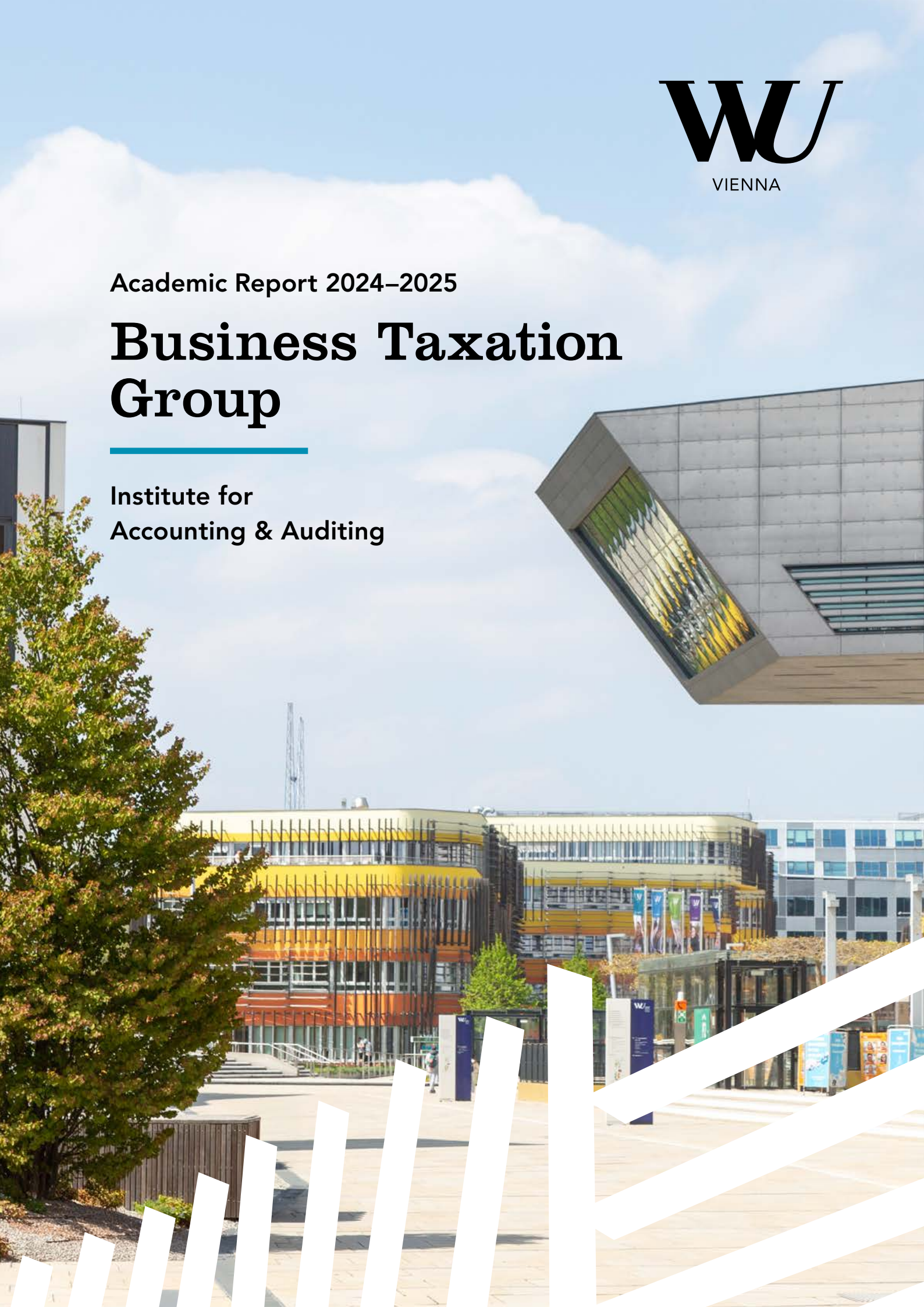

WU VIENNA

Academic Report 2024–2025

Business Taxation Group

Institute for Accounting & Auditing

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Introducing the Group

We are pleased to present the achievements of the Business Taxation Group for the academic year 2024/2025. Our team currently includes 14 staff members from Austria, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Italy, the Netherlands, and the Westbank, who are supported and supervised by Professors Eva Eberhartinger, Matthias Petutschnig, and Harald Amberger. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for the excellent collaboration to our colleagues Univ. Profs. Ewald Aschauer, Klaus Hirschler, Katrin Hummel, Zoltán Novotny-Farkas, Christian Riegler, and Katrin Weiskirchner-Merten, and their teams, with whom we share a friendly relationship at the Institute for Accounting & Auditing.

Over the following pages, we would like to introduce our team and provide information about our research and teaching activities. Our commitment to the relevant courses in two bachelor's, two master's, and two doctoral programs at WU remained unchanged. Our teaching is aligned with the professional profile of tax advisors and the requirements of in-house tax departments of companies, financial institutions, and tax administrations. In addition to specialized knowledge, we particularly emphasize enabling students to independently develop new solutions for tax-related issues in business, including those based on changes in legislation.

Thanks to our diverse relationships with accounting firms and companies we manage to maintain practical relevance. At the same time, literature seminars and the writing of the master's and bachelor's theses introduce students to academic work, and a potential dissertation allows for in-depth research on the impact of taxes on business.

In the past academic year, we were also able to organise several events, e.g. the Vienna Accounting Days (Wiener Bilanzrechtstage), the 7th Tax & Accounting Symposium, the 6th Audit Committee Special and the 7th Vienna Doctoral Consortium in Taxation. In our Accounting Research Seminar, researchers from all over the world presented their current scientific work and discussed it with us. Just as we have presented at numerous national and international workshops and conferences and have taken part in the academic discourse.

In our research, we focus on national and international topics, reflected in numerous publications and presentations. We especially congratulate Dr. Sylvia Auer, Ayse Sule Özdogan Laurenz, PhD, Dr. Christian Renelt, Agus Hidayat, PhD, Fernando Siahaan, PhD, Dr. Bernhard Winkelbauer und Xixi Zhang, PhD on completing their doctoral studies in the past academic year.

We hope you enjoy reading our academic report,

Univ. Prof. Dr. Eva Eberhartinger
a.Univ. Prof. Dr. Matthias Petutschnig
a.Univ. Prof. Harald Amberger, PhD

FACULTY (AS OF JUNE 2024)

The group's staff are introduced here. For further information on individual research activities, please refer to the chapter Research Projects (the hyperlink will directly guide you to the respective section of the report).

PROF. DR. EVA EBERHARTINGER, LL.M. (EXETER)

has been the chair of the group since 2002. She studied business administration at the University of Linz and obtained her PhD at WU. She held positions as visiting professor at HEC Paris and as full professor at the University of Münster in Germany. She held visiting positions at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (USA), University of Exeter (UK), HEC (France), HEC Montréal (Canada), McGill University (Canada), the University of Malta, and Macquarie University (Australia). From 2006 to 2011, she was the Vice-Rector for Financial Affairs at WU. In her research, she focuses on the effects of taxation on transnational issues in companies, the effect of tax on corporate finance, and the link between tax law and accounting law in the context of determining taxable income.

