



# New Master of Science in "Finance and Accounting" with two profiles: Finance and Banking • Accounting and Auditing

*"Behind every smart decision lies financial knowledge"*

## Master Program in "Finance and Accounting"

The Master of Science in Finance and Accounting represents an advanced academic program designed to provide in-depth theoretical and professional training, aligned with contemporary higher education standards and labor market demands. The program is structured around two well-defined profiles—Finance and Banking, and Accounting and Auditing—enabling students to pursue differentiated specialization and to develop advanced competencies in their respective fields.

Closely aligned with the structural developments of the Albanian economy, the program contributes to the preparation of highly qualified professionals capable of addressing challenges related to strengthening the regulatory framework, enhancing financial and accounting practices, and advancing the process of European integration. In this context, it effectively integrates advanced theoretical training with contemporary practical approaches, through the use of specialized software, the application of modern techniques in financial analysis and decision-making, and adherence to international financial reporting standards.

A core component of the program is its research dimension, which is realized through the preparation and defense of the Master's thesis, aiming to develop students' analytical, critical, and methodological skills in addressing complex financial and accounting issues. Furthermore, the program is grounded in the principle of interdisciplinarity, integrating knowledge from economics, the social sciences, the natural sciences, and technology, in line with contemporary approaches to higher education reform and international academic models.

Overall, the Master of Science in Finance and Accounting aims to develop highly qualified professionals and researchers equipped with advanced analytical and practical competencies, capable of contributing effectively to the development and modernization of the financial and accounting sector at both the national and international levels.

## Main goals of the program

The main objectives of the Master of Science study program in "Finance and Accounting" are:

- To provide advanced theoretical and practical training in the fields of finance and accounting, in line with contemporary academic and professional standards.
- To develop specialized competencies within the Finance and Banking, and Accounting and Auditing profiles, enabling students to prepare for advanced professional roles.
- To equip students with analytical and decision-making skills through the application of modern financial analysis techniques, the use of specialized software, and the interpretation of complex data.
- To ensure in-depth knowledge of international standards in financial reporting, auditing, and financial regulation, supporting integration into international markets.
- To develop research and methodological capacities, enabling critical analysis and the scientific treatment of issues in finance and accounting, as realized through the Master's thesis.
- To promote an interdisciplinary approach by integrating knowledge from economics, the social sciences, and technology in the analysis and resolution of complex problems.
  - To prepare professionals capable of contributing to economic development through the improvement of financial practices, the strengthening of the regulatory framework, and the support of European integration processes.

## The main competencies acquired

Students graduating from this program will gain:

- In-depth professional knowledge and analytical skills in finance and accounting, applicable across the private and public sectors, as well as in agriculture and agribusiness.
- Ability to assess and address financial risk and to apply contemporary approaches to the analysis of the financial health of economic entities.
- Competence in international financial reporting, auditing, advanced financial accounting, and the application of accounting standards in both the private and public sectors.
- Capacities in financial planning, budgeting, business valuation, and the financial appraisal of sustainable development projects.
- Specialized competencies in rural finance, including the financing of agriculture, agribusiness, agritourism, and rural development.
- Ability to design and evaluate economic policies and projects that promote development and alignment with European Union policies.

## Career opportunities

Graduates can pursue careers in the following positions and roles:

- **Kualifikime ndërkombëtare** — programi përgatit studentët edhe për certifikime si ACCA, CPA dhe CIA, duke zgjeruar mundësitë e punësimit në tregjet ndërkombëtare.
- Banking and non-banking financial institutions — commercial banks, microfinance and microcredit institutions, insurance companies; in roles related to financial analysis, accounting, auditing and reporting.
- Public institutions at the central level, including ministries, as well as agencies and public entities with functions in the fields of finance, auditing, and reporting.
- Local government—61 municipalities, in positions regarding budget planning, financial reporting, and internal control.
- Private enterprises—construction, services, agribusiness, and agrotourism; in finance, accounting, cost control, and management roles.
- In higher education institutions and research organizations, both public and private, in roles such as finance and budget specialist, investment analyst, and research assistant.
- In international institutions and organizations, in professional roles in the fields of finance and accounting, as well as in the evaluation and monitoring of development projects and policies.
- International qualifications—the program also prepares students for certifications such as ACCA, CPA, and CIA, thereby expanding employment opportunities in international markets.

## Program structure

The Master of Science in Finance and Accounting is delivered over two academic years (four semesters), ensuring a structured progression from advanced theoretical training to professional specialization and scientific research. Overall, the program provides a balanced integration of theoretical knowledge, practical application, and research, preparing highly qualified graduates for careers in the financial sector, public and private institutions, as well as in academia and research.

In the **first year**, the program focuses on building a solid theoretical and methodological foundation. In the first semester, students deepen their knowledge in advanced microeconomics and macroeconomics, research methodology, and financial modeling, while also developing competencies in econometrics and financial risk management. Core aspects of financial reporting, in line with contemporary standards, are also addressed. In the second semester, the program expands toward international and applied dimensions through modules such as international finance, advanced financial management, advanced financial accounting, and accounting information systems. In addition, specialized areas such as the valuation of agricultural assets and environmental cost analysis for sustainable development are incorporated.

In the **second year**, the program is oriented toward advanced specialization and the integration of knowledge in professional and research contexts, while simultaneously reflecting a strong interdisciplinary approach. In the third semester, students undertake advanced modules such as financial institutions management, green finance, tax legislation and fiscal administration, and portfolio management. A key feature of this semester is its

flexibility through elective courses, which enable further specialization in areas such as insurance operations and climate risk management, auditing and internal control, financial regulation and supervision, personal finance, as well as topics related to digital agriculture and the environment. This combination reflects the integration of finance and accounting with dimensions of technology, environmental sustainability, and sustainable development. Depending on the chosen profile (Finance and Banking or Accounting and Auditing), students pursue specialized modules that further deepen their professional competencies.

In the **fourth semester**, the program is fully dedicated to the research component. Students undertake a thesis orientation seminar, which guides them in the selection of their research topic and the methodological structuring of their academic work, and subsequently engage in the preparation and defense of the Master's thesis. This process aims to consolidate students' research, analytical, and critical skills, enabling them to independently address complex issues in the fields of finance and accounting.

### Interdisciplinary approach

The program is designed in accordance with the principle of interdisciplinarity—integrating approaches, methods, and analytical tools from multiple disciplines to generate knowledge and solutions applicable to complex economic, financial, social, and technological challenges. This principle reflects the interconnected nature of the contemporary environment and enables students to develop a broad and integrated perspective in analyzing and solving problems. Within this framework, the program combines elements from economics, finance, accounting, and technology, fostering critical thinking, advanced analytical capabilities, and the ability to make informed decisions in dynamic and complex contexts.

In line with international standards (Muster Curricula), the program is based on an interdisciplinary approach, integrating knowledge from technology, the natural sciences, and economics in order to provide a comprehensive and well-balanced education for addressing complex challenges. The credit structure reflects this approach, with social sciences accounting for approximately 60% of the total, while natural sciences and technical sciences each represent about 20% of the credits.