

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE
NUS Business School
Department of Accounting
Semester 2, 2020/2021
ACC4711/ACC4611: Advanced Taxation

Instructor and Coordinator

Associate Professor (Practice) Simon Poh (email: simonpoh@nus.edu.sg)

Venue and Timings

Section A1: Tue 08.30 am to 11.30 am (BIZ2 – 0510)
Section A2: Tue 12.00 pm to 3.00 pm (BIZ2 – 0510)

Pre-requisites

ACC3703 / ACC3605 Taxation

Aim

To build on the foundation in ACC3703 / ACC3605 Taxation and provide students with basic grounding in tax planning and appreciation of tax issues commonly encountered by businesses and individuals from both the local and international tax perspectives.

Module objectives

- To understand and apply the basic principles of tax planning for business entities in a local (Singapore) context.
- To understand and apply the basic principles of tax planning for business entities in an international context, including the relevance of tax treaties.
- To understand and apply the basic principles of tax planning for an individual, with emphasis on an employee working in both local and cross-border assignments.

Reading References

There is no basic compulsory textbook, as materials are collated from various sources. The following references are useful:

References

- Taxation in Singapore 2020/2021 Edition, McGraw-Hill **ISBN No 978-9-814-82199-5**
- Singapore Tax Workbook 2020/2021 Edition
- Singapore Master Tax Guide Handbook 2020/2021 Edition
- Singapore Master Transfer Pricing Guide 2018/2019, Wolters Kluwer
- IRAS website – mainly e-Tax guides and relevant tax treaties
- Ministry of Finance website – past and current year Budgets
- Singapore Big Four websites – mainly Budget Commentaries
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) website.

Main Tax Statutes

Income Tax Act (ITA), Cap. 134 & Economic Expansion Incentives Act (EEIA), Cap 86
Both statutes are available for on-line viewing at <http://statutes.agc.gov.sg>

Updated 17 Dec 2020

Assessment & Evaluation

Group Assessment (35%)

Tutorials and Case Studies	15%
Group Project	20%

Individual Assessment (65%)

Class Participation	15%
Final Exam – 3 hours (open-book) – all topics are tested	<u>50%</u>
TOTAL	<u>100%</u>

KEY AREAS OF THE SYLLABUS

1. Local Tax Planning for Business Entities

- Revision of key corporate income tax concepts covered in ACC3605 Taxation course
- Introduction to tax planning and application of common tax planning techniques
- Stamp duty administration, scope, treatment, reliefs and remissions
- Selected tax incentives in ITA AND EEIA, including:
 - Shipping, banking, insurance incentives
 - Headquarters tax incentives
 - Development & Expansion (DEI)
 - Global Trader Programme (GTP)
 - Pioneer Companies / Pioneer Service
 - Investment Allowance
- Transfer Pricing and General Anti-Avoidance Provisions
- Tax issues in corporate mergers and acquisitions (M&As)

2. International Tax Planning and Tax Treaties

- Objectives of international tax planning and common tax planning techniques
- Tax issues to consider when a company ventures overseas, including:
 - Choice of investment vehicle
 - Designing a tax efficient holding structure
 - Planning the financing structure
 - Profit repatriation
 - Common Pitfalls to avoid
 - Taxation of foreign income in Singapore (revision)
- Understanding the role of tax treaties in international tax planning
- OECD Model Tax Convention and Commentaries on various treaty articles
- Selected Singapore tax treaties – Malaysia, China and India
- Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)

3. Individual Tax Planning

- Revision of key individual income tax concepts covered in ACC 3605 Taxation course and additional topics, including:
 - Structuring employment packages
 - Area representatives, dual employment contracts and NOR schemes
- Tax issues to consider when sending staff for overseas assignments, including:
 - Tax equalisation and tax protection policies
 - Relevance of tax treaties for individual taxpayers

4. Revision on Taxation of Partnerships and GST