ASSOC.PROF. DR. MATTHIAS PETUTSCHNIG, StB

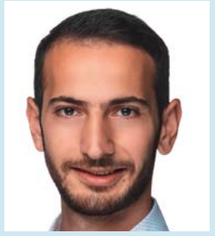
is an Associate Professor at the Business Taxation Group (since January 2013). Before that, he was with a large Austrian accounting and tax consulting firm. He holds a Magister diploma in Economics and Law and a doctorate in Social and Economic Sciences both from WU. His dissertation, dealing with the allocation of tax liabilities among corporate group entities under the EU's Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base proposal, was awarded by the Austrian Theodor Körner Fonds and the German Chamber of Tax Consultants in 2011. In his current research projects Prof. Petutschnig focuses on consolidated taxation regimes, the OECD BEPS Action Plan, Capital Gains Taxation, etc. He held visiting positions at the University of Leipzig, Singapore Management University and North Carolina State University. Additionally to his academic position he practises tax law as Director at KPMG Austria.

ASSOC.PROF. HARALD AMBERGER, PhD

is an Associate Professor at our group. He obtained his habilitation in June 2023. In addition, Harald held positions at Dartmouth College and the University of Iowa. He received his doctorate „sub auspiciis Praesidentis rei publicae" after completing the Doctoral Program in International Business Taxation (DIBT) at WU. For his dissertation he was awarded the Stephan-Koren-Prize. In his research he investigates the influence of taxes on business decisions (e.g. financing and investment decisions, choice of legal form, dividend distribution behavior). Some of his current projects examine the impact of tax complexity on the effectiveness of tax policy as well as the the extent of tax-motivated cross-border income shiftin. In doing so, he applies empirical as well as experimental research methods. He is admitted as a permanent visiting researcher at the Deutsche Bundesbank. He is also an Associate Editor for Accounting Open, member of the Editorial Board of the European Accounting Review and reviewer for numerous renowned academic journals.

MARUFA AKHTER, MSc

Marufa, born in Bangladesh, holds a BBA (2015) and MBA (2016) from Jahangirnagar University. She further advanced her education with an MSc in Accounting and Finance from the University of Essex in 2019, graduating with distinction. In 2016, Marufa gained valuable professional experience at a non-banking financial institution in Bangladesh. Her academic interests focus on taxation and its impact on firms, particularly anti-hybrid rules in the EU, corporate misconduct, and the influence of executives on tax compliance and disclosure.

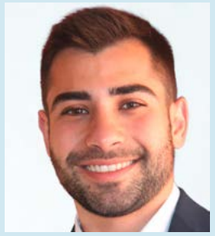


OSAID ALSHAMLEH, MSc

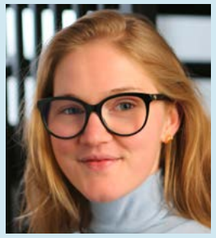
Osaid obtained his bachelor's degree in Accounting from An-Najah National University, Palestine. He then moved to Dubai and worked in a financial services company. In 2019, Osaid moved to Cyprus where he did his master's degree in Banking and Finance at Eastern Mediterranean University. He also earned professional qualifications in Investment Appraisal and Project Finance from Queen's University, Canada. After completing his master's, Osaid worked as a financial analyst at a consulting and research firm, Cambridge Resources International Inc. His main areas of expertise are tax policy and cost benefit analysis. In 2023, he joined WU's Doctoral Program in International Business Taxation (DIBT).

PAUL BREZINA, MSC (WU), StB

is Research and Teaching Assoicate, externally funded by ABG Wirtschaftsprüfungs & Steuerberatungs GmbH. He holds a master's degree in Taxation and Accounting from WU Vienna. In April 2017, he was appointed as austrian tax advisor. Currently, his research focuses on questions in connection with Cryptoeconomy and Blockchain-Technology.



TOMMASO DEIDDA, MSc
Tommaso comes from Italy, where he has previously worked as a tax official in the International Taxation Department at the Italian Revenue Agency. He joined the Business Taxation Group at WU Institute as a DIBT student in September 2024. After his bachelor's degree in economics and business, he started a path of study focused on the field of international business, pursuing a master's degree in international management. He has gained relevant experience in the field of mandatory automatic exchange of information for tax purposes between countries through the management of Italian tax information exchange flows while working at the International Cooperation Office. His research focuses on the relationship between tax disclosure policies and business outcomes.



RUBY DOELEMAN, MSc
Ruby graduated with an MSc in Economics and Taxation from the Erasmus School of Economics in Rotterdam in 2022, through which she has obtained a background in both economics and international tax law. During her studies, she has gained work experience at both the Dutch Ministry of Finance and at international accounting firms to gain an understanding of both the practical and legislative side of corporate taxation. She has been working on her dissertation in the DIBT since September 2022.

HANNAH FLEISCHANDERL, MSc (WU)
Hannah completed her Master's degree in Finance and Accounting at WU in the summer of 2024 and has since been working as a Research and Teaching Associate prae-doc at the Business Taxation Group. Previously, she supported the department as a Research Assistant. Her research focuses primarily on tax avoidance and tax planning.

HANNAH KRANAWETTER, MSc (WU)
Hannah completed her Master's degree in Taxation and Accounting at WU in summer 2024 and has been working as a research assistant at the Department of Business Taxation ever since. During her prior studies, she already gained practical experience in tax consulting. In her research, she focuses on the effects of global minimum taxation on companies and their effective tax burden.

STEFANIE PENDL, MSc
Stefanie started her doctoral studies in business administration at the University of Graz in 2021, where she was a research assistant at the Institute of Accounting and Taxation until November 2024. In summer and fall 2024, she completed a research stay at the Wisconsin Business School of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In November 2024 she joined the Business Taxation Group at WU and is part of the research project "Cross-border Income Shifting of Multinational Corporations" together with Harald Amberger and Ruby Doeleman. Her research also focuses on auditor-provided tax services and the effects of tax uncertainty.

CHRISTIAN RENELT, MSc (WU)
Christian joined our academic group as a Research and Teaching Associate prae-doc in September 2021. He had previously completed his Master's degree in Taxation and Accounting at WU with distinction. As part of his research, Christian examines the role of the tax function in business investment decisions. Moreover, he examines the degree of digitalization in tax control frameworks and the perceived quality of these systems. Christian also works for the Austrian Financial Reporting Advisory Committee (AFRAC). In addition, he is entrusted with managing the social media account of the Institute for Accounting and Auditing.

MAG. SABINE RETTIG
worked for two years in the International Accounting Group at WU. Since October 2016, she has been working in the Business Taxation Group. She is the coordinator of all administrative and organizational issues. Besides being Prof. Eberhartinger's personal assistant, Sabine is responsible for various organizational tasks, such as the group's budget administration, assistance for students, and organizing the group's teaching activities.

KHAIRUNNISA RIDWAN, McommAdv
Khairunnisa was born in Indonesia. She graduated cum laude with her Bachelor of Economics at the University of Riau in 2016. In 2018, she got a scholarship from the Australia Awards to pursue a master's degree in Australia. She obtained a Master of Commerce (Advanced) from the College of Business and Economics (CBE) at the Australian National University (ANU) in 2021. She has been studying at WU's Doctoral International Business Taxation (DIBT) since September 2022. Her work focuses on empirical research in accounting and taxation. In particular, her current projects explore the effects of financial accounting standards on tax aggressiveness, the role of tax incentives in investment decisions, and the determinants of tax-motivated income shifting.

GUEST FACULTY

Prof. Dr. DDr. h.c. Caren Sureth-Sloane (University of Paderbon and WU)	is a part-time professor in our group and a DIBT faculty member.

