

## **Master's program "INTERNATIONAL PROJECT MANAGEMENT"**

**4 semesters, 120 credits in ETCS**

**The cipher for the Master's program:**

**0744 (distance learning, self-financed)**

(the cipher is used during the filling in of documents for applying/enrolling)

Master's Degree Program "International Project Management" prepares students for successful development and governance of international projects in different context. The educational content is entirely consistent with the achievements of the leading universities in this field and is based on international standards of knowledge, skills and attitudes in the field of project management and in particular with the requirements of the Project Management Institute (PMI - PMBOK®). The program is jointly developed by the department "Strategic planning" and "International economic relations" at D.A. Tsenov Academy of Economics. Part of the team of academic lecturers, teaching this course, are members of the Bulgarian Association of Project Management (BAPM).

The program focuses on systematic approach to **develop and manage** international projects and prepares highly qualified experts, specialists and advisers with professional, cognitive and social competencies in project management in different sectors.

The course provides and develops knowledge and competencies in the field of: the basics of international economics and finance, the international business and foreign trade operations, project management, international human resources management and project teams, project management software, business negotiations, international PM standards, project audit, risk management, urban development and innovative projects development.

The graduate students of master's programme "International project management" **acquire a wide specter of practical and cognitive skills and approaches**, required for understanding and taking creative solutions related to abstract problems in the field of international project management. They are capable of diagnosing problems related to project management in its international aspect and suggest adequate, for the contemporary stage of the field, decisions for solving them.

**Professional realization.** Because project managers are in high demand in a variety of industries, as a graduate of the Master of International Project Management degree program they can be prepared for a variety of positions in multinational organizations, including:

- project manager;
- project management analyst;
- quality management project coordinator;

- industrial production manager;
- sales manager;
- business planning analyst;
- administrative services manager.
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### **Disciplines included in the master's programme**

During the master's degree course "International Project Management" in within four semesters the students study 18 disciplines as follows: "Economics", "Introduction to finance", "International economics", "International human resource management", "Fundamentals of project management", "Negotiation and communication skills", "International business operations", "Processes in project management", "Project management software", "Project teams", "Program and project management", "Operational project management", "International standards for project management", "Risk management in projects", "Project Auditing", „Training in project management", "Urban development" and "Innovative projects".

### **FIRST SEMESTER**

In the first semester, **block one**, are studied the disciplines: "Economics", "Introduction to finance".

**"Economics"**. The course aims to teach the fundamentals of economics to those who are interested in economic theory. The contents of the course is organised in two parts - Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. Therefore, this course is about everything which relates to general economic theory and is fundamental to the academic training of the students in other economic subjects and their further development as specialists in economy.

**„Introduction to finance“**. The aim of the discipline is to lay ground for a financial thinking model for future specialist in the field of economics and administration. The program is prepared to provide knowledge for specialist-economists in field different from the finance. Money, taxes, budget, credits and investments are studied from a basic economics agents prospect. The course is fundamental for development of competencies in the whole field of the economic and administration matter.

**Block two:** In the second block of the first semester are included "International economics", "International human resource management", "Fundamentals of project management".

**„International economics"**. The curriculum of "International Economics" is designed for students of International Economic Relations. The programme is mainly oriented towards fundamental concepts, phenomena and laws in today's global economy which are necessary for

economists in their practical work and research. It is focused primarily on theoretical knowledge which should be gained by students in this discipline.

**„International human resource management“.** The last decade of 20th and the beginning of 21st century imperatively focused the research on the international dimension of company activities, respectively, on the management of human resources. The main objective of this course is to present the ideas, methods and technologies that are useful for students, studying International Human Resource Management. Students have the opportunity to master theoretical knowledge and gain practical skills about the core philosophy of international human resource management, for the reasons underlying its appearance and development, about the differences between domestic and international management staff, as well as aspects related to the planning of processes, recruitment, motivation, wages and staff training.

**„Fundamentals of project management“.** The course aims to introduce students with the project management tools and how it adds value to organizations that apply it. The curriculum is aligned with the certification programs of the Project Management Institute (USA), as well as the achievements of leading universities in the EU. The course is supported by many practical and applied case studies.

A particular emphasis is set on the development of strategic thinking in students and directing them to solve critical development issues, such as social inequality, environmental issues, economic development, etc.

## **SECOND SEMESTER**

In the second semester of the master's program are included: "Negotiation and communications skills", "International business operations", "Processes in project management", "Project management software", "Project teams".

**Block one:** In the first block are included the disciplines "Negotiation and communication skills", "International business operations".

