other universities**

Please co-ordinate your plans of a semester abroad and the courses you like to enroll in in advance with the chair if you wish to have accredited the courses you completed at the university abroad on the basis of the credit point system here at the Freie Universität. The chair welcomes and supports a semester abroad.

Please furnish us with a very detailed description of the courses you like to enroll in. The following data is of particular relevance: Course type (lecture, tutorial, seminar), number of credit hours per week, beginning and end of the semester, information on what kind of course you want to have accredited (e.g. master's programme of study) and content of the course (if possible, please submit a detailed outline). Please take also into the account the European Credit Transfer System, details of which you can find on the website of the FU Berlin (<http://www.fu-berlin.de/vv/fach?id=100000&sm=11907>).

The members of the Chair of Accounting and Auditing

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