VISITING RESEARCHERS

Luciana Barcarolo	Ministry of Finance, Brazil
Kenny Dekoster	Universiteit Ghent, Belgium
Maria Francesca Ricci	Università di Foggia, Italy

PAST FACULTY MEMBERS

Dr. Sylvia Auer	pursues a career as tax advisor with EY in Vienna
Agus Hidayat, PhD	works for the Tax Administration of Indonesia
Markus Lehner	pursues a career as tax advisor with Deloitte in Vienna
Ayse Sule Özdogan Laurenz, PhD	is on maternity leave
Fernando Siahaan, PhD	works for the Tax Administration of Indonesia
Dr. Bernhard Winkelbauer	pursues a career as tax advisor with TPA in Vienna
Xixi Zhang, PhD	is an Assistant Professor post doc at IESEG in Lille (France)

Our academic year 2024/2025

48 held **Courses**

40 **Speeches & Presentations**

75 completed **Bachelor's and Master's Theses**

19 **Publications**

14 **Members**
8 Female
6 Male

6 different **First Languages**

7 finished **Dissertation**

17 **Research Seminars**

4 **Guest Faculty and Visiting Researchers**

8 **External Lecturers**

Teaching

We offer classes in the bachelor's, master's, and PhD programs.

Faculty and Students of the Specialization Accounting and Taxation

BACHELOR'S PROGRAM – BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS (BBE): FINANCIAL REPORTING & ANALYSIS

Within the fully English-taught bachelor's program business and economics (BBE) the Business Taxation Group oversees the course Financial Reporting & Analysis. It provides first-year students with basic skills in reporting and analysis of financial statements. Furthermore and together with the Accounting, Taxation and Auditing Group and the Financial Accounting and Auditing Group we offer the specialization "Accounting & Taxation". Our Group is responsible for the administration of the specialization and is involved with three courses on the basic principles of corporate taxation and on international tax planning and a literature seminar, which also prepares the students for their bachelor thesis.

Also this year, several students completed their Bachelor Thesis with our group. In this regard, we would like to highlight the thesis of András Márk Nick, BSc (WU) entitled "Election Year Tax Policy and the Outcome of the Election". His thesis was awarded with the TALENTA 2024 Award – congratulations!

BACHELOR'S PROGRAM: SPECIALIZATION IN ACCOUNTING AND TAXATION

The specialization in accounting and taxation is overseen by the Institute of Accounting and Auditing. It provides third-year students with an in-depth education, in which they obtain the insightful knowledge needed for work in the fields of tax consulting and auditing, as well as in in-house finance, accounting, auditing, and tax departments of companies.

The syllabus covers two main areas: financial reporting and tax management. Courses I and II are continual assessment courses and may be completed only sequentially (Course I in the first semester, followed by Course II in the second semester). This specialization concludes with a final written examination. All courses in this specialization are offered in both winter and summer terms.

The Business Taxation Group oversees the specialization courses Accounting and Tax (Course I), Investment, Finance and Taxes (Course III), and Tax Statements and Tax Management (Course IV), as well as supervises bachelor's theses.

For further information, please refer to the website: **wu.ac.at/accounting/lehre/sbwl-rechnungslegung-und-steuerlehre**

CLASSES OFFERED IN MASTER'S PROGRAMS

The Business Taxation Group teaches classes in two master's programs. Moreover, we supervise master's theses written by students enrolled in either program.

Master's Program in Finance and Accounting

The Business Taxation Group teaches the following courses in the master's program in Finance and Accounting (click on the class to be directed to the university's course register, which contains a detailed description for each class): Accounting and Taxes; Investment, Finance and Taxes; Special Issues of Business Taxation and Choice of Legal Form; the seminar in Applied Taxation; and the master's thesis seminar.

Further information about the master's program in general can be found on its website: **wu.ac.at/en/programs/masters-programs/finance-and-accounting/overview**

Master's Program in Taxation and Accounting

The Business Taxation Group teaches the following classes in the master's program in Taxation and Accounting (click on the class to be redirected to the university's class register with a detailed description for each class): Introduction Taxation and Accounting; Introduction to Business Taxation; Investments, Finance and Taxes; International Business Taxation; Business Taxation Seminar; and the master's thesis seminar.

Further information about the master's program in general can be found on its website: **wu.ac.at/en/programs/masters-programs/taxation-and-accounting/overview**

Supervised Master's Theses

All master's students must submit a master thesis. Through the master thesis, students are able to demonstrate their ability to independently delve into relevant topics using appropriate scientific research methods.

The following master's theses were supervised by the group and were successfully completed in 2024/2025:

Bähre, F.: Neuerungen bei der Pauschalierung gem. § 17 EStG
Bank, H.: Entgeltlichkeit versus Unentgeltlichkeit von Zuwendungen in der aktuellen Rechtsprechung des VwGH
Diemer, M.: Behandlung hybrider Finanzinstrumente beim Emittenten in Rechnungslegung und Steuerrecht
Firat, E.: Steuerpolitisches Risiko: Eine empirische Analyse für die EU und die OECD
Fleischanderl, H.: Neuerungen bei der Pauschalierung gem § 17 EStG
Gugganig, L.: Der BEFIT-Richtlinienentwurf – eine Analyse
Helm, A.: Die EU-Mobilitätsrichtlinie und ihre Implikationen für das österreichische Steuerrecht
Hemmelmayr, S.: Übertragung von stillen Reserven bei Privatstiftungen
Ji, Y.: Die Ermittlung des Mindeststeuer-Gewinns bzw. -Verlusts iSd MinBestG in einem Beteiligungsverhältnis
Komposch, L.: Reformoptionen zur steuerlichen Gleichbehandlung von Eigen- und Fremdkapital
Kranawetter, H.: Umstrukturierungen im Lichte der globalen Mindestbesteuerung
List, A.: Nudging im Steuerrecht – Erfahrungen aus der europäischen Steuerrechtspraxis
Matt, I.: Hybride Finanzinstrumente in Steuerrecht und Rechnungslegung
Nägele, L.: Steuern in der Unternehmensberichterstattung: Die rechtlichen Grundlagen und eine Analyse der Unternehmensberichte der ATX-Unternehmen
Neuner, E.: Behandlung von Kapitalkosten und -nebenkosten bei der Anschaffung von Beteiligungen an Kapital- und Personengesellschaften
Neuwirth, K.: Der Typenvergleich im Körperschaftsteuergesetz
Peter, M.: Die Renditemiete bei Luxusimmobilien im Steuerrecht - Systematisierung der neueren VwGH- und BFG-Rechtsprechung und Betrachtung aus verfassungsrechtlicher Sicht
Reicher, L-M.: Die steuerliche Behandlung von Mitarbeiterbeteiligungen, insbesondere im Hinblick auf die Flexible Kapitalgesellschaft

