

## Public Finance (F710364)

Due to Covid 19, the education and assessment methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits** 5.0

**Study time** 150 h

**Contact hrs**

45.0h

### Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2021-2022

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

40.0h

guided self-study

5.0h

online lecture

0.0h

### Lecturers in academic year 2021-2022

Smolders, Carine

EB25

lecturer-in-charge

### Offered in the following programmes in 2021-2022

[Bachelor of Science in Business Administration](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Political Science](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management](#)

5

A

[Linking Course Master of Science in Public Administration and Management](#)

5

A

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

public finance, taxation, government debt and expenditures, fiscal federalism

### Position of the course

The main objective of this course is to study public revenues, expenditures and debt using a public economics approach. As such, insights from the course "introduction to economics (BA2)" considering market failure and the need for government intervention resulting from externalities is further deepened. The course focuses on local, regional and federal governments, which is in line with the government levels studied in "seminars in public administration".

### Contents

The course covers 5 topics:

1. Introduction to the aim of public finance theory, welfare economics, welfare distribution and redistribution
2. The study of the public revenues in a setting of fiscal federalism
3. The study of optimal tax structures and systems; analysis of recent tax reforms in the Flemish Region
4. The study of public deficits; inquiry into the effects of budgetary norms
5. The study of the optimal level of public debt in the context of the EU Growth and Stability Pact and the era of ageing

### Initial competences

knowledge concerning:

- utility maximizing behavior of economic agents
- the macro economic relationship between fiscal policy, debt, interest rates and economic growth
- the federalistic structure of the state

### Final competences

- 1 Being capable to argue why a specific government level is the appropriate one to levy a given tax

- 2 being able to evaluate tax systems using the Musgrave & Musgrave criteria
- 3 being able to express the main theoretical insights on public debt, the effects of ageing on the public budget and debt financing
- 4 being capable to analyze scientific articles independently and to develop a case using these scientific insights
- 5 being able to compare fiscal federalism systems
- 6 being able to discuss measures of redistribution through taxes
- 7 being capable to analyze scientific articles independently and to develop a case using these scientific insights
- 8  
being able to criticize or support conjectures considering public finance

#### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

#### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Lecture: plenary exercises, Online lecture, Guided self-study, Lecture, Online lecture: response lecture, Lecture: response lecture

#### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

a detailed line out of the course and the didactic methodes is posted at ufora

#### **Learning materials and price**

course material is a mix of articles, annotated powerpoints and syllabus which students can download at Ufora; price=20 euro

#### **References**

#### **Course content-related study coaching**

study guidance is available on demand; students are requested to make an appointment via e-mail.

#### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written examination with multiple choice questions, Written examination with open questions

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written examination with multiple choice questions, Written examination with open questions

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

#### **Extra information on the examination methods**

written exam based on multiple choice items; lemmas to be discussed and open questions; third part contains a case to be developed.

#### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Periodic evaluation (100%)