

## COURSE MODULE OUTLINE

### (1) GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>SCHOOL</b>	SOCIAL SCIENCES		
<b>PROGRAM COURSE</b>	BANKING, FINANCE AND FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY (FINTECH)		
<b>LEVEL OF STUDY</b>	POSTGRADUATE		
<b>COURSE UNIT CODE</b>	TPAX	<b>YEAR OF STUDY</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	POSTGRADUATE DISSERTATION		
<b>INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES</b> <i>in case credits are awarded for separate components/parts of the course, e.g. in lectures, laboratory exercises, etc. If credits are awarded for the entire course, give the weekly teaching hours and the total credits</i>		<b>HOURS</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>
		1,120	40 ECTS
Add rows if necessary. The organization of teaching and the teaching methods used are described in detail under section 4			
<b>COURSE TYPE</b> Compulsory, Optional, Optional mandatory	COMPULSORY		
<b>PREREQUISITE COURSES:</b>	NONE		
<b>LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION AND EXAMS:</b>	GREEK		
<b>THE COURSE IS OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS</b>	NO (due to annual duration of the module)		
<b>COURSE WEBSITE (URL)</b>	<a href="https://www.eap.gr/education/postgraduate/annual/banking/to pics/#t50">https://www.eap.gr/education/postgraduate/annual/banking/to pics/#t50</a>  Furthermore, TPAX Dissertation has its own space in the Learning Management System of HOU ( <a href="http://study.eap.gr">http://study.eap.gr</a> ), with controlled access (users' access credentials) for students and teaching staff ( <a href="https://study.eap.gr/course/view.php?id=494">https://study.eap.gr/course/view.php?id=494</a> ).		

## (2) LEARNING OUTCOMES

### **Learning Outcomes**

*The course learning outcomes, specific knowledge, skills and competences of an appropriate (certain) level, which students will acquire upon successful completion of the course, are described in detail. It is necessary to consult:*

#### **APPENDIX A**

- *Description of the level of learning outcomes for each level of study, in accordance with the European Higher Education Qualifications' Framework.*
- *Descriptive indicators for Levels 6, 7 & 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning and*

#### **APPENDIX B**

*Guidelines for writing Learning Outcomes*

The Dissertation is meant to combine and utilize the knowledge students have acquired over the course of their studies.

### **General Competences**

*Taking into consideration the general competences that students/graduates must acquire (as those are described in the Diploma Supplement and are mentioned below), at which of the following does the course attendance aim?*

<i>Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information by the use of appropriate technologies,</i>	<i>Project planning and management</i>
<i>Adapting to new situations</i>	<i>Respect for diversity and multiculturalism</i>
<i>Decision-making</i>	<i>Environmental awareness</i>
<i>Individual/Independent work</i>	<i>Social, professional and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues</i>
<i>Group/Team work</i>	<i>Critical thinking</i>
<i>Working in an international environment</i>	<i>Development of free, creative and inductive thinking</i>
<i>Working in an interdisciplinary environment (Other.....citizenship, spiritual freedom, social</i>	<i>.....</i>
<i>Introduction of innovative research</i>	<i>awareness, altruism etc.) .....</i>

- Search for, analysis and synthesis of data and information by the use of appropriate technologies
- Decision-making
- Introduction of innovative research
- Adapting to new situations
- Working in an interdisciplinary environment
- Working in an international environment
- Project planning and management
- Social, professional and ethical responsibility
- Development of free, creative and inductive thinking
- Critical thinking

## (3) COURSE CONTENT

The Postgraduate Dissertation is based on a proposal submitted by the students which is approved by the Programme Director. The research for the elaboration of the dissertation must have certain basic characteristics and must fulfil a number of prerequisites. A dissertation should have scientific originality and/or contributing new knowledge to the topic examined. The dissertation content must create the ability to positively affect future research within that particular research area and may enrich the knowledge of the author

to enable the attainment of professional goals. A dissertation topic usually combines four interacting factors, namely the research area, the business sector in which the dissertation is positioned, the dissertation classification and the most common methodology/tools employed.

The **research area** can be: Corporate Finance, International Finance, Accounting, Investment Analysis/Portfolio Management, Bank Management, Financial Technology, etc.

The dissertation may fall to one of the following **classification categories**: Business data analysis, Case Study, Comparative study, Literature based survey, Quantitative application/study, Sectoral study or Theoretical framework development.

The Dissertation may refer to a specific **business sector**.

The **methodology** can be: Literature review/scholarship, Primary research or Secondary Research. The **methodological tools** that are utilized for the completion of the dissertation are: Comparative analysis, Critical review of the literature, Descriptive statistics, Econometric analysis, Inferential statistics, Operational Research/Management Science (OR/MS) or Time series analysis.

A typical **Dissertation structure** includes an introductory chapter, a chapter of literature review and international experience, a methodological part and a conclusive chapter.