Schmidtmayer, F.: Die Zukunft der Verwendung von unternehmensrechtlichen Gewinnen als Steuerbemessungsgrundlage
Schopf, L.: Steuerliche Begünstigungen für Mitarbeiterbeteiligungen in Österreich: Das Start-Up-Förderungsgesetz im Vergleich zur deutschen Rechtslage
Seiwald, E.: Der „carried interest" und sonstige alineare Gewinnverteilungen im Steuerrecht – Grundsätze und steuerliche Chancen und Risiken
Swete-Peissl, L.: Die bilanzielle und steuerliche Behandlung von FußballspielerInnen
Tavolato, P.: Quellensteuerrückerstattung und -anrechnung bei Investitionen in Investmentfonds
Tomic, N.: Die Auswirkungen des aktuellen Gemeinnützigkeitspakets auf Vereine: Eine umfassende Analyse
Weiß, H.: Die Körperschaftsteueroption für Personengesellschaften im Lichte der Rechtsformneutralität der Besteuerung
Wonisch, T.: Ertragsteuerliche Anreize im Lichte der Ökologisierung

DOCTORAL STUDIES

Doctoral Program at WU

Together with the other academic groups of the Institute for Accounting and Auditing, we offer a comprehensive "Doctorate in Accounting" program. Our doctoral candidates receive academic training in the areas of taxation management and financial accounting, auditing, and sustainability reporting. In addition to professional and methodological guidance for the dissertation, we provide theories of the field, scientific methodological knowledge, and ongoing discussions of current scientific contributions. Topics in business taxation are supervised by Univ.Prof. Eva Eberhartinger, a.Univ. Prof. Matthias Petutschnig, and a.Univ. Prof. Harald Amberger.

Structured Program: Doctoral Program in International Business Taxation

The doctoral program in International Business Taxation (DIBT) is financed to a large extent by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) and it took on its program in October 2011. In 2019, it was subject to a second evaluation by the FWF. Based on the positive evaluation of recent research and teaching, financing of the DIBT has been extended for another funding period (six years).

The DIBT provides qualified students from any country high quality, interdisciplinary, scientific training in the field of international business taxation. The training essentially takes place across the three core disciplines dealing with taxes:

- tax law: Prof. Lang, Prof. Rust, and Prof. Pistone (all WU);
- business taxation: Prof. Eberhartinger, Prof. Petutschnig, Prof. Novotny-Farkas, Prof. Amberger (all WU) and Prof. Sureth-Sloane (WU and University of Paderborn);
- economics: Prof. Zagler and Prof. Sausgruber (both WU), Prof. Langenmayr (University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt) and Prof. Weichenrieder (University of Frankfurt).

In addition, tax psychology is prominently represented by Prof. Kirchler (University of Vienna). By combining these core subjects with the areas of tax history, political science, tax ethics, organizational and decision management, and methodology, a holistic education in taxation is offered.

Supervised Dissertations

During the academic year 2024/2025 the follwoing dissertations were finalized:

Sylvia Auer: "Integrating Tax, Accounting & Reporting: Implications for Investment, Risk Taking, and Disclosure Strategies".
Agus Hidayat: "The Impact of Tax Policies in a Developing Economy".
Ayse Sule Özdogan Laurenz: "Global Interconnectivity: Tariff Avoidance, Investment Relocation, and VAT Fraud".
Christian Renelt: „Firms' tax-specific information environment and business decisions".
Fernando Siahaan: "Three Essays on Taxation: Advance Tax Payment, Turnover-based Corporate Income Taxation and Tax Complexity".
Bernhard Winkelbauer: "From Tax Havens to Crypto Markets: The Impact of New Tax Regulations".
Xixi Zhang: "Tax, Investment and Consumer".

For further information, please visit:
wu.ac.at/dibt

Research

Our research covers a broad range of topics in taxation.

RESEARCH OF THE GROUP

The research at the Business Taxation Group focuses on the effect of taxes on corporate decision-making. This includes, in particular, research questions on financing and investment decisions, choice of legal form, as well as tax-related income determination, accounting and financial reporting.

Research at the Business Taxation Group ranges between rather domestic issues, which often lie in the area of normative tax theory and linking business questions with legal issues, and international issues, which are often developed using quantitative methods. These include empirical (databases or experiments and surveys) and analytical methods (modeling and simulation).

The international research of the group was recognized last year with two prestigious awards: The paper "Cross-border Investment, Deterrence, and Compliance Effects of Ownership Transparency" by Harald Amberger, Jaron Wilde, and Yuchen Wu received the Best Paper Award at the 2024 Journal of Accounting and Economics Conference. The article "Repatriation Taxes, Internal Agency Conflicts, and Subsidiary-level Investment Efficiency," published four years ago in The Accounting Review by Harald Amberger, Kevin Markle, and David Samuel, received the Outstanding Tax Manuscript Award from the American Taxation Association. This award is presented annually for a high-impact publication in the field of tax accounting – we extend our warmest congratulations!

Wiener Bilanzrechtstage

EDITORSHIPS

The annual conference series **Wiener Bilanzrechtstage** has been taking place at WU since 2000 and is jointly organized by the Institute for Accounting and Auditing, the Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law, the Institute for Corporate Law, and the Academy of tax Consultants and Auditors (Akademie der Steuerberater:innen und Wirtschaftsprüfer:innen). The Findings of the conference relevant to science and practice are regularly made available for a wide audience through contributions to an anthology. Prof. Eberhartinger, Prof. Petutschnig and Prof. Amberger are along with other researchers from WU co-editors of the annual anthology.

Prof. Petutschnig is a member of the editorial board of the **Journal for International Accounting, Auditing and Taxation**. Prof. Amberger is Associate Editor at **"Accounting Open"** and member of the Editorial Board at the **"European Accounting Review"**. Furthermore, Prof. Eberhartinger, Prof. Petutschnig and Prof. Amberger are reviewers of scientific articles for numerous international journals journals (including Accounting in Europe, European Accounting Review, Finanzarchiv, Der Betriebswirt, The Accounting Review, Intertax, Journal of International Accounting, Auditing, and Taxation, Contemporary Accounting Research, Journal of the American Taxation Association, Journal of Accounting and Public Policy, Accounting and Business Research, Journal of Public Economics) and international conferences (e.g. European Accounting Association, American Accounting Association, Canadian Academic Accounting Association, National Tax Association, American Taxation Association, VHB Annual Meeting). Other members of our Group are also regularly active as reviewers for national and international journals and conferences.

COOPERATIONS WITH TAX PRACTICE

The Business Taxation Group aims to foster the exchange of ideas between science and practice. An essential part of this is close cooperation with (inter)national tax consulting businesses as well as other companies. The close collaboration is beneficial not only for students and companies, but also for teaching and research. It allows the students to directly engage with practice-relevant questions and benefit from feedback.

The master programs in Taxation and Accounting and in Finance and Accounting offer seminars for students in cooperation with the international auditing and tax consulting firms **Deloitte, EY, KPMG** and **TPA**, which take place in the premises of the respective firms.

In addition, there is a close cooperation with the auditing and tax consulting firms **ABG Wirtschaftsprüfungs & Steuerberatungs GmbH, Deloitte, EY, KPMG** and **TPA** which all support the financing of research and teaching assistants.

Furthermore, members of the group are active in consultative committees and interest groups, such as the Austrian Financial Reporting and Auditing Committee (**AFRAC**) or the Expert Senate for Tax and Social Law, for Banking, and for Company Law & Corporate Governance of the Chamber of Tax Advisors and Certified Public Accountants (**KSW**) and the Corporate Governance and Policy Group of **Accountancy Europe** (AE).

