IBFD Online Course: Fundamentals of Value Added Tax

**Learning objectives**
After completing this course you will be able to:

- Discuss the history of VAT, some of its advantages and disadvantages and how it fits into the tax mix of states around the world.
- Describe the way in which VAT operates, particularly in respect of output tax and input tax, in such a way that it remains neutral in its application by businesses.
- Identify how VAT applies to international transactions of both goods and services and how the system allows for neutrality by ensuring that imports and exports are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged over domestic supplies.
- Discuss how VAT works within the European Union’s free market.
- Explain the impact of exemption in VAT and how tax is calculated by businesses that deal in exempt supplies.
- Categorize some of the more important administrative issues that VAT requires.

**Pre-requisites**
This course introduces the basics of value added taxes. As such, no great understanding of VAT is required as the course will build from the absolute basics through to some of the more complex issues such as exemption and internationally traded services. The course looks at both the European Union system of VAT and also at some of the developments in states that have adopted value added taxes in more recent times. It does not, therefore, focus on VAT as applied in any one state or group of states but takes a global view. Given the importance of VAT in the EU, the course will consider some of the specific issues that apply to trade between Member States of the EU.

**Study time (approx.)**
Audio lessons: 4 hours
Self study: 8 hours
Further reading (optional): 34 hours

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

**Course program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lessons</th>
<th>Topics Covered</th>
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</thead>
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| Lesson 1: Introduction to value added tax | • History of value added tax  
• How the tax works  
• Its advantages and disadvantages  
• VAT in the European Union |
| Lesson 2a: Basic characteristics of taxable supplies – Goods and services | • Transactions subject to VAT – basic rules  
• Goods and services  
• Supplies made electronically  
• Exceptions and unusual items |
| Lesson 2b: Taxable persons | • Taxable persons  
• Public bodies  
• Persons making supplies that are exempt from, or outside the scope of, VAT  
• VAT groups |
| Lesson 2c: Taxable amount – VAT rates and exemptions | • Consideration  
• Open-market value  
• Discounts  
• Standard rate, reduced rates and increased rates  
• Exemptions |
| Lesson 3a: Place of supply – Goods | • Supply of goods  
– Origin and destination principles  
• EU specific rules |
| Lesson 3b: Place of supply – Services | • General rules  
• Special rules  
• Electronically supplied services  
• Fixed establishment |
### IBFD Online Courses Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson 4: Revision quiz</th>
<th>Reinforce key concepts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 5: Deduction and recovery of input tax</td>
<td>Basic rules for deduction of input tax, Direct link between inputs and outputs, Partial and non-deduction, EU Refund Directives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 6: Administrative elements of VAT</td>
<td>Registration and deregistration for VAT, VAT invoicing, Business records and other documentation, VAT returns, Additional obligations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 7: Revision quiz</td>
<td>Reinforce key concepts</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Further reading**

- Articles for further exploration on the topics

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**How to register:**

To register for an IBFD online course, please visit [www.ibfd.org](http://www.ibfd.org) or contact [onlinecourses@ibfd.org](mailto:onlinecourses@ibfd.org)

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