

## Event Information

### ACC 676 Case Studies on Consulting in Financial Services Firms (Spring Semester 2026)

In spring of 2025 the module ACC 676 was offered with great success for the seventeenth time in cooperation with KPMG. The consistently positive feedback from students, for example when asked what they particularly liked, was as follows: "Practical relevance was great", "realistic course design and close collaboration", "many opportunities for initiative and creativity". We are therefore very pleased that Mr. Gero Wiechens, Partner at KPMG AG Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft, will again be offering the course in the coming semester as a lecturer at the Chair of Auditing with the support of relevant partners and consultants at KPMG AG.

In this interactive event, students will work in small groups on case studies from the areas of accounting, management consulting, risk management and capital markets with a focus on the financial services sector. Previous case study topics included the accounting for crypto assets and consulting on the establishment of a regulated crypto bank.

In groups of three to five students, participants will discuss case studies from the consulting practice with the help of practical and scientific approaches. The results will be summarized in the form of a consulting report (20 pages) and presented in a final presentation.

While working on the case studies, participants will be guided and supported by KPMG consultants. To ensure an optimal supervision ratio and a high level of interactivity throughout the event, the number of participants is limited to 16 students.

**The event takes place on 13 March, 17 April, and 22 May.** All events will take place in person either at the University of Mannheim or the offices of KPMG in Frankfurt.

## Short description of the case studies

### Case Study 1

Strategic acquisitions are a key lever for growth in financial services, yet they pose complex accounting and reporting challenges under IFRS. While banks often focus on valuation and integration, the implications of different ownership structures and the recognition of intangible assets in consolidation are equally critical. IFRS requires a principles-based approach to determine control, apply consolidation rules, and measure goodwill and identifiable intangibles — such as technology, customer relationships and brand value.

FinCorp Bank, a leading German financial institution, is evaluating two acquisition targets: TechPay, a fintech innovator in mobile payments and AI-driven fraud prevention, and HorizonX, a regional banking network expanding into Eastern and Central Europe. Beyond deciding which target to pursue, the CEO wants to understand how varying ownership stakes (75%, 25%, 10%) affect consolidation and financial statements. Additionally, for a potential 75% acquisition of TechPay, the CEO expects a detailed analysis of intangible assets under IFRS.

Your task is to conduct an impact analysis of these scenarios and address the financial implications. This includes preparing a consolidated statement, applying IFRS standards for recognition and measurement, and discussing subsequent treatment of goodwill and intangibles. The CEO expects clear recommendations supported by accounting logic and strategic considerations.

### Case Study 2

The financial services industry is undergoing a profound transformation driven by digital innovation and shifting customer expectations. Traditional banks are increasingly challenged to adapt to a landscape where fintech disruptors and regional players compete for market share. In this context, strategic acquisitions have become a critical lever for growth, enabling institutions to either enhance their technological capabilities or expand their geographic footprint.

FinCorp Bank, a leading German financial institution with a strong reputation for customer-centric solutions, faces a pivotal decision: Should it acquire TechPay, a fast-growing fintech specializing in mobile payments and AI-driven fraud prevention, or HorizonX, a regional banking network focused on emerging markets in Eastern and Central Europe? Each option offers distinct opportunities and risks. TechPay promises innovation and digital product enhancement, positioning FinCorp at the forefront of the European fintech market. HorizonX, on the other hand, provides access to underserved regions, unlocking long-term revenue potential through branch expansion and hybrid banking models.

As consultants, you are tasked with conducting a comprehensive strategic analysis to guide FinCorp's decision. This includes evaluating financial implications, operational synergies, and regulatory considerations.

The study will be created in cooperation with and under the guidance of KPMG consultants.

The learning objective of the course is to learn how a consulting project works within the framework of a realistic case study and to develop solutions to current challenges in the finance industry.



## Course Registration

The obligatory course registration is conducted via Portal2 during the regular registration period running until 05 February 2026. Students will be able to see whether they have been admitted to the course approximately on 06 February 2026. As per standard registration guidelines withdrawals are possible until 15 February 2026. Please note that once you have been assigned to a case study group during the kick-off workshop you will be formally registered for the exam in ACC 676 and can only withdraw under extenuating circumstances. We therefore ask all students to formally commit to the class during the regular registration period.

## Dates

Kick-off workshop	13 March 2026
Interim presentation	17 April 2026
Final presentation	22 May 2026

There will be coaching calls before both presentations, the dates are coordinated with the groups.

## Examination

Presentation (interim & final) 30 minutes + 15 minutes Q&A

Report 20 pages

## Participants

Gero Wiechens, Partner, KPMG

Max Eberle, Senior Manager, KPMG

Benedikt Ketzler, Senior Manager, KPMG

Ivy Mayer, Assistant Manager, KPMG

Kitti Harmati, Assistant Manager, KPMG