MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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Science and Education of the
Republic of Azerbaijan
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MASTER'S DEGREE SPECIALTY

E D U C A T I O N A L P R O G R A M M E

Specialty code and title: 7004006 – Finance

BAKU - 2025

AZERBAIJAN UNIVERSITY

*Approved by the Academic Council of*
*Azerbaijan University on 12.09.2025,*
*under Minutes No. 01.*

*Rector S.N. Əliyeva*

MASTER'S DEGREE SPECIALTY

E D U C A T I O N A L P R O G R A M M E

Specialty code and title: 7004006 - Finance
Specialisation: Tax and Taxation

BAKU - 2025

# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE MASTER'S DEGREE IN THE SPECIALTY

## 1. General provisions

1.1. The educational programme for the master's degree in specialty 7004006 - Finance (hereinafter referred to as the educational programme) has been developed in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Education, the relevant decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Education's Framework Document for Educational Programmes for Master's Degree Specialties and the Classification of Master's Degree Specialties in Higher Education, as well as international best practice and labour market requirements.

1.2. The objectives of the educational programme are to:

- define graduates' competencies in the specialty, the scope of the specialty, teaching and learning methods for courses, assessment methods, learning outcomes, requirements for the infrastructure and staffing needed to train specialists, and students' opportunities for practical training, employment and further education;
- inform students and employers of the knowledge, skills and learning outcomes acquired by graduates;
- inform the partners involved in evaluating whether specialist training under the educational programme complies with this programme.

1.3. The educational programme is mandatory for all higher education institutions operating in the Republic of Azerbaijan that provide master's degree training in this specialty, regardless of their affiliation, type of ownership or organisational and legal form.

1.4. A student's total weekly classroom and independent study workload over a 5 (five) day working week is 45 academic hours (except at special-purpose higher education institutions). Of these, 12-16 academic hours are classroom hours. The weekly workload may be adjusted for specialisations studied in greater depth for professional purposes.

## 2. Graduate competencies

2.1. By the end of the educational programme, graduates must acquire the following *general competencies*:

- the ability to independently resolve unexpected and complex issues in their professional activities;
- the ability to propose and plan appropriate activities and methods and analyse their current and prospective outcomes;
- the ability to investigate the causes of problems in their field of work or study and resolve them within a specific time frame and with limited information;
- the ability to select and use appropriate technologies and methods to solve problems in their field of work or study, and to identify, appraise and assess the expected outcomes;
- the ability to critically evaluate their own performance when solving problems in their field of work or study;
- the ability to present and substantiate problems in their field of work or study orally and in writing in Azerbaijani and one foreign language, and to participate in related discussions with specialists and non-specialists;
- the ability to transfer their knowledge and competencies to others using various methods;

- the ability to act in accordance with ethical standards in all circumstances and understand the ethical aspects, possibilities, limitations and social role of their personal conduct;
- the ability to assess their own and others' needs for continuous learning and professional development, and to use effective methods necessary for independent learning.

2.2. By the end of the educational programme, graduates of the Tax and Taxation specialisation in specialty 7004006 - Finance must acquire *the* following *professional competencies*:

2.2.1 For the Tax and Taxation specialisation

- identify mechanisms for fulfilling tax obligations for new types of activity;
- identify new sources to broaden the tax base;
- carry out tax planning;
- formulate strategies to optimise the tax burden;
- ensure oversight of the fulfilment of tax obligations arising from transactions;
- prepare draft intergovernmental agreements on eliminating double taxation;
- assess and provide an opinion on the effectiveness of digital technologies in taxation;
- oversee the application of relevant tax legislation and amendments to it.

## 3. Structure of the educational programme

3.1. Standard duration of the educational programme and the higher academic qualification awarded to graduates:

| Specialisation titles | Degree awarded | Duration of full-time study | Number of credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tax and Taxation | Master's degree | 2 years | 120 |

**3.2.** The educational programme for the Tax and Taxation specialisation comprises 120 ECTS credits (2 years). Each semester provides for 30 credits, with no more than 5 courses. Credits are allocated as follows:

| No. | Course title | ECTS credits | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Research Methods**[1]<br>This course focuses on the interdependence of quantitative and qualitative research methods, measurement, research design and analysis. It aims to develop research competencies, the use of library and internet resources as information sources, and skills in examining and analysing data and<br>presenting the findings. | | 6 |
| 2 | **Academic Writing and Ethics**<br>This course aims to teach the fundamentals of academic writing, speaking and integrity, and to develop master's students' skills in writing research articles, dissertations, essays and other academic documents, speaking professionally at conferences, symposia, seminars and academic discussions, and observing publication ethics. The course will equip students with knowledge and competencies in academic style, the proper use of sources, citation conventions and ethical standards. | | 6 |
| 3 | **Research Analytics**[1]<br>This course covers the data analysis process, data types, data collection sources, developing a data analysis strategy, preparing and cleaning data for analysis, organising and visualising data, becoming familiar with software appropriate to the field (Excel, SPSS, Stata, R, MAXQDA, Matlab, Python, etc.), conducting analyses using methods applied in research in the specialty (statistical tests and analyses, quantitative and qualitative analyses, experimental analyses, questionnaire and survey analyses, etc.), and preparing relevant opinions<br>based on the analyses. | | 6 |
| | **Compulsory courses determined by the higher education institution**[3]:<br>depending on the specialisation, the courses included here are determined individually by each higher education institution and reflected in the<br>educational programme for that specialisation. **4** | | 54 |
| 4 | **Contemporary Issues in Finance**<br>This course covers current changes, innovations and challenges in global and national financial systems. Topics examine pressing issues such as the integration of international financial markets, financial risk management, digital financial instruments, cryptocurrencies, financial stability and regulatory mechanisms, sustainable financing and green finance. The course draws on both theoretical foundations and the analysis of practical issues.<br>The main aim of this course is to enable master's students to understand developments in the contemporary financial environment, analyse | | 6 |

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| | emerging problems and formulate research-based approaches to solving them. | | |
| 5 | **Tax Theory and Tax Policy**<br>This course examines the theoretical foundations of the tax system, the nature and objectives of tax policy, and the mechanisms through which it affects the economy. Topics include tax concepts and principles, tax system structures, the tax burden and its distribution, tax equity, fiscal and incentive policies, international tax relations, tax administration and tax regulation. It combines theoretical concepts with analysis of national and international tax practice.<br>The main aim of the course is to enable master's students to master the academic foundations of tax theory, understand the principles of tax policy formation and its impact on economic processes, and acquire skills in analysing tax policy nationally and internationally. | | 6 |
| 6 | **Tax Accounting and Control**<br>This course covers the theoretical and practical foundations of tax accounting, the nature of tax control and its implementation mechanisms. Topics examine tax liability accounting principles, tax return preparation, tax inspection types and methods, the legal framework for tax control, risk-based oversight, electronic auditing and digital accounting tools. It teaches ways to improve both tax administration and enterprise-level tax accounting processes.<br>The course aims to enable master's students to master the theoretical foundations and practical mechanisms of tax accounting and control and develop analytical thinking and decision-making skills for organising and managing tax control. | | 6 |
| 7 | **Tax Audit**<br>This course covers the nature, purpose, principles and implementation mechanisms of tax auditing. It examines theoretical foundations, tax inspection types and stages, audit evidence collection, risk-based auditing, audit report preparation, and national and international tax audit practice. It also analyses digital auditing technologies, electronic audit systems and auditing's role in ensuring tax transparency.<br>The main aim of the course is to enable master's students to master the theoretical and methodological foundations of tax auditing, organise and manage audits correctly, and acquire analytical approaches to tax risk assessment and ensuring tax compliance. | | 6 |
| 8 | **Tax Planning and Strategy**<br>This course covers the theoretical and practical foundations of enterprise-level and state-level tax planning and the principles and objectives of tax strategy development. It examines tax burden optimisation, tax risk management, lawful tax reduction methods (tax optimisation), international tax planning, elimination of double taxation and alignment of tax strategy with economic development. It also analyses changing tax strategy trends in the digital economy and global financial system.<br>The course aims to enable master's students to master the theoretical foundations and practical methods of tax planning and develop analytical and strategic thinking for preparing and implementing effective tax strategies at enterprise and state levels. | | 6 |

