

## WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Module 5, 2021/22

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### Course description

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This course gives you an opportunity to acquire practical skills of wealth management and personal financial planning. All topics are covered from two sides: the personal (or client's) view and the industry approach. On the one side, we discuss the efficient use of financial instruments and interaction with financial intermediaries to properly manage risks and investments. On the other side, we study the structure of the WM industry, specifics of different players (private banks, management companies, robo-advisors, etc.) and their services. Throughout the course, we discuss the most recent examples and relevant cases, above all focusing on the current situation.

### Course requirements, grading, and attendance policies

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The course grade is based on:

- Two home assignments made in groups of 2 people: each 10%
- Three case assignments made in groups of 4 people: each 10%
- Individual home assignment on personal financial plan: 15%
- Closed-book written exam: 35%

Active class participation may add up to 5% bonus points (note that quality rather than quantity of your interventions will count).

### Course contents

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Week	Topic	Reading
1	<b>Wealth management and personal financial planning.</b> What is wealth management? Personal financial goals based on the life cycle. Long-term personal financial strategy based on capital structuring. Typical obstacles and mistakes. Role of wealth advisors. <i>Guest speaker: <a href="#">Andrey Paranich</a>, Director, Association "National League of Financial Advisors" (TBC)</i>	[3] ch.1, 7 [4] ch.1 [6] [7] ch.1,15

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Week	Topic	Reading
2	<p><i>Hand in &amp; be ready to discuss Case 1: the Decision</i></p> <p><b>The wealth management industry.</b> History and recent trends. Key business drivers. Major players: private banks, wealth managers, robo-advisors. Client segments and their typical needs. Open vs. closed architecture. Offshore vs. onshore products. Career perspectives in the wealth management industry.</p> <p><i>Guest speaker: Valery Chumachenko, CEO, ChGK Online (TBC)</i></p>	[5]
3	<p><i>Hand in &amp; be ready to present HA1: housing</i></p> <p><b>Making financial decisions:</b> quantitative and qualitative factors. Specifics of savings and loans. The role of assumptions and the power of compound interest.</p> <p><b>Means of payment:</b> crypto-currencies vs. cash and bank cards.</p> <p><b>Managing risks.</b> Major risks threatening personal financial goals. Role of the reserve fund and insurance. Different types of insurance vs. alternative risk management methods.</p>	[4] ch.8 [7] ch.2,4,8
4	<p><i>Hand in &amp; be ready to discuss Case 2: Rina Castillo</i></p> <p><b>The investment process.</b> Understanding a client's risk attitude. Dealing with behavioral biases. Risk and return of different asset classes. The role of diversification. Strategic and tactical asset allocation. Different investment styles.</p> <p><b>Portfolio managers.</b> Selection and evaluation of mutual fund managers. Performance-based and forward-looking fund ratings.</p>	[1] ch.8-10,14 [3] ch.2,5,8 [4] ch.5-7 [7] ch.5-7
5	<p><i>Hand in &amp; be ready to present HA2: investments</i></p> <p><b>Alternative investments:</b> real estate, commodities, hedge funds, private equity, illiquid assets, collectibles.</p> <p><b>International investing.</b> Structured products and special portfolio solutions. Tax considerations.</p>	[3] ch.3-4, 6 [7] ch.9-14
6	<p><i>Hand in &amp; be ready to discuss Case 3: Rudy Wong</i></p> <p><b>Relationship management.</b> Rational and emotional factors in relationship with the client. Specifics of different generations. Effective communications with the client. Ethics code.</p> <p><i>Guest speaker: TBA</i></p>	
7	<p><i>Hand in &amp; be ready to discuss HA3: personal financial plan</i></p> <p><b>Sustainable investment.</b> ESG factors and related investment strategies.</p> <p><b>Course overview.</b> Present and future of WM.</p>	

## **Description of course methodology**

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The course is taught as a mix of lectures with interactive discussions of key concepts and mini-cases. The classes will involve a lot of interaction between professor, students, and guest speakers from the industry. Students should prepare in advance to the classes by studying the assigned readings, be ready to present their home assignments and actively participate in the discussions.

## **Sample tasks for course evaluation**

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*Sample questions from the home assignment:*

Carry out the quantitative analysis of the housing problem: renting an apartment vs. buying it with a mortgage loan. Specify the underlying assumptions, which should be realistic and based on the current market situation. Compute the corresponding cash flows for each of the two alternatives. Which alternative is more valuable? What are the key drivers of your result? Which of the two alternatives would you choose based on your quantitative analysis: renting an apartment or buying it with a mortgage loan?

## **Course materials**

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There are many readings covering different aspects of wealth management, but there is no basic textbook for the course. [1] describes how financial planners make asset allocation for clients. [2] is an investment guide for an individual investor, written by a very successful portfolio manager of Yale University endowment fund. [3] contains a lot of practical information on personal investment, from investor profiling to offshore investments, capital-protected products, and financial consultants. [4] is a basic level reading on personal finance, discussing risks of different financial instruments and containing many real-life stories. [5] is a classical advanced reading on private banking. [6] describes practical aspects of constructing a personal financial plan. [7] is a new book describing many practical aspects of wealth management in Russia.

The additional up-to-date reports and readings will be provided at my.NES.

1. Evensky, Horan, Robinson, 2011, *The New Wealth Management: The Financial Advisor's Guide to Managing and Investing Client Assets*.
2. Swensen, 2005, *Unconventional Success: A Fundamental Approach to Personal Investment*.
3. Беккер, 2009, Не потеряй! О чем умолчал «папа» Кийосаки? Философия здравого смысла для частного инвестора.
4. Горяев, Чумаченко, 2011, *Финансовая грамота*.
5. Мод, Молино, 2003, *Private Banking. Элитное обслуживание частного капитала*.
6. Паранич, *Личный финансовый план: инструкция по составлению*.
7. Смирнова, 2020, *Деньговодство. Руководство по выращиванию ваших денег*.

## **Academic integrity policy**

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Cheating, plagiarism, and any other violations of academic ethics at NES are not tolerated.