



FINANCE & ACCOUNTING

FA19 Accounting for Value Added Tax (VAT) in GCC

This comprehensive course equips delegates with an in-depth understanding of VAT principles and applications, with a particular focus on the GCC region's evolving landscape. Participants will gain the technical skills and practical knowledge to manage VAT effectively — from core accounting treatments to complex transactions and sector-specific issues. The course combines theoretical grounding with real-world case studies and compliance strategies to ensure readiness for audits, reporting, and advisory roles. Delegates will explore the implications of VAT on business operations, develop efficient accounting systems, and navigate areas such as exemptions, zero-rating, intra-GCC trade, and risk mitigation.

This course is designed to equip finance leaders and accounting professionals with comprehensive knowledge of VAT systems as applied in GCC member states. From foundational principles to advanced compliance management, the course addresses key aspects including transaction handling, sector-specific challenges, and cross-border complexities. Delegates will develop the ability to manage VAT risk, ensure audit readiness, and integrate VAT considerations into strategic financial planning. Interactive sessions, case-based learning, and regional policy insights will ensure participants are prepared to support their organisations in meeting statutory requirements while optimising their VAT processes.

Course Information

Duration: 5 days

London (£4950): 30th June 2025, 18th August 2025, 13th October 2025, 1st December 2025, 9th February 2026, 4th May 2026, 29th June 2026, 17th August 2026, 12th October 2026, 30th November 2026

Companies nominating 3 or more delegates to attend the same programme will enjoy a special discount on the course fees.

Upon completion of one of our CPD certified courses, delegates will be awarded both an LMC certificate and a CPD certificate. No examination required.

Who is the course suitable for?

This course is designed for Finance Directors, Heads of Finance, Accounting Managers, Senior Accountants, and professionals involved in financial reporting, compliance, and tax advisory. It is particularly suited to those operating in VAT-implementing GCC countries such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Oman. Whether you are preparing for VAT audits, refining internal systems, or advising business units on VAT impact, this course provides the tools and insights necessary to lead your organisation's VAT strategy with confidence.

Course profile

Introduction to VAT Systems

- Understanding the objectives, mechanics, and types of VAT
- Exploring the legal framework and policy context in GCC countries
- Tracing the VAT journey: registration, tax periods, and filing
- Differentiating between standard, zero-rated, and exempt supplies
- Identifying VAT obligations across member states

Detailed VAT Accounting Practices

- Applying input and output VAT accounting techniques
- Calculating net VAT liability and reconciliation
- Recording VAT transactions in accounting systems
- Reviewing VAT invoices, documentation, and audit trails
- Automating VAT processes through ERP systems

Managing VAT Transactions

- Handling VAT on imports, exports, and intra-GCC trade
- Managing reverse charges and deemed supplies
- Dealing with partial exemptions and mixed supplies
- Understanding cross-border transaction risks
- Navigating VAT refunds and adjustments

VAT in Special Contexts

- VAT implications in sectors such as real estate, education, and healthcare
- Treatment of capital assets and long-term contracts
- Adjusting VAT for discounts, rebates, and bad debts

- Regional specific VAT issues
- Sector-specific compliance risks and penalties

Advanced VAT Management and Compliance

- Building effective internal VAT controls and governance
- Preparing for VAT audits and tax authority inspections
- Interpreting VAT rulings and updates in the GCC
- Managing disputes, voluntary disclosures, and penalties
- Embedding VAT into strategic finance functions

Competencies

At the end of this course, delegates will be able to:

- Describe the purpose, structure, and types of VAT systems operating in the GCC
- Interpret the legal and regulatory requirements across different member states
- Apply input and output VAT accounting techniques to core business activities
- Calculate, reconcile, and report VAT liabilities in accordance with GCC standards
- Manage VAT for imports, exports, and intra-GCC transactions, including reverse charges
- Navigate partial exemptions, sector-specific treatments, and regional compliance issues
- Build internal VAT controls and prepare effectively for audits and inspections
- Interpret tax authority rulings, manage disputes, and embed VAT within finance strategy

Course Booking

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