UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Public Finances

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences

2. Course

ECONOMICS

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

Public Finances (03329)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

3rd

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

1st Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	30,00
Tutorial Guidance:	20,00

9. ECTS Credits

6,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutor NUNO MIGUEL SIMÕES VENES

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

It is intended that students are able to understand the role of the State in a mixed economy, both in the microeconomic and macroeconomic aspects.

15. Specific Objectives

To analyze and exemplify the main financial means of action of the State, both on the side of public expenditure, as well as the collection of revenues and forms of indebtedness;
To understand the microeconomic underpinnings of state intervention;
To understand the process of preparation, approval, execution and control of the State Budget;
To understand the macroeconomic framework for decision-making with regard to fiscal policy, in particular in the context of EMU.

16. Skills to be acquired

Understand and analyse public finance policies and their impact on economic activity.
Deal with situations, problems, perspectives, and solutions in the main areas of public intervention.

17. Teaching Methodology

Articulation between a theoretical approach and problem-solving oriented to nowadays. Study of concrete cases.

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18. Course Unit Program

1.Public Finance and the Role of the State - brief review
1.1. Theories about the role of the state
1.2. Grounds for public intervention

2. Public Expenditure: Theory and Practice
2.1. Framework and trend in Portugal and the European Union
2.2. Efficiency of public spending
2.3. Expenditure and equity

3. Public Revenues: Theory and Practice
3.1. Main sources of public funding
3.2. Efficiency and fairness of a tax system
3.3. The tax system Portuguese

4. The Public Sector in Portugal: scope, structure and accounts
4.1. Structure of General Government
4.2. General Government accounts and balances

5. The State Budget
5.1. Concept, structure and budget cycle
5.2. The rules for the organisation of the budget
5.3. The budgetary procedure: preparation, discussion and voting
5.4. Implementation and budgetary control: the State Account
5.5. Supervisory bodies: the Court of Auditors and the Public Finance Council

6. Fiscal Policy
6.1. Objectives, instruments and indicators
6.2. Sustainability of Public Finances - public debt
6.3. Budgetary policy in the context of EMU

19. Assessment Methods

Two continuous evaluation mid-term tests.

20. Didactic Resources

For some points of the program, Powerpoint accompanying the exhibition in the theoretical-practical classes.
Exemplified monitoring of the main instruments of Public Finance (in particular the OE Act and the attached tables).
Portuguese and international journals and specialty articles.

21. Sustainability Objectives

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The course unit contributes to SDG 4 ? Quality Education by promoting the development of critical and analytical skills in the field of public finance, including an understanding of the role of the State, the efficiency and equity of public expenditure and revenue, and the budgetary process. This knowledge strengthens students? economic and fiscal literacy, enabling them to participate more informedly and responsibly in society.
It also contributes to SDG 8 ? Decent Work and Economic Growth by

22. Keywords

Efficiency
Equity
Equilibrium
Consolidation
Revenue
Expenditure
Budget

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	Pereira, Paulo T., Afonso, A., Arcanjo, M., Santos, José C.G. e Cabral, R.		
Title:	Economia e Finanças Públicas		
Edition:	6ª	Year:	2022
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Escolar Editora		

Author(s):	Pereira, Paulo T. e Nunes, Francisco		
Title:	Economia e Finanças Públicas: da Teoria à Prática		
Edition:	5ª	Year:	2016
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Almedina		

Author(s):	Alexandre, F., Aguiar-Conraria, L. e Bação, P.		
Title:	Crise e Castigo e o dia seguinte		
Edition:		Year:	2019
Local:	Lisboa		
Publisher:	Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos		

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	Stiglitz, J. e Rosengard, J.		
Title:	Economics of the Public Sector		
Edition:	4th	Year:	2015
Local:	New York		
Publisher:	W. W. Norton & Company		

Author(s):	Musgrave, R. e Musgrave, P.		
Title:	Public Finance in Theory and Practice		
Edition:		Year:	1989
Local:			
Publisher:	McGraw-Hill		

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Título / Title	Course Unit Program 'FINANÇAS PÚBLICAS': Academic Year 2025/2026
Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor NUNO MIGUEL SIMÕES VENES
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Descritores / Descriptors	-
Colaborador(es) / Colaborator(s)	-
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