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| 9 | **Tax Debt Regulation**<br>This course covers the causes of tax debt and mechanisms for its accounting, management and regulation. It examines the legal and regulatory foundations of tax debt, restructuring, write-offs, deferrals, concessions and taxpayer liability. It also analyses information technologies and electronic services in tax debt management, ethical and administrative aspects of relations with tax debtors, and debt regulation mechanisms in international practice.<br>The main aim of the course is to enable master's students to master the theoretical foundations of tax debt formation, accounting and management and develop analytical and management skills in tax debt regulation. | | 6 |
| 10 | **Digital Technologies in Taxation**<br>This course examines the role, applications and economic effects of digital technologies in taxation. It covers electronic tax administration, digital reporting, online tax control, blockchain, artificial intelligence and big data in tax management. It also analyses emerging taxation challenges in the digital economy, the taxation of e-commerce and cryptocurrencies, and international digital taxation practice.<br>The main aim of the course is to enable master's students to understand the impact of digital technologies on taxation, innovations and challenges in this field, and acquire analytical and applied skills in digital tax administration and control systems. | | 6 |
| 11 | **International Taxation**<br>This course covers the theoretical and practical foundations of international tax systems, interstate tax relations and the effects of global economic integration on tax policy. It examines international taxation principles, double taxation relief mechanisms, international tax treaties, transfer pricing policy, offshore jurisdictions, tax competition and multinational companies' tax planning. It also analyses current trends such as the OECD's BEPS (Base Erosion and Profit Shifting) initiatives and the implementation of a global minimum tax.<br>The main aim of the course is to enable master's students to master the theoretical foundations of international taxation, mechanisms regulating international tax relations and innovations in global tax policy, and develop analytical thinking and research skills in this area. | | 6 |
| 12 | **Tax Risk Management**<br>This course examines the nature, causes, classification and management mechanisms of tax risks. It covers methods for identifying, assessing and mitigating tax risks, risk-based tax control, and institutional and technological risk management tools in tax administration. Key areas also include the interaction of risks affecting taxpayers and tax authorities, international risk management models and the application of digital technologies.<br>The main aim of the course is to enable master's students to master the theoretical and practical foundations of tax risk management and develop analytical and management skills for analysing, assessing and mitigating risks in tax administration and at enterprise level. | | 6 |
| | **Elective courses determined by the higher education institution4** | | |
| 13 | **State Budget Revenue and Expenditure** | | 6 |

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| | This course covers the economic nature of the state budget, its revenue and expenditure structure, and principles of formation and management. It examines revenue sources, the role of tax and non-tax receipts, expenditure categories, the socioeconomic objectives of budget policy and fiscal stability. It also analyses revenue and expenditure planning, execution and oversight, improvements in public financial control and international budget practices.<br>The main aim of the course is to provide master's students with theoretical and practical knowledge of state budget revenue and expenditure formation, management and regulation, an understanding of budget policy's role in economic development, and analytical assessment skills.<br><br>**Tax Policy in Public Finance**<br>This course examines the role of tax policy in generating public finances and its economic, social and fiscal effects. It covers tax policy principles, objectives and instruments, structural features of taxation systems, tax burden distribution, tax concessions and incentives, and links between the state budget and tax policy. Topics also include international tax policy practice, tax policy innovations in the digital economy and maintaining socioeconomic balance.<br>The course aims to enable master's students to master the theoretical foundations and application mechanisms of tax policy in public finance and analyse its effects on economic development, social equity and fiscal stability. | | |
| 14 | **Corporate Finance**<br>This course examines the theoretical and practical foundations of corporate finance and the development and management of companies' financial decisions. It analyses corporate financial management principles, capital structure, financial planning, investment appraisal, risk management, dividend policy, liquidity and financial sustainability. It also examines the economic consequences of corporate financial decisions, their links with financial markets and corporate strategies, and international financial practice.<br>The main aim of the course is to enable master's students to master corporate finance theory, develop analytical and management skills in financial decision-making, and improve their knowledge and skills in developing strategies for companies' sustainable financial development.<br><br>**Corporate Tax Strategy**<br>This course examines the theoretical and practical foundations of corporate tax strategy, company tax planning and tax risk management. It covers corporate tax policy principles, tax planning methods, international tax strategies, transfer pricing, tax concessions and incentives, and tax optimisation and risk mitigation tools. Topics also include developing and applying corporate tax strategies in the digital economy and international tax practice.<br>The main aim of the course is to enable master's students to master the theoretical and practical foundations of corporate tax strategy and develop analytical and applied skills in company tax planning and tax risk management. | | 6 |

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| 15 | **Tax Administration**<br>This course examines the theoretical and practical foundations of tax administration, tax authority activities and the application of tax legislation. It covers the organisation of tax control, taxpayers' rights and obligations, tax audit principles, tax regulation and enforcement, ensuring tax compliance and resolving tax disputes. It also covers risk-based tax oversight, digital technologies and international practice.<br>The course aims to provide master's students with theoretical and practical tax administration knowledge, develop their ability to improve tax control and regulatory effectiveness, and enhance analytical thinking in tax risk management and dispute resolution.<br><br>**Tax Procedures and Proceedings**<br>This course examines the theoretical and practical foundations of tax procedures and proceedings. It covers tax return preparation, determining and fulfilling tax obligations under tax legislation, regulating relations between taxpayers and tax authorities, tax audit procedures, and tax debt collection and administration. It also covers tax dispute resolution, enforcement mechanisms and the organisation of tax procedures in international practice.<br>The course aims to provide master's students with theoretical and practical knowledge of tax procedures and proceedings, develop their ability to ensure tax debts are correctly determined and settled, and improve analytical and management skills in handling tax audits and disputes. | | 6 |
| **Practical training** | | | |
| 16 | **Research and Teaching Practicum** | | 6 |
| 17 | **Research Practicum**[5] | | 6 |
| **Dissertation** | | | |
| 18 | **Master's Dissertation**[6] | | 18 |
| **TOTAL** | | | **120** |

