

ACC 35 I International Accounting

(Autumn/Winter Term 2026)

– Syllabus –

I. Contact Information

Instructor lecture & tutorial: Prof. Dr. Christoph Hütten / Agata Pohl
Homepage: <https://www.bwl.uni-mannheim.de/en/wuestemann/team/#c23000>
Office hours: Please use Forum function in Ilias

II. Course Objective

In response to the globalisation of the world's capital markets the language of communicating financial information to these capital markets is experiencing a similar globalisation: More than 160 countries across the world either require or permit the use of *International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)*. Thus, the world may not be far away from realising the vision of a global set of accounting standards. In such an environment being knowledgeable about IFRS is nearly as important for business professionals as English language skills.

This course introduces you to several different areas of accounting and financial reporting under IFRS. Among others you will learn how accounting policies and accounting estimates are set and changed, how IFRS deal with foreign currencies and how revenue is recognised and how. Additionally, the course will provide some insight into the processes companies apply to produce IFRS financials.

III. Course Information

ECTS: 6 ECTS
Target audience: Bachelor students (primarily incoming students)
Language: English
Approach: This course is delivered via hybrid learning.

- Lectures will be delivered as follows:
 - Most lectures via pre-produced videos which the students consume at their convenience (see section 'Course hours' below for details)
 - The other lectures live in presence at Mannheim University combined with the tutorials outlined below
- Mandatory readings will help the students deepen and broaden the knowledge provided in the lecture videos.
- Tutorials will be delivered as live in presence sessions. These tutorials will discuss and provide solutions for case studies related to the topics covered by the lecture videos and in presence lectures. The case studies will be made available ahead of the respective tutorials.

Grading: 100% written exam (60 minutes)
Address: https://ilias.uni-mannheim.de/goto.php?target=crs_1789716
Registration: Register for the course and for the e-learning platform Ilias at the homepage
A maximum of 60 students are accepted for the course
Announcements: All announcements will be made via the Ilias discussion forum
Materials: All course materials will be provided on Ilias

IV. Course Prerequisites

- Students attending the course should have a decent knowledge in bookkeeping. While the course will not explain the basics of bookkeeping it will make use of journal entries to explain the accounting and the final exam may well require the identification of appropriate journal entries.
- Students attending the course are expected to prepare for the tutorials by
 - consuming the lecture videos in a way that the video content is fully understood
 - attending the in presence lectures/tutorials
 - studying the mandatory readings
 - pre-reading the tutorial case studies
 Without such preparation the tutorials will most likely be of very limited usefulness!
- For quiz type exercises, all students should have available mobile devices with internet access and QR code scanning capability.

V. Course Hours

Video Lectures (Prof. Dr. Christoph Hütten)

The majority of the lectures will be delivered via pre-produced videos which the students consume at their convenience.

- For each lecture module covered by lecture videos one or multiple videos will be provided.
- The individual videos are purposely rather short to honour the limited attention span of video consumption.
- The lecture videos will be made available sufficiently early before the tutorials start.
- The lecture videos alone will not be sufficient as a preparation for the tutorials. The lecture slides (which may go beyond the video content) and the mandatory readings (which might include videos produced by others available on Youtube) are truly mandatory.

Live Lecture (Prof. Dr. Christoph Hütten & Agata Pohl)

A limited number of topics will be delivered via live in presence lectures which will be embedded in the tutorials outlined below:

Tutorials (Prof. Dr. Christoph Hütten & Agata Pohl)

Live sessions on Fridays, 8.30 – 11.45 on the following dates and in the following lecture rooms:

Tutorial 1:	11 th Sep.	Room 008 in Building B.6.30-32 E-F	Tutorial 3:	25 th Sep.	Room 0145 in Schloss Ostflügel
Tutorial 2:	18 th Sep.	Room 0148 in Schloss Ostflügel	Tutorial 4:	23 th Oct.	Room 0145 in Schloss Ostflügel

Note: dates and locations might change. Should changes occur, they will be announced on Ilias.

VI. Lecture and Tutorial Case Studies

The slides for a given lecture video will be made available together with the video and may go beyond the video content.