#### (4) TEACHING METHODS--ASSESSMENT

<p><b>MODES OF DELIVERY</b> <i>Face-to-face, in-class lecturing, distance teaching and distance learning etc.</i></p>	<p>Regular distance counseling meetings on the research and writing of the thesis, as well as on the provision of bibliography.</p> <p>Distance learning through the Dissertations portal (<a href="https://study.eap.gr/course/view.php?id=494">https://study.eap.gr/course/view.php?id=494</a>) (providing functionality such as Research Methodology Webinar and e-textbook concerning the research methodology) which is a virtual learning environment.</p>	
<p><b>USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY</b> <i>Use of ICT in teaching, Laboratory Education, Communication with students</i></p>	<p>Use of the webex teleconference platform (<a href="http://hou.webex.com">http://hou.webex.com</a>) for Counseling Meetings or other ad-hoc tele-meetings.</p> <p>Use of Microsoft Teams (<a href="http://noc.eap.gr">http://noc.eap.gr</a>) for ad-hoc collaboration meetings.</p> <p>Use of Dissertations microsite (<a href="https://study.eap.gr/course/view.php?id=494">https://study.eap.gr/course/view.php?id=494</a>) which offers the functionality of announcements and discussion forums, submission of feedback and grades, repository of resources (the microsite is developed in Moodle - Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment) and is a virtual learning environment).</p> <p>Use of HOU electronic library (<a href="http://lib.eap.gr">http://lib.eap.gr</a>).</p> <p>Use of plagiarism detection software (Turnitin - <a href="http://noc.eap.gr">http://noc.eap.gr</a>).</p> <p>Use of specialized software in the subjects under study (e.g. SPSS, R, SQLite, Diagram Drawing Tools, etc.).</p> <p>Use of the Office365 platform for students/ tutors productivity and collaboration.</p>	
<p><b>COURSE DESIGN</b> <i>Description of teaching techniques, practices and methods: Lectures,</i></p>	<p><b>Activity/Method</b></p>	<p><b>Annual workload</b></p>
	<p>Guidance meetings (estimated time)</p>	<p>10 hours</p>

*seminars, laboratory practice, fieldwork, study and analysis of bibliography, tutorials, Internship, Art Workshop, Interactive teaching, Educational visits, projects, Essay writing, Artistic creativity, etc.*

*The study hours for each learning activity as well as the hours of selfdirected study are given following the principles of the ECTS.*

Research methodology	420 hours
Individual study/ dissertation writing	600-800 hours
<b>Total Dissertation workload (hours)</b>	<b>1,030-1,230 hours</b>

- Students who successfully complete at least three modules of the programme and who are registered and enrolled in their final one are eligible to submit a dissertation proposal, by submitting the 'Master's Dissertation Proposal Form'. The dissertation counts as 20% of the degree in terms of marks.
- The 'Master's Dissertation Proposal Form' must be submitted electronically according the guidelines of the Hellenic Open University (HOU) for approval by the Programme Director. Each student undertaking a dissertation is supervised by a qualified academic instructor, who is assigned by the Programme Director. Subsequently, students with the assistance of their supervisors may improve the dissertation proposal and must submit electronically the 'Master's Dissertation Final Proposal Form' according the guidelines of the HOU.
- A dissertation may be completed in no less than 5 months and in no more than 8 months. In exceptional circumstances the Programme Director, after discussion with the supervisor, may allow for an extension on the dissertation submission deadlines.
- Students are introduced in the research methodology in order to utilize selected approaches and methods for their dissertation, and they write it.
- Students submit their dissertations on the TPAX Dissertation microsite and then supervisors use this microsite to upload their comments and to indicate if the dissertation is approved for oral examination.
- Students whose dissertations have been approved and meet the TPAX standards are scheduled for oral examination in the two examination periods, depending on the date when the submission of dissertation for oral presentation took place.
- The committee responsible for the oral exam consists of the supervisor and the second examiner. The Programme Director may have an active role in the evaluation process as a third examiner.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The examination is divided into two parts. In the first part, students present their work to the committee (usually supported by audio-visual material). In the second part of the procedure the members of the committee pose questions to the students.</li> <li>• After the oral examination the members of the committee may ask a student to make corrections or amendments. In such a case, the student must then submit the final version of the dissertation to all members of the committee within 15 days. The final grade of the dissertation is the average grade of the marks from all the examiners.</li> <li>• The procedures that should be followed by students and the committee before and after the oral examination are announced by the Educational Planning Department of the HOU.</li> <li>• The final version of the dissertation is submitted to the HOU library, according to the specifications of the library.</li> </ul>
<p><b>STUDENT PERFORMANCE EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT METHODS</b></p> <p><i>Detailed description of the evaluation procedures:</i></p> <p><i>Language of evaluation, assessment methods, formative or summative (conclusive), multiple choice tests, short- answer questions, open-ended questions, problem solving, written work, essay/report, oral exam, presentation, laboratory work, other.....etc.</i></p> <p><i>Specifically defined evaluation criteria are stated, as well as if and where they are accessible by the students.</i></p>	<p><b>A. Submission of Dissertation</b> the grade of which constitutes an 80 percent of the students' Dissertation grade.  <u>Language of evaluation:</u> Greek  <u>Assessment method:</u> Dissertation</p> <p><b>B. Dissertation oral defense</b>, the grade of which constitutes a 20 percent of the students' Dissertation grade.  <u>Language of defense:</u> Greek  <u>Assessment method:</u> Oral presentation</p> <p><u>Evaluation criteria:</u> The evaluation criteria are available at the General Regulation for Preparing Graduate Dissertations with an annual Module Correspondence.</p>

## (5) SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- *Suggested bibliography:*

- HOU general regulations for Master Dissertations:  
[https://www.eap.gr/education/diploma-regulations-works/annual-programs/?\\_gl=1\\*e9tjq0\\*\\_ga\\*MTA5MDI1NTU0MS4xNjcxNTU4NDUz\\*\\_up\\*MQ](https://www.eap.gr/education/diploma-regulations-works/annual-programs/?_gl=1*e9tjq0*_ga*MTA5MDI1NTU0MS4xNjcxNTU4NDUz*_up*MQ).
- HOU guides on researching and writing a postgraduate dissertation:  
<https://eeyem.eap.gr/services/guides/>
- TPAX Dissertation Handbook, HOU, Patra  
(<https://study.eap.gr/course/view.php?id=494>).
- Academic Writing, (2021), HOU, Patra (<https://study.eap.gr/course/view.php?id=494>).
- Jan Jonker J. and B. Pennink, (2010), The Essence of Research Methodology, Springer, Heidelberg.