[1] This course is intended for specialisations culminating in a master's dissertation.
[2] This course is intended for specialisations that do not culminate in a master's dissertation.

[3] Here, “courses” includes not only taught courses but also projects (including a Capstone project), creative work, laboratory work and other relevant learning activities, where applicable. These courses are determined by the higher education institution with regard to academic staff expertise, research infrastructure, and local and international employment opportunities, and are compulsory for students admitted to the relevant specialisation. This section must contain at least 4 courses.

[4] Here, “courses” includes not only taught courses but also projects (including a Capstone project), creative work, laboratory work and other relevant learning activities, where applicable. These courses are offered by the higher education institution with regard to academic staff expertise, research infrastructure, and local and international employment opportunities. Labour market proposals are

also taken into account when determining these courses; for this purpose, it is recommended that a working group comprising representatives of higher education institutions and the labour market be established. The courses determined by the institution must be elective for students and facilitate their participation in international exchange programmes. This section must contain at least 3 courses.

[5] This type of practical training is intended for specialisations culminating in a master's dissertation.

[6] Intended for specialties (specialisations) culminating in a master's dissertation. Requirements for the content, writing, submission and defence of the master's dissertation are determined by the Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

## 4. Programme and course learning outcomes

**4.1.** Graduates of this educational programme must have a systematic general understanding and broad knowledge of the basic concepts, theoretical principles and research methods in their field of study or work, and acquire in-depth knowledge of their specific (specialised) field of study or work.

**4.2.** Determining learning outcomes for each course in the specialisation's educational programme and preparing each course syllabus fall within the authority of the higher education institution/academic staff.

**4.3.** Programme learning outcomes for the specialisation are set out in Appendix 1. Course learning outcomes are determined by each higher education institution. The learning outcomes matrix (Appendix 2) must show the relationship between courses and the educational programme's learning outcomes.

**4.4.** Course syllabi must be updated regularly to ensure that the educational programme provides academic and practical content responsive to the changing needs of society and the labour market.

## 5. Infrastructure and staffing capacity

**5.1.** Teaching, learning and assessment under the educational programme require the higher education institution to have the following infrastructure:

- academic and teaching support staff;
- classrooms equipped with the necessary facilities;
- a computer room and internet access;
- a research and teaching laboratory;
- host organisations for practical training;
- a research library;
- access to academic and professional electronic databases.

**5.2.** Academic staff engaged in teaching at higher education institutions generally hold an academic degree; specialists without an academic degree but with at least 5 years of relevant professional experience may also teach;

**5.3.** Master's dissertations are generally supervised by persons holding an academic title or academic degree.

## 6. Career opportunities and lifelong learning

**Graduates of the Tax and Taxation specialisation in programme 7004006 - Finance will be able to work in the following occupations in the public and private sectors:**

- Tax inspector;
- Tax adviser;
- Tax auditor;
- Lecturer/researcher in the specialty/specialisation, etc.

**6.1.** The higher education institution must regularly survey the employment of graduates of the educational programme and publish information on job vacancies on its website;

**6.2.** Persons who have completed a master's degree in higher education (and defended a master's dissertation), or whose education is recognised as equivalent (medical specialists in medical education), may be admitted to doctoral studies leading to a Doctor of Philosophy degree;

**6.3.** The knowledge, skills and approaches acquired during study are prerequisites for graduates' independent lifelong learning.

