



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

AURIFER.tax

AURIFER GCC TAX CERTIFICATE

2 October - 27 November 2025

16 Days of Teaching
(48 Hours of Learning)

Online and On-Campus

[Registration link here](#)

DIFC 
Academy

The Aurifer GCC Tax Certificate is accredited by
the Dubai Legal Affairs Department (DLAD)

A hand is shown from the bottom, holding a glowing blue bar chart. The chart has several bars of varying heights, each topped with a white percentage sign (%). The background is dark blue with a subtle bokeh effect.

ABOUT THE COURSE

Launched in 2022, the Aurifer GCC Tax Certificate is the first executive programme on taxation in the Gulf region.

Developed and endorsed by qualified professionals and academics in the field, this unique programme offers a comprehensive overview of tax systems in the GCC countries and the UAE in particular.

The Certificate delves into the essentials of direct and indirect taxation in GCC countries, including Corporate Tax, VAT, Excises, and Customs. It also features modules on key aspects of international taxation, with a specific focus on their practical application in the tax systems of the GCC countries and the UAE. For the 2025 edition, the programme introduces two specialised tracks, designed to meet the needs of aspiring and current tax advisors in the region:

- **Taxation of Financial Services**

- **Private Wealth Tax Planning**

The programme begins with a keynote conference on 2 October 2025, setting the stage for two months of immersive learning. The academic schedule comprises 16 sessions spanning 16 days, totaling 48 hours of teaching, and will run from October to November 2025.

Led by Thomas Vanhee (Aurifer) and Assoc. Prof. Pallavi Kishore (Middlesex University Dubai), the programme boasts a faculty composed of experts from leading law and accounting firms across the Gulf and internationally. This ensures a learning experience that blends academic excellence with real-world insights.



WHO IS THIS PROGRAMME SUITABLE FOR?

This programme is an ideal career accelerator for:

- Tax professionals in consulting firms or in-house corporate roles
- Government officials involved in fiscal policy or tax administration
- Professionals aiming to build an international tax profile with a focus on the GCC

Eligible candidates must have a bachelor's or master's degree in law, accounting, or business, and a strong command of English. Alternatively, applicants without a degree but with 1 to 4 years of proven experience in the tax field are also encouraged to apply.

HOW YOU'RE TAUGHT

Course Format

The Certificate will be delivered through blended learning, beginning with a Keynote Conference followed by regular in-person and live-streamed sessions.

Curriculum

Students need to complete seven compulsory modules and up to two specialisation tracks to be eligible for the Certificate.

Teaching Schedule

The programme features 16 days of teaching between October – November, for a total of 16 classes and 48 hours. Classes are between 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM, and all classes will take place after work.

FACULTY

The Aurifer GCC Tax Certificate is designed to provide high-quality tax education. Training for each program module is led by experienced professionals who have gained extensive tax expertise in different fields in the Gulf region and internationally.

Co-Chairs



Assoc. Prof. Pallavi Kishore
Head of Accounting
& Finance, MDX Dubai



Thomas Vanhee
Founding Partner, Aurifer
Middle East Tax Consultancy

Lecturers



Halil Erdem, LL.M.
Vice-President of Tax,
International Bank in Dubai



David Russell
Barrister at Outer
Temple Chambers



Dr. Giorgio Beretta
Assistant Professor,
University of Amsterdam



Nirav Rajput
Partner at Aurifer



Ahmet Celikbas
Director of Tax & Transfer
Pricing at PwC Middle East



Jonas Belmans
Senior Manager at
Deloitte Middle East



Thais Cunha
Senior Manager at
Deloitte Middle East



Mahek Jain
Manager at a Big 4 in Dubai



Rami Alhadhrani
BDO Kuwait



Tulan Lakhani
First Abu Dhabi Bank



Umar Tariq
Head of MENA Investments
Tax Unit at Public Investment Fund



Nishi Agrawal
Counsel at Aurifer



Toshin Bishoi
Counsel at Aurifer



TEACHING SCHEDULE

Class	Date	Course	Lecturer(s)	Company / Profile
0	2 October, Thursday	Keynote Conference	Thomas Vanhee / Pallavi Kishore	Aurifer / Middlesex University
1	7 October, Tuesday	UAE Corporate Tax	Nirav Rajput	Aurifer
2	9 October, Thursday	UAE Corporate Tax	Nirav Rajput	Aurifer
3	14 October, Tuesday	UAE Corporate Tax	Nirav Rajput	Aurifer
4	16 October, Thursday	Pillar Two in the GCC	Mahek Jain	Manager at a Big 4 in Dubai
5	21 October, Tuesday	GCC Customs and Excise	Thais Cunha / Jonas Belmans	Deloitte Middle East
6	23 October, Thursday	GCC Customs and Excise	Thais Cunha / Jonas Belmans	Deloitte Middle East
7	28 October, Tuesday	GCC VAT	Giorgio Beretta / Halil Erdem	University of Amsterdam / VP of Tax, International Bank Dubai
8	30 October, Thursday	GCC VAT	Giorgio Beretta / Halil Erdem	University of Amsterdam / VP of Tax, International Bank Dubai
9	4 November, Tuesday	KSA Domestic Tax System	Mohammad Umar Tariq	Public Investment Fund
10	6 November, Thursday	Kuwait Domestic Tax System	Rami Alhadhrami	BDO Kuwait
11	11 November, Tuesday	International Tax	Thomas Vanhee / David Russell	Aurifer / Outer Temple Chambers
12	13 November, Thursday	International Tax	Thomas Vanhee / David Russell	Aurifer / Outer Temple Chambers
13	18 November, Tuesday	Transfer Pricing in the GCC	Ahmet Celiktas	PwC Middle East
14	20 November, Thursday	Transfer Pricing in the GCC	Ahmet Celiktas	PwC Middle East
15	25 November, Tuesday	Taxation of Financial Services	Tulan Lakhani / Toshin Bishoi	First Abu Dhabi Bank / Aurifer
16	27 November, Thursday	Private Wealth Tax Planning	Nishi Agrawal / Giorgio Beretta	Aurifer / University of Amsterdam



Course Dates:

October–November 2025

Format:

16 teaching sessions (48 hours total)

Schedule:

Evenings, 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM GST

Mode:

Blended learning – online & on-campus at MDX Dubai Knowledge Park

Learning Outcomes:

- In-depth GCC & UAE tax coverage (Corporate Tax, VAT, Excise, Customs)
- International tax topics: OECD Pillar Two, GloBE implementation

Specialisations:

- Taxation of Financial Services
- Private Wealth Tax Planning



Who Should Attend?

- Tax professionals, consultants, corporate tax teams
- Government fiscal policy & tax administration officers
- Professionals building a GCC-focused tax career

Fees & Discounts:

- AED 12,000 (full course)
- Module-based enrolment available
- Discounts for MDX students, alumni, and corporate groups

Eligibility:

- Bachelor's/Master's in Law, Accounting, or Business + strong English
- OR 1-4 years relevant tax experience

Why Attend the Webinar?

- Get first-hand insights from the teaching team
- Understand how the course advances your career
- Learn about scholarships & application process

Looking
forward to
meeting you!

OCT 2025

AURIFER GCC TAX CERTIFICATE



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
AURIFER.tax

DIFC 
Academy

[Registration link here](#)

The Aurifer GCC Tax Certificate is accredited by
the Dubai Legal Affairs Department (DLAD)