Research Projects

UNIV.PROF. DR. EVA EBERHARTINGER, LL.M. (EXETER)

Prof. Eberhartinger conducts research in many areas of national and international business taxation. At the moment she focuses on the following areas:

Digitalization of tax audits for SMEs
Paul Brezina, Eva Eberhartinger, and Maximilian Zieser analyze the conditions under which the planned expansion of Standard Audit File Tax (SAF-T) in Austria to SMEs, which involves comprehensive access by tax authorities to companies' transaction data, will be accepted. It is evident that tax certainty is particularly important for taxpayers, meaning that a later tax audit is excluded. Conversely, employees of the tax administration view this point as problematic.

Country-by-country reporting by banks
This project by Eva Eberhartinger, Raffael Speitmann and Caren Sureth-Sloane analyses the effects of the introduction of public country-by-country reporting. The number of subsidiaries of banks compared to insurance companies has decreased significantly in tax havens and regulatory havens.

Tax administration and companies
One research project is dedicated to the impact of risk profiling, which is used by the tax administration to select companies for tax audits, on the tax behavior of companies and on the success of the tax administration. Another project analyzes the impact of greater automation of audits of SMEs.

ASSOC.PROF. DR. MATTHIAS PETUTSCHNIG, StB

In his current research projects Prof. Petutschnig focuses on consolidated taxation regimes, the OECD BEPS Action Plan, and capital gains taxation, among other topics.

Corporate Groups
Current research regarding the taxation of corporate groups covers extensively the OECD BEPS Action Plan and its ramifications. Additionally, the research focuses on respective current initiatives of the EU Commission (Anti-Tax-Avoidance-Directive; BEFIT-Directive), primarily on interest deduction rules. In addition Prof. Petutschnig is constantly researching questions of the Austrian group taxation regime and foreign group taxation regimes.

Effective Tax Rates
A current research project commissioned by the EU Commission (DG TAXUD/2023/OP/0001) is dedicated to the determination and simulation of forward-looking effective tax rates (ETR). Forward-looking effective tax rates are an established metric that captures information on tax rates and tax bases as well as other relevant provisions in a comparable framework, thus making the tax systems of different countries comparable. In particular, tax incentive effects for future investment decisions can be made visible in a country comparison. The project currently being implemented together with KPMG is creating an ETR database of all EU member states and selected third countries for the period 1998-2026 and a tax rate calculator that will make it possible to simulate tax law changes in a user-friendly way.

Corporate succession planning and Private Foundations
Another focus of Prof. Petutschnig's research and consulting activities is corporate succession planning and foundation tax law. This research area is stimulated on the one hand by the current political discussion regarding the reintroduction of inheritance and gift taxes as well as wealth taxes and on the other hand by the ongoing legal developments in the area of Private Foundations. Impact assessments using simulations based on empirical data are on an equal footing with normative research. The research results also inform the work as a member of the Foundation Tax Law Working Group of the Expert Senate for Tax and Social Law of the Chamber of Tax Consultants and Auditors.

ASSOC.PROF. HARALD AMBERGER, PhD

Quantifying Cross-Border Profit Shifting
This project, conducted in collaboration with Ruby Doeleman and Stefanie Pendl and funded by the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), investigates the extent of cross-border profit shifting in Austria. The results show that a one-percentage-point reduction in foreign tax rates is associated with a 0.8% decline in profits reported and taxed in Austria. This effect is significantly smaller when profit shifting is measured using financial statement data instead of corporate tax return data.

Corporate Tax System Complexity and Investment
This project, which is conducted jointly with John Gallemore and Jaron Wilde, investigates the impact of tax system complexity on the responsiveness of firm-level investment to tax policy changes. We document two key findings. First, firm-level investment is less sensitive to changes in the corporate income tax rate when tax system complexity is higher, suggesting that such complexity can undermine the ability of tax policy to affect economic growth.

Second, the impact of complexity on the sensitivity of investment to the tax rate varies significantly across firms, with domestic-owned, smaller, and private firms being more affected by tax system complexity. Our findings collectively suggest that corporate tax system complexity can negatively impact the ability of fiscal policy to affect investment and leads to heterogeneous tax policy responses across firms.

The Economic Effects of a Corporate Payout Tax
This project, which is being conducted jointly with David Samuel and Georg Winkler, exploits a unique corporate tax reform in Latvia in 2018 and studies the economic effects of replacing the traditional corporate income tax with a payout tax. We find affected firms decrease investment, increase payouts, and reduce leverage in response to the reform. Hence, the equal treatment of equity and debt financing under the payout tax reduces debt financing incentives. We also find heterogenous reform responses as small and low leverage firms exhibit relatively higher investment post-reform, consistent with the payout tax alleviating tax-induced investment distortions for these firms.

MARUFA AKHTER, MSc

Marufa Akhter has been studying in the DIBT program since September 2021 at WU. Her research activities focus on EU tax policy changes and their impact at the firm level. She is currently researching the effect of anti-hybrid rules on firms, corporate misconduct and taxation, tax disclosure and influence of executives on the matters.

OSAID ALSHAMLEH, MSc

Osaid's main research interests focus on the effects of tax policies and regulations on mergers and acquisitions. His first research project, co-authored with Prof. Amberger and Khairunnisa Ridwan, examines the impact of anti-profit shifting rules on cross-border M&A activity. In his other projects, he explores how differences in tax treatment across countries affect cross-border merger and acquisition decisions.

PAUL BREZINA, MSc (WU), StB

Digital transformation is the buzz word of our time which affects every area of life. Even tax law and corporate law are more and more affected. In his research, Paul Brezina is looking into questions around digitalisation and tax/ corporate law but also tax administration. So far, his focus lies on crypto currencies and tokens and how they should be treated in accounting and tax law.

TOMMASO DEIDDA, MSc

Tommaso's research focuses on understanding how evolving fiscal regulatory landscapes impact various types of businesses and their investment strategies. He investigates the economic consequences of new policies, examining their effects not only on digital platforms but also on traditional industries. His research aims to deliver empirical findings that can guide effective policymaking and assist businesses in navigating an increasingly complex fiscal framework.

RUBY DOELEMAN, MSc

Ruby's academic interest lies in combining economic analysis with institutional details. Her goal is to contribute to research on efficient and effective tax policy in the area of international corporate taxation. She currently works on three research projects. The first project researches the effect of Country-by-Country Reporting on profit shifting by multinational enterprises, co-authored with Dominika Langenmayr and Dirk Schindler. The second project researches the effect of substance rules in anti-tax avoidance rules on investment and real economic activities of multinational enterprises in both low-tax and high-tax countries. The third project, together with Assoc. Prof. Harald Amberger, PhD and Stefanie Pendl, matches Austrian corporate income tax returns with financial statement data to measure income shifting in Austria.

HANNAH FLEISCHANDERL, MSc (WU)

Hannah Fleischanderl joined the PhD program in September 2024 and is currently in the early stages of her research projects. Her dissertation will focus on tax avoidance and tax planning, with a particular emphasis on the role of say-on-pay votes and how these votes influence the behavior of management. Additionally, she aims to study the effect of the perception of tax advisors from the clients' perspective, investigating how clients' views shape advisor-client relationships. This year she already worked on a project regarding worker mobility in the EU, focusing on taxation of employment across borders.

HANNAH KRANAWETTER, MSc (WU)

Hannah started her doctoral studies in October 2024 and is in the early stages of her research. Her dissertation focuses on the effective tax burden of companies and the impact of the global minimum taxation. In addition, the role of substance in the minimum taxation regime and the implications for companies will be examined in more detail. In the previous academic year, she also looked at the significance of consolidated financial statements for the global minimum taxation.