Appendix 1

**Learning outcomes for the educational programme**

**and teaching activities**

**For the Tax and Taxation specialisation in specialty 7004006 - Finance,**
***the programme*** ***learning outcomes*** are as follows:

| **Programme learning outcomes for the Tax and Taxation specialisation (PLOs)** |
|---|
| 1. Identifies mechanisms for fulfilling tax obligations |
| 2. Determines the tax base |
| 3. Carries out tax planning |
| 4. Optimises the tax burden |
| 5. Oversees the fulfilment of tax obligations arising from transactions |
| 6. Prepares draft intergovernmental agreements |
| 7. Evaluates the effectiveness of digital technologies in taxation |
| 8. Can oversee the application of tax and taxation legislation |

Appendix 2

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOs)
## FOR COMPULSORY COURSES

| Learning outcomes for Research Methods (CLOs) |
|---|
| CLO 1. Distinguishes between quantitative and qualitative research methods, their characteristics and areas of application, and applies them purposefully in research. |
| CLO 2. Acquires the ability to formulate research questions, hypotheses and research designs (experimental or observational) in the field of activity. |
| CLO 3. Collects existing knowledge through the systematic use of academic sources (libraries, research databases, electronic resources, etc.) and develops a research framework based on it. |
| CLO 4. Measures, statistically processes, visualises and analyses collected data in line with the research objectives. |
| CLO 5. Presents research findings in a logical structure, writes research articles and reports, and communicates findings to an audience orally and in writing. |
| CLO 6. Conducts research independently or in groups in accordance with ethical and methodological principles and correctly applies methodological foundations in preparing projects and dissertations. |
| Learning outcomes for Academic Writing and Ethics (CLOs) |
| CLO 1. Understands the purpose, structure and stylistic features of academic writing and writes academic essays, dissertations, articles and other academic documents logically and professionally. |
| CLO 2. Prepares content meeting the writing requirements of different academic genres (articles, dissertations, theses, reports, etc.) and expresses ideas coherently and with justification. |
| CLO 3. Acquires source-handling skills and uses different citation systems (APA, MLA, IEEE, etc.) correctly in academic writing and avoids plagiarism. |
| CLO 4. Masters academic speaking styles for research discussions, seminars, symposia and conferences and presents ideas professionally. |
| CLO 5. Masters copyright, publication ethics and academic integrity principles and observes them in research. |
| CLO 6. Analyses ethical dilemmas and appropriate conduct in research and writing and makes ethical decisions in academic settings. |
| Learning outcomes for Research Analytics (CLOs) |
| CLO 1. Develops an effective data collection strategy for research by identifying data types and collection methods appropriate to the research purpose. |
| CLO 2. Carries out initial data processing (cleaning, coding and structuring) and prepares data for analysis in line with the research objectives.. |
| CLO 3. Analyses data using different software packages (Excel, EViews, SPSS, Python, R, Matlab, etc.) and draws conclusions based on simple and complex statistical indicators. |
| CLO 4. Obtains analytical findings by applying the main research analysis methods (quantitative, qualitative, mixed and experimental) appropriately to the field.CLO 5. Will present analytical findings on a sound academic basis using visual tools (graphs, charts, tables, etc.) and interpret the results correctly. |
| CLO 5 Presents analytical findings on a sound academic basis using visual tools (graphs, charts, tables, |

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| etc.) and interprets the results correctly. |
| CLO 6. Prepares research reports and academic documents by developing logical, evidence-based opinions, recommendations and generalisations from research findings. |
| **Learning outcomes for the Research and Teaching Practicum (CLOs)** |
| CLO 1. Acquires skills in preparing syllabi for academic courses in the specialty, drawing up lesson plans, organising lectures and practical classes, and selecting and preparing teaching materials. |
| CLO 2. Acquires the ability to plan teaching, work with an audience, select teaching strategies and use modern teaching methods to increase student engagement. |
| CLO 3. Develops the ability to shape and deliver course content based on current research developments in teaching practice |
| CLO 4. Learns to use modern information and communication technologies (ICT) and educational software (CAD/CAM/CAE, simulation software and virtual laboratories) effectively. |
| CLO 5. Communicates openly and fluently in academic teaching and conveys knowledge and research findings to an audience clearly and with justification. |
| CLO 6. Learns to identify strengths and weaknesses in teaching practice, reflect on them and identify areas for future development. |
| **Learning outcomes for the Research Practicum (CLOs)** |
| CLO 1. Identifies current research topics in the specialty and clearly formulates research aims and objectives. |
| CLO 2. Acquires the ability to select and effectively apply modern research methods (case analysis, operational and tactical analysis, modelling, statistical methods, etc.) appropriate to specific research objectives. |
| CLO 3. Acquires skills in processing and systematising experimental and theoretical data, processing findings, conducting statistical analysis and interpreting results. |
| CLO 4. Applies research findings to process optimisation and to the application and development of innovative technologies. |
| CLO 5. Acquires the ability to present research findings as academic articles, reports and dissertations, speak at research conferences and seminars, and participate in academic discussions. |
| CLO 6. Learns to observe research ethics (preventing plagiarism, citing correctly, respecting copyright, etc.) and understands academic responsibility. |
| **Learning outcomes for the Master's Dissertation (CLOs)** |
| CLO 1. Acquires the ability to substantiate a research problem, define aims and objectives precisely, develop a comprehensive plan and complete research using theoretical and analytical methods. |
| CLO 2. Demonstrates the ability to analyse theoretical and practical problems in the specialty in depth and present independent solutions by applying modern research approaches to security risk assessment and operational decision-making. |
| CLO 3. Gains competence in mathematical modelling, systematic analysis, examination and generalisation of experimental and theoretical results. |
| CLO 4. Acquires the ability to justify the application of research findings in the specialty, develop practical recommendations and present innovative approaches. |

