

IBFD Online Course: Fundamentals of Tax Treaties

Learning objectives

After completing this course you will be able to:

- List the three levels of international tax environment
- Differentiate between active and passive income, source and residence taxation and juridical and economic double taxation
- Determine the operation of double tax treaties by identifying and applying their main rules on allocation of taxing rights and thresholds for source taxation
- Note the key features of double tax relief under double tax treaties and model tax conventions
- Define and apply the exemption and the credit method for double tax relief
- Identify the main differences between the OECD and the UN Model Tax Conventions
- Identify the key stages of double tax treaty negotiations
- Delineate the scope of tax treaties

Pre-requisites

This course covers, in detail, the fundamental concepts relating to tax treaties. It is highly recommended for participants with no/limited knowledge of tax treaties, or those with experience in domestic international taxation, who are looking to better understand the role of tax treaties. The course is further suitable for those who have previous experience with tax treaties, who wish to acquire a more thorough understanding. While knowledge/experience in international tax is not a pre-requisite for this course, participants will benefit from having a basic knowledge of the domestic tax law of at least one country, in particular as it relates to cross-border situations.

Study time

Audio lessons: 3.5 hours
 Self study: 11 hours (*includes short video interview with international tax experts*)
 Further reading (*optional*): 9 hours

Advanced preparation

No advanced preparation is necessary. All required study material is provided in the online course.

Course program

Lessons	Topics Covered
Lesson 1: The international tax environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Domestic tax law as the foundation of international tax · Features with cross-border impact · Policy influences · Conceptual map of the international tax environment · Introduction to key concepts
Lesson 2a: Double tax relief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Types of double taxation – juridical and economic · The main methods of DTR · OECD and UN model treaties - provisions on DTR
Lesson 2b: How tax treaties operate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Treaty allocation rules · Introduction to the permanent establishment concept · Overview of other treaty articles · Balance in treaties
Lesson 3: Revision quiz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Revise key concepts
Lesson 4: Role and development of model treaties and commentaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Introduction to the various model treaties · Substantive differences among various models · Development of model treaties · Role and significance of model treaties · Development of OECD and UN Models and Commentaries

Lesson 5a: The making of tax treaties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Life of tax treaties· Protocols· Other treaty-related documents· Some traps for the unwary· Policy considerations· Negotiation process
Lesson 5b: Eligibility to treaty benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Conditions for the application of a treaty – personal scope, material scope, territorial scope, temporal scope· Administrative requirements
Lesson 6: Revision Quiz	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Revise key concepts
Lesson 7a: Case Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· 3 Case studies covering the application of tax treaties
Lesson 7b: Interpretation and dispute resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Sources for treaty interpretation· Status of commentaries to model conventions· Dispute resolution
Lesson 8a: Policy considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· Source state concerns· Investment, and the return on investment· Residence state concerns· Deferral and CFC regimes· Harmful tax competition· Double tax relief - CIN and CEN· Treaty shopping

Also included in this course: A round table discussion on **“the wider issues of international tax”**

- **Prof. Wim Wijnen**, Counsel to the Director of the IBFD Knowledge Centre
- **Prof. Jan de Goede**, Senior Principal, Tax Knowledge Management and Director of Knowledge Centre, IBFD
- **Emma Barrögård**, Senior Research Associate at IBFD Tax Services



How to register:

To register for an IBFD online course, please visit www.ibfd.org or contact onlinecourses@ibfd.org