The slides for a given live lecture or for the case studies discussed in a given tutorial will be made available at least a few days before the respective tutorial date (without the solutions). The solutions will be made available after the respective tutorial.

The tutorials will cover a subset of the topics covered by the lectures. When covering a given topic the respective tutorial sessions typically starts with a very brief summary of the topic followed by case studies which the students will try to solve themselves before they are discussed in class.

Note: It will be very difficult to successfully work on the case studies without prior consumption of the respective lecture videos, lecture slides and mandatory readings.

VII. Exam

The exam will be a 60 minute closed book exam. The following resources are the only ones allowed to be used in the exam:

- Hardcopies of the text of the IFRS standards (original text without annotations)
- Hardcopies of English language dictionaries
- Calculators (excluding devices that have functionality beyond calculations. Thus, for example, no smartphones!)

VIII. Course Materials

Required Course Textbook: Donald E. Kieso, Jerry J. Weygandt, Terry D. Warfield: Intermediate Accounting IFRS, 4th Edition (2020).

Note: There is a 5th edition of the book from 2024 which you can use as well. As the 4th edition is still more broadly available, we provide references for that.

You will need access to a current set of IFRS pronouncements. Online access is available free of charge through the website of the IFRS Foundation (www.ifrs.org).

Further mandatory readings will be provided for individual sections of the course. Such readings will be highlighted in the lecture slides or course info.

Numerous IFRS textbooks are available in several languages. As far as they are current they can be used for further voluntary reading.

IX. Agenda

Note: the tutorials will not necessarily cover the topics in the order presented below:

Module I: Fundamentals of International Financial Reporting – Part A

1. What are 'accounting standards'?
2. How do IFRS differ from local sets of accounting standards?
3. What external financial reports do publicly listed companies reporting under IFRS issue and what additional information do they provide to the readers of their financial reports?
4. What is the difference between consolidated financial statements and standalone financial statements?
5. What are the basic accounting questions (Recognition, measurement, presentation, disclosure)?

Module II: Fundamentals of International Financial Reporting – Part B

1. What are the basic features of IFRS financial statements (going concern, accrual basis, materiality etc.)?
2. What is recorded in IFRS financial statements (assets, liabilities etc.)?
3. What does a full set of IFRS financial statements comprise of (IAS 1)?
 - What is the purpose and content of an IFRS income statement?
 - What is the purpose and content of an IFRS balance sheet?
 - What is the purpose and content of an IFRS cash flow statement?
 - What are notes to IFRS financial statements for?

Module III: Accounting Policies, Estimates and Errors (IAS 8)

1. What are accounting policies, how are they set and changed?
2. What are accounting estimates, how are they made and changed?
3. What are accounting errors, how are they corrected?

Module IV: Reporting Cycle and Subsequent Events (IAS 10)

1. Which basic processes do global companies use to prepare their financial reports; i.e. what is the process from posting transactions to issuing financial reports? (Reporting Processes)
2. How are events after the reporting period considered in the reporting?

Module V: Foreign Currencies (IAS 21)

1. How do we get business activities in multiple currencies into financial statements prepared in one currency?
(Foreign Currency Transactions)
2. How do we get local currency financial statements into reporting currency consolidated financial statements?
(Foreign Currency Translation)

Module VI: Revenue Recognition (IFRS 15)

1. What is 'revenue'?
2. How to recognise revenue for the sale of goods and services?

Module VII: Profit and Earnings per Share (IAS 33)

1. What different profit measures are reported under IFRS?
2. What are 'Alternative Performance Measures' and how are they governed?
3. What is the Earnings per Share metric used for?
4. How to calculate Earnings per Share under IFRS?
5. What is the difference between basic and diluted earnings per share?
6. How do companies disclose earnings per share?

Module VIII: Property Plant & Equipment (IAS 16, IAS 36)

1. What is PPE?
2. How is PPE recognised and measured?
3. What disclosures on PPE are made?
4. How is PPE accounting managed in an ERP system?

Module IX: Provisions (IAS 37)

1. What is a provision and how do provisions differ from other liabilities?
2. How are provisions recognised and measured?
3. What disclosures on provisions are required?