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| CLO 5. Acquires the ability to present and defend the dissertation's content to an academic audience clearly, with justification and in a structured manner, and participate in academic discussions. |
| CLO 6. Demonstrates the ability to observe research ethics and academic discipline in the dissertation, respect copyright, follow citation conventions and take responsibility for research. |

*Contemporary Issues in Finance*

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| 1. Can analyse key problems in the modern financial system (fiscal instability, public debt, difficulties in tax collection, etc.); |
| 2. Analyses emerging risks in global and national financial markets and the causes of crises; |
| 3. Evaluates the application of monetary and fiscal policy instruments under current economic conditions; |
| 4. Examines international regulatory mechanisms applied to preserve financial stability (Basel Accords, OECD standards, etc.); |
| 5. Can respond to new financial challenges such as climate change, green finance and ESG investment principles; |
| 6. Analyses current problems in Azerbaijan's financial and tax systems and develops well-founded proposals; |
| 7. Acquires the ability to conduct independent analytical and research work in finance and taxation, prepare policy documents and contribute to decision-making. |

*Tax Theory and Tax Policy*

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| 1. Can explain the economic and legal nature of taxes, their historical development and the key principles of taxation; |
| 2. Analyses tax system models (progressive, proportional, regressive, etc.) and evaluates their socioeconomic consequences; |
| 3. Analyses the impact of tax policy on macroeconomic indicators (growth, employment, inflation, etc.); |
| 4. Evaluates the role of tax policy as a component of fiscal policy in the state budget and economic stability; |
| 5. Analyses the economic justification of tax concessions and incentives and their use in public policy; |
| 6. Understands challenges to taxation mechanisms in the digital economy and proposes alternative solutions; |
| 7. Analyses the structure of the Republic of Azerbaijan's tax system and tax policy reforms and makes proposals; |
| 8. Acquires the ability to research tax theory and policy, prepare analytical reports and provide economic justification for tax decisions. |

*Tax Accounting and Control*

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| 1. Can explain tax accounting objectives and principles and its relationship with other accounting systems; |
| 2. Analyses accounting rules for different taxes (VAT, corporate income tax, personal income tax, simplified tax, etc.) and prepares reporting forms; |
| 3. Acquires the ability to prepare tax returns accurately and in accordance with legislation; |
| 4. Acquires practical skills in recording taxable objects and tax bases in accounts; |
| 5. Has knowledge of tax inspection types and procedures and tax control forms (operational control, cash register control, on-site and desk inspections, etc.); |
| 6. Analyses tax authorities' control functions and powers and taxpayers' rights and obligations; |
| 7. Analyses and can apply modern approaches to electronic tax accounting systems and digital tax administration; |
| 8. Acquires the ability to conduct analytical and practical studies on the application of tax accounting and control legislation in the Republic of Azerbaijan and make decisions based on legal and regulatory acts. |

*Tax Audit*

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| 1. Can explain the purpose, functions and principles of tax auditing and distinguish it from other audit types; |
| 2. Analyses the legal and regulatory framework of tax auditing (the Tax Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Law on Auditing Activities and other regulatory acts); |
| 3. Explains and applies the organisational stages of tax auditing (preparation, planning, execution and reporting); |
| 4. Applies audit methods to identify tax violations and tax evasion (document examination, comparative analysis, cross-checks, etc.); |
| 5. Acquires the ability to conduct audits based on enterprises' financial documents and tax returns and identify high-risk areas; |
| 6. Masters key concepts and applications of electronic auditing and digital audit technologies (e-audit systems, automated inspections, etc.); |
| 7. Can conduct independent tax audit research, prepare analytical reports and provide economic and legal recommendations. |

