



UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
Public Finances

Academic Year 2026/2027

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

The Regulations for the Assessment of Knowledge and Skills currently in force will apply. Continuous assessment must include oral contributions distributed throughout the teaching period and a final written test, and may also include a midterm written test, as specified in the respective Continuous Assessment Plan.

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.



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21. Sustainability Objectives

The course contributes to SDG 4 - Quality Education by developing critical skills and economic and fiscal literacy in public finance. It also contributes to SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth by analysing the role of public expenditure, taxation and fiscal policy in sustainable economic growth.

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
ISBN Code:

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
ISBN Code:

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
ISBN Code:

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
ISBN Code:

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



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Ficha técnica MIP / MIP Datasheet	
Título / Title	Course Unit Program 'FINANÇAS PÚBLICAS': Academic Year 2026/2027
Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor NUNO MIGUEL SIMÕES VENES
Classificação / Classification	-
Descritores / Descriptors	-
Colaborador(es) / Colaborator(s)	-
Data Hora / Date Time	
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Estatuto de utilização / Usage	Acesso público / Public Access
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