**„Negotiation and communication skills“.** The aim of the course is to develop students' communication and negotiation skills for successful deals and business negotiations. The course combines theoretical background, simulations and class discussions to develop effective approaches to conducting successful business. The course provides knowledge about cross-cultural communication styles and cultural differences in the field of verbal and non-verbal communication.

**„International business operations“.** The aim of the course is to provide students with knowledge about the international environment and its components, how to evaluate and choose

mode and country of entry, and different types of international operations, such as leasing, export/import, countertrade and tender.

**Block two:** In the second block of the second semester are included “Processes in project management”, “Project management software”, “Project teams”

**„Process in the project management“.** Building knowledge and skills in students for process management. The course enables students to learn about basic processes in a project-oriented organization and to gain skills for their management.

The course was built according to modern achievements of leading universities in this area and consists of theoretical foundations and practical guidance based on specialized software, and many case studies and practical examples.

**„Project management software“** The objective of this course is to provide underlying knowledge and skills regarding the use of software tools for project management. Project management software solutions help to effectively plan, schedule and control projects of various scale and scope. Students will learn how to allocate resources and track progress, create and use Gantt charts, compare budgeted vs actual values and perform overall monitoring of multiple projects.

**„Project teams“.** The success of organizations in today's economy depends to a large extent on people's attitude to work and their work performance. The question that emerges is how to organize people's work so that an organization is able to extract the maximum from their employees. Managers today use a management approach that combines specific goals and motivation related to the results of self-management, autonomy and self-control to a certain degree. The individual no longer plays a leading role in performance at work, but the group of individuals called the team.

### **THIRD SEMESTER**

In the second semester of the master's program are included: “Program and project management”, “Operational project management”, “International standards for project management”, “Risk management in projects”, “Project Auditing”.

**Block one:** In the first block are included the disciplines “Program and project management”, “Operational project management”.

**„Program and project management“.** The course aims to build students' knowledge in project management, both at corporate and public sector. The Program management has its specifications - with its terminology and methods of organization, and yet it is universal - because it can be applied in many sectors equally successfully. It is a tool that can help companies and

organizations, especially when they have a wide range of project ideas, which are similar in nature, to be united in a common program for their realization.

**„Operational project management“.** Building knowledge and skills in students for project management, according to modern views, principles and practices in organizational performance management, monitoring and reporting of project and the related with these stages processes of time, cost, human resources, and risk management.

**Block two:** In the second block of the second semester are included “International standards for project management”, “Risk management in projects”, “Project auditing”.

**„International standards for project management“.** The goal of the discipline is to present the world-imposed standards for project management. The matter gives the students an opportunity to acquire knowledge about the basic standardized methodologies for project management, as well as to learn how to use them.

**„Risk management in projects“.** The course objective is future specialists in project management to gain knowledge about the management of risks associated with project management. Based on case studies they will acquire skills for risk identification, risk assessment and taking measures against the risk.

**„Project auditing“.** The main objective of the course is to provide the students with scientific and practical knowledge of the organization, the methodology and functionality of the audit of projects, financed by the EU or by budget funds. In general, the course strives for balance between the theory and the practice in the field of internal and external auditing. The discipline includes questions related to the principles and the approaches to the structural development and the technology for the implementation of the internal and external auditing, as well as the possible solutions to the problems that might occur in its management.

## **FOURTH SEMESTER**

In the fourth semester of the program are included: „Training in project management”, “Urban development” and “Innovative projects”, the master’s degree seminar “International Project Management” and the master’s thesis development and defense.

**Block one:** contains the disciplines: „Training in project management”, “Urban development” and “Innovative projects” and the master’s degree seminar “International Project Management” is held.

**Training in project management“.** The aim of the course is to learn students to develop a project practically, using the knowledge and competences they have acquired during the previous courses. The course will emphasize on the main steps related to the process of developing a their own project using the theoretical background.

**Master's degree seminar "International Project Management"**. The purpose of the Master seminar is to introduce students to the methodology for thesis development: defining the thesis goals and objectives of the study, design of the theses, rules of citation and information security. During the course the students will become familiar with the methods for research, collection of data, processing and analysis of information.

**Optional course (you choose only one of the two disciplines):**

**„Urban development“**. The course aims to form in the students knowledge and skills concerning the basic concepts and nature of urban development, the factors for design and city development, the legal regulation of urban development processes, the principles for sustainable urban development and the existing urban policies and programs. The course has elective character and develops skills for integrated spatial, urban, economic and demographic planning.

**„Innovative projects“**. This course aims to create competencies for development and implementation of innovative projects. The course content meets the requirements of the integrated approach. The educational content presents current methods and techniques of planning and design tools and approaches for management on innovative projects.

**Block two**

**Master's thesis development and defense.**