*Tax Planning and Strategy*

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| 1. Explains the theoretical foundations and objectives of tax planning and distinguishes tax planning from tax evasion; |
| 2. Can analyse and apply lawful methods to optimise the tax burden and reduce tax costs; |
| 3. Analyses the development stages of tax strategy and its impact on long-term tax policy; |
| 4. Identifies ways to recognise and manage tax risks; |
| 5. Assesses tax planning opportunities under Azerbaijani tax legislation and analyses real practical examples; |
| 6. Evaluates the challenges and prospects of tax planning in the digital economy; |
| 7. Demonstrates decision-making skills in developing tax strategies consistent with ethical and legal requirements; |
| 8. Acquires the ability to research tax planning and strategy and prepare analytical reports and recommendations. |

*Tax Debt Regulation*

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|---|
| 1. Explains the concept, causes and legal foundations of **tax debt;** |
| 2. Explains tax debt accounting, documentation and recognition procedures used by state **authorities;** |
| 3. Evaluates the rights and obligations of taxpayers and tax authorities in tax debt **regulation;** |
| 4. Analyses the legislative framework for tax debt collection, deferral, instalments and **write-offs;** |
| 5. Can apply mechanisms for calculating and imposing interest, penalties and financial sanctions **on tax debts;** |
| 6. Analyses ways to regulate relations between tax debtors and tax authorities **(restructuring, settlement agreements, judicial procedures, etc.);** |
| 7. Acquires the ability to conduct analytical studies on tax debt management and regulation, prepare proposals and contribute to decision-making. |

*Digital Technologies in Taxation*

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|---|
| 1. Explains the nature and significance of digital technologies in taxation; |
| 2. Describes modern information and communication technologies (ICT) used in taxation; |
| 3. Analyses electronic tax reporting principles, methods and tools; |
| 4. Explains the application of data analytics, big data and artificial intelligence in tax control; |
| 5. Identifies cybersecurity issues in taxation and proposes risk management measures; |
| 6. Develops practical projects for implementing innovations associated with digital transformation in taxation; |
| 7. Can prepare analytical reports on optimising tax processes and improving efficiency through digital technologies. |

*International Taxation*

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|---|
| 1. Explains the key concepts, principles and legal framework of international **taxation;** |
| 2. Analyses the nature and application of international tax treaties (for the avoidance of double **taxation);** |
| 3. Comparatively analyses the economic, legal and social aspects of international taxation; |
| 4. Analyses the objectives and tools of the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) **programme;** |
| 5. Identifies ways to align national tax systems with international tax standards; |
| 6. Evaluates current trends and challenges in international tax policy development; |
| 7. Analyses international tax reporting and transparency standards; |
| 8. Can conduct analytical research in international taxation and participate in related decision-making. |

Course: *Tax Risk Management*

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|---|
| 1. Explains the concept, types and classification of **tax risks;** |
| 2. Analyses the causes of tax risks and the internal and external factors **affecting them;** |
| 3. Applies methods for identifying, measuring and assessing **tax risks;** |
| 4. Explains principles for developing tax risk management strategies and **policies;** |
| 5. Proposes appropriate preventive measures and insurance mechanisms **against tax risks;** |
| 6. Identifies ways to mitigate risks through cooperation between tax authorities and **taxpayers;** |
| 7. Can prepare analytical reports, recommendations and decision-making documents on tax risk **management.** |

FOR ELECTIVE COURSES

*State Budget Revenue and Expenditure*

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|---|
| 1. Can explain the economic nature and functions of the state budget and its revenue/expenditure structures; |
| 2. Systematically analyses the main sources of state budget revenue (taxes, duties, income from state property, etc.); |
| 3. Explains functional, economic and programme classifications of budget expenditure and links them to state priorities; |
| 4. Acquires knowledge of developing social, economic and investment-oriented budget expenditures and evaluating their effectiveness; |
| 5. Understands budget deficits, public debt and their management mechanisms and can analyse their consequences; |
| 6. Acquires practical knowledge of the Republic of Azerbaijan's budget system and budget rules (the Budget Code and other regulatory documents); |
| 7. Can conduct analytical studies of state budget revenue and expenditure and develop and present well-founded proposals for decision-making. |

*Tax Policy in Public Finance*

| |
|---|
| 1. Explains the nature, objectives and functions of tax policy in public finance; |
| 2. Evaluates the application of different tax types and their effects on public revenue; |
| 3. Identifies ways to align tax policy with economic growth, employment and social equity objectives; |
| 4. Applies fiscal sustainability, transparency and effectiveness principles in tax policy development; |
| 5. Develops strategies for tax policy risk management and tax administration improvement; |
| 6. Can research tax policy in public finance, prepare analytical reports and contribute to decision-making. |

*Corporate Finance*

| |
|---|
| 1. Explains the nature, objectives and functions of corporate finance; |
| 2. Analyses corporations' financial structures and the key principles of capital markets; |

