

About the Tax Academy of Singapore

The mission of the Academy is to raise the professional competency of the tax community and develop Singapore into a regional tax knowledge hub. A not-for-profit institution, the Tax Academy was set up by the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore in collaboration with the international accounting firms – Deloitte & Touche, Ernst & Young, KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers, the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Singapore and the Law Society of Singapore.

The Tax Academy's Work

The Academy collaborates with leaders in the industry and the academia to develop and deliver programmes that effectively raise the professional competency, knowledge and capabilities of the tax community. It provides the platform for exchange among tax officials, tax professionals and the academia, and promotes the development of tax expertise. The Academy also supports the strategic engagement of foreign tax officials and policymakers through its regional programmes.

The Tax Academy Board and Advisory Committee Members

The Board of Directors and advisory committee comprise individuals and representatives from its stakeholder groups with illustrious careers in the industry. Their extensive experience has been central in the setting strategic directions for the Academy and helped develop a world class tax training infrastructure that is continually relevant to the community.

Executive Tax Programme Level III: Advanced GST (Intake 2011-2012)

Programme Objective

The Executive Tax Programme Level III (GST) is the foremost training programme in the area of Goods and Services Tax (GST) for the tax professionals in Singapore. The curriculum offers rigorous training in GST advanced concepts and relevant case laws. This programme provides a platform for the exchange of tax knowledge and views between the participants from the public and private sector.

Programme Structure

There are two components to this programme, the coursework component and the research component. Participants will have to complete 3 modules and 1 research paper over a ten-month period.

Face-to-face delivery on coursework is conducted twice a week on weekdays, over a period of about 10 months.

All 3 modules comprise readings and case studies. There will be an assessment grading for each module. At least 70% of the grading will be based on the individual's performance. About 10%-30% would be awarded for class participation. Candidates have to achieve at least 70% attendance to qualify for the final written assessment. There will be a 1-week reading period for candidates to prepare for examinations.

Admission Criteria

The Advanced GST course is intended for those who wish to upgrade their skills and knowledge for their professional career in GST. Candidates should have at least 3 years of relevant working experience in GST. They should also be graduates from a recognized university or possess relevant professional qualification. Admission will be subject to approval by the Academy on a case-by-case basis.

Graduation

Candidates who successfully complete this programme will be awarded a certificate by the Academy.

Course Fees

The course fee for the programme (3 modules and 1 research paper) is S\$5,350. It includes 7% GST, course materials and examination fees for the first sitting.

Subsidy

Successful applicants to the programme may apply for a subsidy with IRAS.

A subsidy of 50% on the gross course fee is offered to

- 1) Accredited Tax Practitioners (ATP) admitted by the Singapore Institute of Accredited Tax Professionals ("SIATP")

II) Accredited Tax Practitioners (Provisional) admitted by the SIATP

For definition of Accredited Tax Practitioners and Accredited Tax Practitioners (Provisional),, please visit www.siatp.org.sg.

ICPAS members will enjoy 15% subsidy from ICPAS. ICPAS members who qualify for the IRAS subsidy, will receive a total of 65% subsidy.

Course Schedule

Please visit our website for the updated course schedule.

Registration

Candidates may download the registration form from www.taxacademy.sg.

Cheques should be crossed and made payable to “Tax Academy of Singapore” indicating the course title at the back of the cheque.

Confirmation will be sent via email at least 3 weeks before course commencement. There will be no refund for any course withdrawal after confirmation has been made.

Course Module Synopsis

GST 101 Tax Policy, Administration and Compliance

The module is made up of 2 parts, to be covered over two three-hour sessions.

Part 1 will cover the Fiscal Policy of Singapore, in particular the basic tenets of tax and fiscal policy and the rationale for the policy stance. Participants will study in detail the structure of the Singapore budget using actual recent budget materials and reports of the Economic Review Committee. Participants will also discuss the unique features of public finance in Singapore.

Part 2 will cover how the tax laws and policies are administered in Singapore from the tax administrator’s perspective. Participants will study how the tax policies formulated are actually implemented on the ground by the Government through IRAS, starting with the overall philosophy of the need to encourage voluntary compliance.

Participants will be given an appreciation of the strategic goals in tax administration in particular, service and compliance. The various provisions in the tax law that enables the tax administration to fulfil its key purpose and to maintain compliance among GST registered businesses will be covered.

Assessment Approach:

10% of the overall assessment will be determined based on active classroom participation and each group’s performance on in-class presentation and case studies. 90% of the overall assessment will be determined based on each participant’s performance on a written assignment.

Weightage of the module: 10%

GST 102 Legal Framework of Taxation

The following topics will be covered:

Appeal processes to the Board of Review and the Courts, use of case law authorities of other relevant tax regimes and case law analysis, interpretation of tax statutes in arguments and submissions before IRAS and the courts. The sessions will involve an in-depth analysis of recent tax cases and the reasoning of the courts in those cases. There will also be an opportunity for the class to examine and discuss interpretation of selected statutes.

Assessment Approach:

10% of the overall assessment will be determined based on active classroom participation and each group's performance on in-class presentation and case studies. 90% of the overall assessment will be determined based on each participant's performance on a written assignment.

Weightage of the module: 10%

GST 103 Goods and Services Tax (Law)

The objective of this module is to discuss in detail, some advanced concepts and the application principles governing 'Supply', 'Consideration' and factors for consideration in 'Zero-rating' using case law.

Assessment Approach:

10% of the overall assessment will be determined based on active classroom participation and each group's performance on in-class presentation on case studies. 90% of the overall assessment will be determined based on a written examination.

Weightage of the module: 40%

Research Component

Participants can choose either to write a research paper on specific topic identified by the examining panel or an advisory resolution to a scenario based case study under the guidance of a mentor. Participants will be paired with a mentor.

Weightage of research component: 40%

Case Study

The main objective of the case study is to develop analytical and practical application skills of trainees in specialized areas/ issues.

The scope and the facts of the case are developed by the mentor based on the topics covered in the coursework component. Trainees will have to perform analysis on the case study, draw literature references from the concept and principles covered in the course notes to derive at the appropriate recommendations. Mentor will provide guidance and advice to the trainees on the approach of the case study and derivation of the recommendations.

Research Paper

The research paper will be on policy and technical review. Mentor of the participant will provide guidance and advice throughout the development of the research paper.