



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2007/2008

EXC 2400 Business Research Methods

Program

Bachelor in Business Administration - (2. year)

Responsible for the course

Ulf Henning Olsson, Ragnhild Silkoset

Department

Economics

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

English

Objective

The primary objective of this course is to teach the students various techniques and methods in marketing research. Major emphasis is given to designing research projects in relation to decision problems in businesses and organizations. The students should also be able to conduct simple types of data analysis themselves, and application of statistic in this connection is central.

Prerequisites

Basic course in statistics from the Foundation Program in Business administration or other corresponding courses.

Compulsory literature

Books:

Cooper, Donald R. and Pamela S. Schindler. 2006. Business research methods. 9th ed..

Boston : McGraw-Hill

Easterby-Smith Mark, Richard Thorpe and Andy Lowe. 2002. Management research. 2nd ed.

London: Sage

Recommended literature

Course outline

Part 1

1. Introduction to management research
2. Research philosophy
3. Formulating the research problem
4. Secondary data and standardized data sources
5. Qualitative research
6. Survey research
7. Types of samples and sample size
8. Reliability and validity

Part 2

9. Hypothesis testing
10. Variance analysis
11. Regression analysis
12. Factor analysis

Part 3

13. Applying method and dataanalysis in projects

Computer-based tools

This course requires use of computer resources. Recommended software is SPSS.

Course structure

The course consists of 45 lecturing hours, hereof 36 hours for lectures, 3 hours for exercises in class, and 6 hours for practical SPSS training. Additionally, the students are expected to spend time on exercises and assignments.

Evaluation

The course is evaluated through a 4 hour written exam at the end of the semester. The written exam is divided into two parts. 40% will be based on a case that is distributed at semester start. The students are encouraged to work with this case individually, since the results will be used in the written exam. The case follows the course through the semester. The other 60% of the written exam builds on questions from the literature in the course. The written exam is given a regular letter grade.

The students must pass both parts of the written exam to obtain course credits.

Evaluation code(s)

EXC 24002 – Written exam, accounts for 100% of the final grade in the course EXC 2400 Business Research Methods, 6 ECTS credits.

Aids at the examination

Simple calculator.

Support materials at written examinations are explained under exam information in our web-based student handbook. Please note use of calculator. <http://www.bi.no/studenthandbook>

Makeup exam

A makeup exam is held in every term.