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|---|
| 3. Analyses and applies financial decision-making processes and risk management methods; |
| 4. Applies corporate investment project appraisal and financing methods; |
| 5. Analyses dividend policy and its impact on a company's financial sustainability; |
| 6. Evaluates the impact of financial leverage and borrowing policy on corporate finance; |
| 7. Considers ethical principles and legislative requirements in corporate financial management; |
| 8. Can prepare analytical reports and make financial decisions using modern corporate finance tools and technologies. |

*Corporate Tax Strategy*

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|---|
| 1. Describes the key concepts and objectives of corporate tax strategy; |
| 2. Explains and applies tax planning and optimisation principles; |
| 3. Analyses the corporate tax burden and identifies and manages tax risks; |
| 4. Analyses the impact of tax policy on corporate activities and ensures alignment between tax strategy and business strategy; |
| 5. Applies tax administration and tax control mechanisms; |
| 6. Acquires knowledge of tax concessions and international tax issues; |
| 7. Understands and applies the role of tax auditing in corporate tax strategy; |
| 8. Can prepare analytical reports on tax strategy and make recommendations on corporate tax risk management. |

*Tax Administration*

| |
|---|
| 1. Explains the scope, functions and objectives of tax administration; |
| 2. Clearly analyses the main elements of the tax administration system (tax registration, reporting, control, collection, etc.); |
| 3. Explains tax authorities' administrative activities and powers and evaluates their efficiency; |
| 4. Explains forms of tax control (tax audits, operational control, etc.) and evaluates their implementation mechanisms; |
| 5. Explains tax debt collection and enforcement procedures; |
| 6. Analyses the application of transparency, accountability and ethical management principles in tax administration; |
| 7. Can conduct analytical studies of tax administration, identify problems and make effective management decisions. |

*Tax Procedures and Proceedings*

| |
|---|
| 1. Explains the legal foundations and nature of tax procedures and administrative proceedings; |
| 2. Analyses taxpayers' rights and obligations and tax authorities' powers and obligations; |
| 3. Explains and evaluates tax inspection types and procedures; |
| 4. Explains tax law violations and the associated legal liability mechanisms; |
| 5. Applies and evaluates tax debt enforcement procedures (collection orders, pledges, compulsory sale, etc.); |
| 6. Analyses administrative and judicial procedures for resolving tax disputes; |
| 7. Has case-study analysis and decision-making skills in tax procedures and proceedings. |

Appendix 3

## Learning outcomes matrix for the educational programme and teaching activities

PLO alignment matrix for research-oriented courses

| Teaching activity (course) title | PLO 1 - Deeply understands the nature and theory of the tax system | PLO 2 - Analyses tax policy and fiscal mechanisms | PLO 3 - Applies research methods and thinks analytically | PLO 4 - Upholds professional ethics and academic integrity | PLO 5 - Has skills in tax and project management | PLO 6 - Presents findings at independent research and dissertation level |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Research Methods | ✓ | ✓ | ✓✓✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Academic Writing and Ethics | | | ✓ | ✓✓✓ | | ✓ |
| Project Management | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓✓✓ | |
| Research and Teaching Practicum | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ |
| Research Practicum | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓✓✓ |
| Master's Dissertation | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓✓ |

Explanation of abbreviations:

- ✓ – indicates basic knowledge and skills;
- ✓ ✓ – indicates intermediate application skills;
- ✓ ✓ ✓ – indicates advanced independent application and analytical skills.

PLO alignment matrix for compulsory courses Assessment criterion:

## Brief interpretation of the matrix

The matrix shows the extent to which courses taught in the Tax and Taxation master's specialisation contribute to programme learning outcomes. It identifies each course's contribution to developing students' professional competencies.

| Courses | PLO1 | PLO2 | PLO3 | PLO4 | PLO5 | PLO6 | PLO7 | PLO8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Contemporary Issues in Finance | ✓✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓✓ |
| Tax Theory and Tax Policy | ✓✓✓ | ✓✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ |
| Tax Accounting and Control | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ |
| Tax Audit | ✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓✓ | ✓✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ |
| Tax Planning and Strategy | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓✓ | ✓✓ |
| Tax Debt Regulation | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ |
| Digital Technologies in Taxation | ✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ |
| International Taxation | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ |
| Tax Risk Management | ✓✓ | ✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ | ✓✓ |

## Explanation of abbreviations:

- ✓ – indicates basic knowledge and skills;
- ✓ ✓ – indicates intermediate application skills;
- ✓ ✓ ✓ – indicates advanced independent application and analytical skills.

Agreed:

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