

PUBLIC AUDITING

MSc Degree in Auditing

Code: 9595120

Main Scientific Area: Auditing

Lecturer: Sara Alexandra Eira Serra

Language of Instruction: Portuguese

Regime: S2

Contact Hours: 28h Total Workload: 112h

ECTS: 5,0

Objectives

Provide students with theoretical and practical ability in the context of audits in the public sector, either as internal or external auditors or, as auxiliary technicians Statutory Auditors. To this end, students should acquire skills to interpret and apply the international and national standards on the application of auditing standards in the public sector and on the identification of the powers of supervisory bodies in Portugal for the Public Sector, particularly those of the Court Accounts.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Explain and understand the main concepts of public auditing;
- Analyze and resolve audit case studies;
- Resolve internal control exercises.

Course Contents

1. Framework of the Public Audit
 - 1.1. Public Audit definitions and objectives
 - 1.2. Justification for a Public Audit
 - 1.3. Usefulness of Public Audit
 - 1.4. Types of Public Audit
2. Public Audit Standards and Professional Bodies
 - 2.1. International Public Audit Bodies and Standards

- 2.2. National Audit Bodies and Standards
- 3. The Internal System of Internal Control of the State Financial Administration
 - 3.1. Control function within the Public sector
 - 3.2. Internal Control System of the State Financial Administration
 - 3.3. Types of control
- 4. External control: Court of Auditors
 - 4.1. Powers and structure of the Court of Auditors
 - 4.2. Type of audits
 - 4.3. Audit phases
- 5. Public Audit Planning
 - 5.1. Audit strategy and plan development
 - 5.2. Audit risk
 - 5.3. Materiality
- 6. Evaluation of Internal Control
 - 6.1. General objectives and principles of internal control
 - 6.2. Limitation of the internal control system
 - 6.3. Internal control procedures
 - 6.4. Corruption and Related Violations Risk Management Plans
- 7. Execution of Public Audit
 - 7.1. General audit procedures
 - 7.2. Specific audit procedures
 - 7.3. Sampling techniques
 - 7.4. Documentation of the work of the Public Audit
- 8. Report of the Public Audit
 - 8.1. Evaluation of results
 - 8.2. Audit reports

8.3. Audit follow-up

Recommended Bibliography

Lei de Organização e Processo do Tribunal de Contas.

Tribunal de Contas. (1999). Manual do Tribunal de contas, Volume I.

Tribunal de Contas. (2016). Manual auditoria, princípios fundamentais.

Learning and Teaching Methods

The syllabus contents were defined based on the objectives that are intended to be achieved for this curricular unit, as well as the skills to be acquired by students. Thus, the first chapter addresses the framework for public auditing, so that the student can understand its function and scope.

The second chapter addresses public auditing standards and professional bodies so that students understand which standards apply to the public sector.

The third and fourth chapters address the internal and external control, carried out by the State Financial Administration and the Court Accounts.

The following chapters address the audit phases, namely, the planning of the audit, the evaluation of the internal control system, and the execution of audit procedures. In this context, work documentation and audit reports are also addressed. Learning these contents will provide students with the knowledge and skills to perform an audit in the public sector.

Assessment Methods

Continuous assessment comprises the following assessment elements:

- Group work – with a weighting of 50% for the final classification, with 20% for the presentation and discussion;
- Exam – with a weighting of 50% of the final classification;

Approval in the curricular unit is subject to obtaining a minimum classification of at least 9.50 points on a scale between 0 and 20 points, considering the weighting corresponding to all components of the continuous assessment.

In the remaining evaluation periods and in the improvement of the grade, the evaluation is carried out by taking an exam, with a weighting corresponding to 100% of the final classification.