CHRISTIAN RENELT, MSc (WU)

Christian's dissertation comprises three survey-based studies exploring the role of a firm's tax-specific information environment in business decisions. Collectively, his papers suggest that the organization of a firm's tax function regarding timely tax integration, organizational structures embedding the tax function, and the adoption of digital technologies can matter for investment decision outcomes and the attainment of both tax compliance and tax planning.

The first study investigates the association between tax integration in firms' investment planning and decision makers' satisfaction with the decision-making process. The second study examines the association between tax integration in firms' investment planning and three investment decision outcomes: profitability, number, and volume.

The third study focuses on the tax-specific information environment provided by a firm's tax control framework.

KHAIRUNNISA RIDWAN, MCOMMADV

Khairunnisa began her doctoral studies in the winter term 2022/23 as part of the DIBT program. She is currently researching the impact of the introduction of IFRIC 23 "Accounting for Uncertainty over Income Taxes" on corporate tax avoidance with international evidence. In addition, she has a collaborative project with Matthias Petutschnig, examining the effects of accelerated depreciation regimes on investment efficiency and corporate risk taking in European Union Member States. Furthermore, she is working jointly with Osaid Alshamleh and Harald Amberger to investigate the impact of anti-avoidance rules on mergers and acquisitions.

In addition, during her research stay at UNSW Australia in 2024, she collaborated with Dr. Rodney Brown and Prof. Youngdeok Lim on a qualitative analysis of IFRIC 23 disclosures in the United Kingdom (UK), Australia, and New Zealand.

STEFANIE PENDL, MSc

Stefanie's dissertation mainly focuses on Auditor-Provided Tax Services. In a research project together with Dan Lynch, she analyzes the effects of tax uncertainty on the demand for Auditor-Provided Tax Services. Together with Benedikt Sieghartsleitner (University of Graz), she studies the effects of restrictions on Auditor-Provided Tax Services on audit firms. In an analytical research project she studies incentives of tax planning agents. As part of the research project "Cross-border Income Shifting of Multinational Corporations", together with Harald Amberger and Ruby Doeleman, she analyzes cross-border income shifting of Austrian entities using corporate tax return data.

Publications and Presentations

We regularly publish our research results in international peer-reviewd journals, national practitioners' journals, edited volumes, anthologies and books

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Amberger, Harald / Wilde, Jaron / Wu, Yuchen, Cross-Border Investment, Deterrence, and Compliance Effects of Ownership Transparency, Journal of Accounting and Economics, (forthcoming).

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Zhang, Xixi / Petutschnig, Matthias, Mutual Agreement Procedure and Foreign Direct Investments: Evidence from Firm-level Data, International Tax and Public Finance (forthcoming).

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Eberhartinger, Eva / Figari, Francesco / Fleischanderl, Hannah / Petutschnig, Matthias / Pistone, Pasquale / Zagler, Martin, Tax Barriers and Cross-Border Workers: Tackling the Fragmentation of the EU Tax Framework, Study requested by the FISC Subcommittee, European Parliament (2025).

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Amberger, Harald / Gallemore, John / Wilde, Jaron, Corporate Tax System Complexity and Investment Sensitivity to Tax Policy Changes (April 7, 2025). WU International Taxation Research Paper Series No. 2023–11, Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=4607146 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4607146.

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Ridwan, Khairunnisa, Accounting for Income Tax Uncertainty and Corporate Tax Avoidance: International Evidence (March 06, 2025). WU International Taxation Research Paper Series No. 2025–05, Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=5167934 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5167934

Doeleman, Ruby / Langenmayr, Dominika / Schindler, Dirk, Could Country-by-Country Reporting Increase Profit Shifting? WU International Taxation Research Paper Series 2024–13 and CESifo Working Paper Series Nr. 11464. Available at SSRN: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5045499.

Lynch, Dan / Pendl, Stefanie, Tax Uncertainty and Auditor-Provided Tax Services: The Impact of Regulatory Changes in the EU (December 18, 2024). WU International Taxation Research Paper Series No. 2024–14, Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=5062626.

Renelt, Christian, Tax Function and Investment Decisions: Does Tax Integration Pay Off? WU International Taxation Research Paper Series No 2025–02, Available at SSRN: https://ssrn.com/abstract=5143102 or http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5143102.

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Eberhartinger, Eva / Lehner, Markus, Steuertransparenz und Nachhaltigkeitsbericht, in Amberger, Harald / Aschauer, Ewald / Bertl, Romuald / Eberhartinger, Eva / Eckert, Georg / Egger, Anton / Hirschler, Klaus / Hummel, Katrin / Kalss, Susanne / Kofler, Georg / Lang, Michael / Novotny-Farkas, Zoltan / Petutschnig, Matthias / Riegler, Christian / Rust, Alexander / Schuch, Josef / Spies, Karoline / Staringer, Claus (eds), Nachhaltigkeit. Wiener Bilanzrechtstage 2024 (2024), 59–90. Wien: Linde Verlag.

Eberhartinger, Eva / Renelt, Christian, Finanzierung durch hybride Finanzierungsmittel, in Bertl et al (eds), Handbuch der österreichischen Steuerlehre IV (in print).

Eberhartinger, Eva / Renelt, Christian, Konzernverträge, in Bertl et al (eds), Handbuch der österreichischen Steuerlehre V (in print).

Nessmann, Roland / Renelt, Christian, Finanzierung durch Eigenkapital, in Eberhartinger/Knesl/Renner (eds), Die Bankbilanz (in print).

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Amberger, Harald / Aschauer, Ewald / Bertl, Romuald / Eberhartinger, Eva / Eckert, Georg / Egger, Anton / Hirschler, Klaus / Hummel, Katrin / Kalss, Susanne / Kofler, Georg / Lang, Michael / Novotny-Farkas, Zoltan / Petutschnig, Matthias / Riegler, Christian / Rust, Alexander / Schuch, Josef / Spies, Karoline / Staringer, Claus (eds), Nachhaltigkeit. Wiener Bilanzrechtstage 2024 (2024). Wien: Linde Verlag.

Eberhartinger, Eva / Hirschler, Klaus / Kanduth-Kristen, Sabine / Niemann, Rainer / Tumpel, Michael / Urnik, Sabine (eds), Handbuch der österreichischen Steuerlehre: Gründungen, Umgründungen und Beendigung von Unternehmen. (2025) Wien: LexisNexis

Eberhartinger, Eva / Hirschler, Klaus / Kanduth-Kristen, Sabine / Niemann, Rainer / Tumpel, Michael / Urnik, Sabine (Hrsg), Handbuch der österreichischen Steuerlehre: Grundlagen der Unternehmensbesteuerung. (2024) Wien: LexisNexis

Eberhartinger, Eva / Hirschler, Klaus / Kanduth-Kristen, Sabine / Niemann, Rainer / Tumpel, Michael / Urnik, Sabine (eds), Handbuch der österreichischen Steuerlehre: Steuerliche Gewinnermittlung und Steuerbilanzpolitik. (2024) Wien: LexisNexis

PRESENTATIONS & SPEECHES

Amberger, Harald, What Happens with a Zero Corporate Income Tax? Evidence from a Corporate Payout Tax System, 4th Norwegian Tax Accounting Symposium, Bergen, Norway, 04.–05.11.2024.

