



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/2011

GRA 3160 Research Methodology in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Programme

Master of Science in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Responsible for the course

Department

Department of Innovation and Economic Organisation

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

English

Introduction

The course has an integrative approach to research methodology. The course provides an introduction to the various scientific principles underlying studies of innovation and entrepreneurship. The students will be introduced to both interpretative and causal approaches to research methodology, and they will learn how to generate valid and reliable knowledge by use of scientific methods and analytical tools. These skills provide the foundation for the students' work with their Master-thesis.

The course is made of five parts:

Introduction to the theory of science and research methodology
Design of research projects and collection of data
Analyzing data
Present and communicate findings and results
Research ethics

Learning outcome

Knowledge outcomes

The students will gain knowledge of basic concepts and methodological procedures within different scientific traditions, for example, the positivist, the hermeneutic and the critical traditions. How to apply different procedures to practical problem solving within the field of innovation and entrepreneurship will be emphasized.

Skill outcomes

The students shall be able to:

formulate a specific research topic
formulate a current problem and hypothesis
do literature and information search
do documentation and historical criticism
collect data
analyze data
test hypotheses
present results of a study
acquaintance with advanced methods for information "harvesting", search technique, evaluation of sources
understand what a cited reference search is, how to do it and be acquainted with how one can make use of it,
know what a critical literature review is and how this type of articles may be searched for and used.

Attitude outcome

Students will be trained to be reflective to different methodological procedures. Creativity and critical assessment of ideas and procedures related to innovation and entrepreneurship will be emphasized. Broader understanding of advanced information strategies.

Prerequisites

A bachelor degree qualifying for entrance to the master programme in innovation and entrepreneurship. Students should have basic knowledge in the use of library sources and search techniques.

Compulsory reading

Books:

Abbot, Andrew. 2004. *Methods of discovery : heuristics for the social sciences*. New York : W.W. Norton & Co. p 3-79, to be included in the compendium
Coghlan, David and Teresa Brannick. 2010. *Doing action research in your own organization*. 3rd ed. London : Sage Publications. Ch 1, p 3-30 to be included in the compendium
Popper, Karl R. 2002. *The poverty of historicism*. London : Routledge. Ch 1, p 4-34 to be included in the compendium
Saunders, Mark N.K., Philip Lewis, Adrian Thornhill. 2009. *Research methods for business students*. 5th ed. Essex : Pearson Education. chapter 3: Critically reviewing the literature, p. 58-101 to be included in the compendium
Wickham, Phillip A. 2010. *Strategic entrepreneurship*. 5th ed. Harlow : FT/Prentice Hall. Ch 28, p 566-586 to be included in the compendium. Ny utg ventet juni 2010

Collection of articles:

All the articles will be collected in a compendium which will be defined by the start of the course

Other:

During the course there may be hand-outs and other material on additional topics relevant for the course and the examination.

Recommended reading

Course outline

General methodology
Theory of science
Collection of data
Practical exercises in a pc lab
How to present results of a study

During the semester there will be thesis seminars to guide the students towards writing a thesis registration form. This is conducted outside the course.

Computer-based tools

It's learning and online library resources: ISI web of science and Business Source Complete, and Google Scholar.

Learning process and workload

A course of 6 ECTS credits corresponds to a workload of 160-180 hours.
The course includes regular lectures and workshops including paper presentations.

Please note that while attendance is not compulsory in all courses, it is the student's own responsibility to obtain any information provided in class that is not included on the course homepage/It's learning or text book.

Coursework requirements

Completed and approved work assignment given by the library is a prerequisite for course completion. Students who do not meet this requirement will not be allowed to take the final exam

Examination

Your course grade will be based on the following activities and weights:
Thesis registration form, pass/fail
3 hour written individual final exam

Specific information regarding student evaluation beyond the information given in the course description will be provided in class. This information may be relevant for requirements for term papers or other hand-ins, and/or where class participation can be one of several elements of the overall evaluation.

Examination code(s)

GRA 31601 for the thesis registration form
GRA 31602 for the 3 hour written exam

Examination support materials

None. Exam aids at written examinations are explained under exam information in our web-based Student handbook. Please note use of calculator and dictionary.
<http://www.bi.edu/studenthandbook/examaids>

Re-sit examination

It is only possible to retake an examination when the course is next taught.

The assessment in some courses is based on more than one exam code.

Where this is the case, you may retake only the assessed components of one of these exam codes.

Where this is not the case, all of the assessed components of the course must be retaken.

All retaken examinations will incur an additional fee.

Additional information**Honor Code**

Academic honesty and trust are important to all of us as individuals, and represent values that are encouraged and promoted by the honor code system. This is a most significant university tradition. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the ideals of the honor code system, to which the faculty are also deeply committed.

Any violation of the honor code will be dealt with in accordance with BI's procedures for cheating. These issues are a serious matter to everyone associated with the programs at BI and are at the heart of the honor code and academic integrity. If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the honor code, please ask.