



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Tax Strategy

May 2020

Scope

The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Cambridge (“University of Cambridge”) is a common law corporation, incorporated by Act of Parliament in the year 1571. The activities of the University of Cambridge include world-leading academic research, education, the designing and delivering of examinations through Cambridge Assessment and the publishing of academic books and journals through Cambridge University Press. The University of Cambridge also undertakes some of its activities through subsidiary companies, resident both in the UK and elsewhere, as well as through foreign branches.

The University of Cambridge is an exempt charity as per paragraph 2, Schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011. As such, the University of Cambridge qualifies as a Charitable Company under Part 11 of the Corporation Taxes Act 2010 and benefits from exemptions and reliefs from taxation in the UK.

This tax strategy applies to the University of Cambridge and all its related, subsidiary entities in accordance with paragraph 16 of Schedule 19 to the Finance Act 2016. A list of the subsidiaries to which it applies is attached below. In this strategy, references to the “University” are to the University of Cambridge and all those entities so listed.

This strategy is for the financial year ended 31 July 2020. This strategy has

been published in accordance with paragraph 16(4) of Schedule 19 of the Finance Act 2016 by being made available on the University’s website. References to “UK Taxation” are to the taxes and duties set out in paragraph 15(1) of Schedule 19 of the Finance Act 2016, which include Income Tax, Corporation Tax, PAYE, NIC, VAT, Insurance Premium Tax and Stamp Duty Land Tax. References to “tax”, “taxes”, “taxation” are to UK taxation and to all corresponding worldwide taxes and similar duties in respect of which the University has legal responsibility.

Aim

As a charitable organisation, the University of Cambridge benefits from exemptions from many taxes. However, where taxation obligations exist the University is committed to comply in full with those obligations and to disclose in full all relevant information to tax authorities, whilst also trying to manage its tax position so that funds available to support its charitable mission are maximised.

Governance in relation to UK taxation

The principal executive and policy-making body of the University is the Council, which includes 16 elected academic members, four external members and three student members. The Vice-Chancellor is chair of the Council. The Council has effective

responsibility for the tax strategy of the University.

The financial affairs of the University are delegated to the Finance Committee. The day-to-day responsibility for taxation for the University as a whole, Cambridge Assessment and Cambridge University Press are delegated to the University's Director of Finance and Cambridge Assessments' and Cambridge University Press' own Chief Financial Officers.

The University has a central tax department supported by additional tax teams for both Cambridge Assessment and Cambridge University Press. The combined tax department works together under the supervision of the various parties mentioned above with the aim of ensuring that all taxation obligations and risks are identified and managed appropriately in line with the University's objective to have full disclosure and be fully compliant with all obligations.

Risk management

The University seeks to minimise its exposure to taxation risks through involvement of the tax department in all major transactions, whether new or on going, and for any material changes in business. The Academic University, Cambridge Assessment and Cambridge University Press have policies which set out the requirement for finance staff and University departments to seek clearance or involvement of the tax department

where appropriate and the tax teams act as business partners for the various schools, departments, and Assessment and Press business units, providing advice and guidance in a timely manner to ensure compliance. The tax department provides regular, internal training to staff to highlight tax issues and treatments unique to the Higher Education sector and also for changes in legislation.

The University's tax department is staffed with appropriately qualified individuals, who undertake internal and external training and participate in various taxation, charity and higher education focused associations to maintain and develop their knowledge of taxation and keep up-to-date with changes in legislation, interpretation and best practice.

Internal control procedures and processes exist within the University finance departments and systems with the aim of ensuring that information and documents underlying taxation returns and submissions are accurate and complete. Taxation returns and submissions are subject to appropriate levels of internal review prior to their submission.

If the tax treatment of specific transactions or other matters is uncertain, requires external consideration or confirmation, or involves a specialist area of taxation for which the University tax team does not have the necessary knowledge then the University seeks professional advice from suitably qualified, external advisors.

Attitude towards tax planning and level of risk

At all times the University seeks to comply fully with its regulatory and other obligations and to act in a way that maintains its reputation as a world-leading educational institute and charity that contributes positively to society, whilst also managing its tax position by taking advantage of all available and appropriate tax reliefs, exemptions and incentives so as to maximise the funds available to further the University's core activities and strategic aims as per its charitable mission.

Taking into account the above, the University's approach towards tax planning is with the aims of:

- reducing tax risks,
- achieving certainty of taxation treatment where possible, and
- ensuring that all tax submissions are accurate, complete, submitted on time and subject to full disclosure.

Relationship with HMRC

The University aims to have a constructive and transparent relationship with HMRC. The University benefits from having a dedicated Customer Compliance Manager ("CCM") and there are regular meetings and correspondence between the University's tax department and the CCM to ensure that HMRC is aware of any significant developments in the University's business or operations or any current, future or retrospective taxation issues that have been identified for which the taxation treatment is uncertain.

If the University undertakes significant, new transactions or new, material operations for which the taxation treatment is uncertain or if a change in legislation, interpretation or practice could impact an existing or past taxation treatment the University seeks to obtain confirmation of such treatment from HMRC.

Any inadvertent errors in returns and submissions made to HMRC are fully disclosed as soon as reasonably practicable after they are identified.

List of entities covered by this tax strategy

The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Cambridge
Cambridge Assessment Overseas Limited (UK)
Cambridge ClassServer LLP
Cambridge Enterprise Limited
Cambridge Kazakhstan Limited
Cambridge Learning Limited
Cambridge Investment Limited
Cambridge Investment Management Limited
Cambridge Sustainability Limited
Cambridge University Holdings Limited
Cambridge University Press (Holdings) Limited
Cambridge University Press Operations Limited
Cambridge University Technical Services Limited
Core Sustainable Heat Management Limited
CUEF Robinson Bond Investment Limited
Digital Services Cambridge Limited
English Language iTutoring Limited
Fitzwilliam Museum (Enterprises) Limited
IFM Education and Consultancy Services Limited
JBS Executive Education Limited
Lodge Property Services Limited
Lynxvale Limited
Oncoweb Limited
Oxford and Cambridge International Assessment Services Limited
Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations (OCR)
Portal Estate Management Limited
The West Midlands Examinations Board
UTS Cambridge