Amberger, Harald, Panel: Nutzung von Daten der Steuerstatistik in Deutschland und Österreich, VHB Kommissionstagung Steuerlehre, Hannover, Germany, 13.–14.03.2025.

Amberger, Harald, Wirtschaftskrise – der Hemmschuh für den Wirtschaftsaufschwung? MS Legal Business Breakfast, Vienna, Austria, 03.04.2025.

Amberger, Harald, Steuerplanung im Konzern, Wiener Bilanzrechtstage 2025, Vienna, Austria, 24.–25.04.2025.

Amberger, Harald, Discussion of: Local effects of global tax disclosure policies, ENGAGE.EU Workshop on Tax and Sustainability, Bergen, Norway, 28.04.2025.

Amberger, Harald, International Panel, NeSt Jahreskonferenz 2025, Berlin, Germany, 25.–26.06.2025.

Alshamleh, Osaid, The Effect of Anti-Profit Shifting Rules on Cross-border M&A Activity, Open TRR 266 Conference, Munich, Germany, 23.06.2025.

Alshamleh, Osaid, The Effect of Anti-Profit Shifting Rules on Cross-border M&A Activity, European Accounting Association's 47th Annual Congress, Rome, Italy, 30.05.2025.

Alshamleh, Osaid, The Effect of Anti-Profit Shifting Rules on Cross-border M&A Activity, The Second Ghent Conference on International Taxation, Ghent, Belgium, 06.05.2025.

Alshamleh, Osaid, The Effect of Anti-Profit Shifting Rules on Cross-border M&A Activity, ENGAGE.EU Workshop, Bergen, Norway, 28.04.2025.

Auer, Sylvia, Determinants of Voluntary Tax Disclosure and Consequences for the Value Relevance of Tax Positions, 19th EUFIN – The Conference of Accounting in Europe 2024, Bologna, Italien, 29.08.2024.

Auer, Sylvia, Beeinflusst die Einheitsbilanz unternehmerische Investitionsentscheidungen?, Symposium „Steuern & Bilanzen", Wien, Österreich, 06.09.2024.

Doeleman, Ruby, Substance-ial Investment Shifting: The Role of Substance in Anti-Tax Avoidance Rules, IIPF Annual Congress 2024, Prague, Czech Republic, 21.–23.08.2024.

Doeleman, Ruby, Matching Tax Returns and Financial Statement Data to Measure Income Shifting, Doctoral Tax Seminar, Mannheim, Germany, 05.02.2025.

Doeleman, Ruby, Matching Tax Returns and Financial Statement Data to Measure Income Shifting, Joint Research Centre (European Commission) Research Seminar, Seville, Spain, 09.04.2025.

Doeleman, Ruby, Matching Tax Returns and Financial Statement Data to Measure Income Shifting, ENGAGE.EU Workshop on Tax and Sustainability, Bergen, Norway, 28.04.2025.

Doeleman, Ruby, Substance-ial Investment Shifting: The Role of Substance in Anti-Tax Avoidance Rules, NHH Research Seminar, Bergen, Norway, 08.05.2025.

Doeleman, Ruby, Matching Tax Returns and Financial Statement Data to Measure Income Shifting, Max Planck Conference on The Division of Tax Revenue in a Globalized World, Berlin, Germany, 02.–03.06.2025.

Doeleman, Ruby, Matching Tax Returns and Financial Statement Data to Measure Income Shifting, WU Accounting Research Seminar, Vienna, Austria, 05.06.2025.

Eberhartinger, Eva, Simplification and transparency: The role of simplified tax policy in promoting growth, job creation, competitiveness, and cross-border business within the EU, European Parliament – Sub Committee on Tax Matters, Brussels, Belgium, 17.10.2024.

Eberhartinger, Eva, Panel Discussion on ESG-Reporting, Board Services, Vienna, Austria, 27.11.2024.

Eberhartinger, Eva, International Tax Allocation, 31. Ordentliche Sitzung des Arbeitskreises Verrechnungspreise, Zurich, Switzerland, 08.11.2024.

Eberhartinger, Eva, Taxpayers' and Tax Auditor's Acceptance of Cooperative Automated Tax Audits, Research Seminar Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg, Austria, 08.01.2025.

Pendl, Stefanie, Matching Tax Returns and Financial Statement Data to Measure Income Shifting, 2nd Ghent Conference on International Taxation, Ghent, Belgium, 06.05.2025.

Pendl, Stefanie, Discussion of: Multinational Activity and the Global Minimum Tax, 2nd Ghent Conference on International Taxation, Ghent, Belgium, 06.05.2025.

Events

We regularly host (international) events and researchers at WU.

Pendl, Stefanie, Auditor Consequences of Restrictions on Auditor-Provided Tax Services: Evidence from the European Union, EAA Annual Congress 2025, Rome, Italy, 29.05.2025.

Pendl, Stefanie, Matching Tax Returns and Financial Statement Data to Measure Income Shifting, IESE Tax Conference 2025, Barcelona, Spain, 16.06.2025.

Petutschnig, Matthias, Tax Barriers and Cross-Border Workers: Tackling the Fragmentation of the EU Tax Framework, European Parliament – Sub Committee on Tax Matters, Brussels, Belgium, 25.06.2025.

Petutschnig, Matthias, Game, Set and Match – STEP and the world of sports, STEP Europe Conference, Monaco, 19.11.2024.

Petutschnig, Matthias, Discussion of: Profit Tax Uncertainty and Investment: Experimental Evidence from German Firms, ENGAGE.EU Workshop on Tax and Sustainability, Bergen, Norway, 28.04.2025.

Renelt, Christian, Tax Function and Investment Decisions: Does Tax Integration Pay Off? 14th EIASM Conference on Current Research in Taxation, Porto, Portugal, 09.07.2024.

Renelt, Christian, Tax Function and Investment Decisions: Does Tax Integration Pay Off? Tax Research Network Annual Conference, Cardiff, United Kingdom, 09.09.2024.

Renelt, Christian, Tax Function and Investment Decisions: Does Tax Integration Pay Off? 2nd Ghent Conference on International Taxation, Ghent, Belgium, 06.05.2025.

Renelt, Christian, Digitalization and Tax Control Frameworks, European Accounting Association's 47th Annual Congress, Rome, Italy, 28.05.2025.

Ridwan, Khairunnisa, How Do Accelerated Depreciation Rules Affect Financially Constrained Firms?, EAA 47th Annual Congress 2025, Rome, Italy, 28.–30.05.2025.

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Ridwan, Khairunnisa, Accounting for Income Tax Uncertainty and Corporate Tax Avoidance: International Evidence, UNSW Accounting and Tax Research Seminar, Sydney, Australia, 12.12.2024.

Ridwan, Khairunnisa, Accounting for Income Tax Uncertainty and Corporate Tax Avoidance: International Evidence, Accounting and Business Research – Deakin University Accounting Research Conference 2024, Melbourne, Australia, 23.–25.10.2024.

SYMPOSIUM "STEUERN & BILANZEN"

Together with the chairs for Accounting, Taxation and Auditing and Accounting and Auditing the Business Taxation Group organized the 7th symposium "Steuern & Bilanzen" ("Taxes and Accounting") on September 6th, 2024.

The half-day event was opened by Christian Weinzinger, Head of the Predictive Analytics Department at the Federal Ministry of Finance, with his extremely exciting presentation on automation-supported audit approaches in the tax administration and the use of artificial intelligence and big data analysis in tax risk analysis. Following on from this, Dr. Markus Isack (Accounting and Auditing Group) presented the results of current research on the use of artificial intelligence in auditing under the title "Can generative artificial intelligence replicate and support the human judgment of the auditor?" Dr. Jacqueline Strakova (Accounting and Auditing Group) spoke on the institutionalization of sustainability reporting audits. And from our research group, Dr. Sylvia Auer addressed the influence of the one-book system/high book-tax conformity on corporate investment decisions.

3RD WU VIENNA TAX CAMP

On June 5 and 6, 2025, our Business Taxation Group hosted the 3rd WU Vienna Tax Camp. The aim of this event is to bring together early-career researchers – particularly Assistant Professors and postdoctoral scholars – to discuss ongoing projects and foster academic exchange.

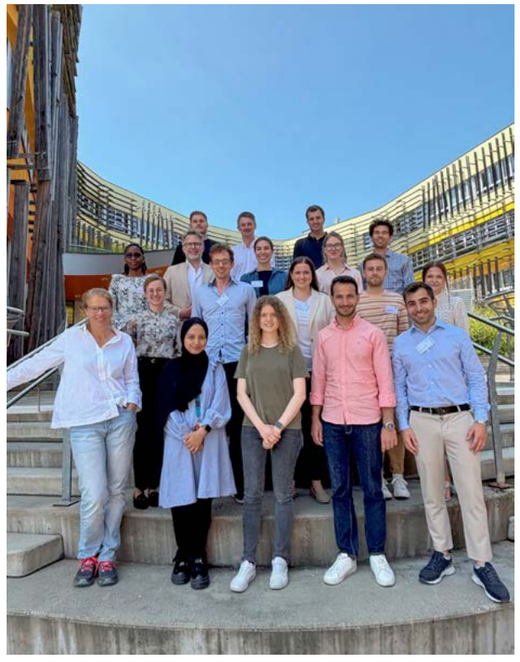
This year, we were pleased to welcome four international researchers:

Peter Brok (Copenhagen Business School) – Taxes and the Valuation of VC-Backed Companies: This study examines the role of taxes in the valuation of startups. The authors exploit the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) in the U.S., which resulted in a 14-percentage point decrease of the corporate tax rate. The authors provide evidence that this corporate tax rate reduction led to a higher valuation of late-stage venture-backed startups.

Lisa Hillmann (WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management) – The Real Effects of Interest Limitation Rules: Evidence from M&A Investments: This study investigates the impact of rules limiting the tax deductibility of interest expenses on mergers and acquisitions (M&A). The authors find that interest limitation rules are associated with reduced M&A activity, lower deal values, and inferior deal quality. This evidence highlights the unintended consequences of anti-tax avoidance regulations, supporting the hypothesis that increasing the cost of debt financing can distort resource allocation.

Svea Holtmann (Universität Mannheim) – Assessing the Impacts of Robot Taxation: Investment of South Korean Firms: This study examines the effects of a 2018 tax reform in South Korea that reduced tax credits for robot investments. The authors find a significant decline in robot investment following the tax credit reduction and provide evidence for a substitution effect in which firms substitute machines with labor. The authors also document that the tax credit reduction improves investment quality, as measured by an increase in total factor productivity.

Raffael Speitmann (European Commission Joint Research Centre) - Effective Tax Rates and Book-Tax Differences in Europe: Evidence from the DiRECT Model: This study introduces DiRECT, a novel corporate tax microsimulation model designed for policy analysis. The model estimates the corporate tax base and tax liabilities for more than 4.3 million firms across nine EU countries from 2016 to 2019, effectively addressing the limitations posed by the lack of administrative firm-level tax data. The authors document cross-sectional patterns in tax burdens and the use and intensity of tax deductions.



We extend our sincere thanks to all presenters for traveling to Vienna and to all workshop participants for contributing to the engaging and thoughtful discussions. The joint lunch provided a valuable opportunity to continue the exchange of ideas in an informal setting. We look forward to the next edition of the WU Vienna Tax Camp and to continuing this vibrant academic dialogue in the years to come!

AUDIT COMMITTEE SPECIAL 2025

In February 2025, Eva Eberhartinger, Klaus Hirschler and Ewald Aschauer hosted the sixth "Audit Committee Special" at WU. As a supplement to the Austrian Supervisory Board Day, a workshop for (future) audit committee members was held on the topic of "Audit Committees and Artificial Intelligence." Moderated by Prof. Ewald Aschauer, Dr. York Schmidt (CFO at AVL), Mag. Christian Sikora (KPMG), and Mag. Sophie Martinetz (founder of the WU Legal Tech Center) discussed the effects of the use of artificial intelligence in audit committees, the opportunities it opens up, and the challenges it poses.

ACCOUNTING RESEARCH SEMINAR

Our institute regularly invites researchers from around the world to present their research at WU. Last year, many distinguished researchers accepted our invitation and presented at WU. We were extremely pleased to host: Harm Schütt (WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management), Michael Koppel (University of Graz), Saskia Kohlhase (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Dennis Fehrenbacher (University St. Gallen), Messod Daniel Beneish (Indiana University, Kelley School of Business), Michael Overesch (University of Cologne), Nerissa Brown (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) and Ruby Doeleman (WU Vienna).

INSTITUTE RETREAT IN BUDAPEST

This year's institute retreat took us to Budapest. In addition to a very informative tour of the city the program was filled with presentations by researchers from all six Academic Groups of the Institute for Accounting and Auditing. From the Business Taxation Group Stefanie Pendl presented findings from her research project on auditor-provided tax services under the title "Auditor Consequences of Restrictions on Auditor-Provided Tax Services: Evidence from the European Union."

The other presentations were: "AI in Research and Teaching" (Prof. Zoltán Novotny-Farkas), "The Impact of Managerial Power on Firms' Sustainable Management" (Karoline Els), "IFRS 17 and the Decision-Usefulness of Insurers' Financial Reporting Information" (Merjona Lamaj), "Intangible Resources according to the Austrian Business Code (UGB)" (Sena Polat), "Exploring the Transition to Normativity: An Analysis of Stakeholders' Perspectives on Sustainability Reporting Standard-Setting" (Karina Bauernhofer), and "Resisting the Trend: The Role of Boards in Tailoring CEO Compensation for Firms with Distinct Strategies" (Alexander Hofer).

BREAKFAST TALK – CORRUPTION AND FRAUD

On May 22, 2025, Dr. Caroline Toifl (KINDL.trusted) and Mag. Karin Mair (Managing Partner Financial Advisory at Deloitte Austria) gave our students insights into forensic accounting on the topic of "Corruption and Fraud – How can companies protect themselves and what can auditors contribute?" The event was moderated by Prof. Eberhartinger.

We would like to thank the experts for their willingness to share their practical experience in fraud prevention, risk management, and working as court-appointed experts with our students, and Deloitte for providing the venue and for their hospitality.

SUMMER CELEBRATION ACCOUTNING & TAXATION

In June 2025, we organized together with our cooperation partner KPMG our first summer party / semester closing for the students of our SBWL Accounting and Taxation in the Bachelor's program. The summer celebration took place in the courtyard of the KPMG building in Vienna. The wonderful weather and the pleasant atmosphere offered the students the opportunity to networking with each other, with the faculty of the SBWL and the employees of KPMG.

Information and contact

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2025/12