



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2011/2012

GRA 6276 Research Methods for Master of Professional Accountancy

Programme

Master in Professional Accountancy

Responsible for the course

Erlend Kvaal

Department

Department of Accounting - Auditing and Law

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

Norwegian

Introduction

The course is compulsory for students who are writing a master thesis for the master programme in professional accountancy (GRA 1920). The course may be replaced by another equivalent course at the master level.

Learning outcome

The students shall gain an understanding of research methods that are relevant for the main subject areas of the master programme in professional accountancy. The course will focus on training students to formulate a well-defined problem for discussion and to find a research design that is suitable for throwing light on the problem. The students shall also learn how to find relevant information in the literature and databases. The course will also discuss issues relating to research ethics. Approx. 12 teaching hours will be devoted to legal method and quantitative / qualitative methods, and students have to choose one or the other. During the course the students shall decide on a topic for their master thesis and must prepare and submit a hand-in project for their thesis.

By means of joint literature and citation searches the students shall acquire knowledge about various search methods for obtaining information.

Prerequisites

A bachelor degree qualifying for admission to the master programme. .

Compulsory reading

Books:

Boe, Erik. 2010. Grunnleggende juridisk metode : en introduksjon til rett og rettstenkning. 2. utg. Universitetsforlaget

Ghauri, Pervez N. and Kjell Grønhaug. 2009. Research methods in business studies. 4th ed. Financial Times Prentice Hall

Other:

-I løpet av kurset kan det bli delt ut materiale på flere emner som er relevante for kurset og eksamen

Saunders, Mark.. 2009. Research methods for business students. 5th ed.. Pearson Education; Essex.. Chapter 3: Critically reviewing the literature, pp. 58-101. Available electronically.

Recommended reading

Course outline

Philosophy of science

The research process

Formulating problems to be addressed

Research designs

Problems relating to research ethics

Data collection

Legal methods
Qualitative and quantitative data analysis
Advice on writing the master thesis

Computer-based tools

The students will be given the opportunity to learn about statistics tools.

Learning process and workload

A 6 ECTS credits course is equivalent to a workload of 160-180 hours.

The course consists of lectures, seminars and discussions. Approx. 12 teaching hours are used on legal or qualitative / quantitative methods.

Even though attendance is not compulsory in all courses it is the student's responsibility to obtain information given in class that has not been published on it's learning, homepages or in textbooks.

Examination

In order to pass the course the student must have submitted a hand-in project for the master thesis. The hand-in project must as a minimum include a well-defined and operational approach to the problem, a complete outline of the master thesis, a complete description of the method to be applied to throw light on the problem and a review of the relevant literature to be used as references in the master thesis. The course also includes a 3-hour written exam(counts for 90 % of the final letter grade) and completed and approved work assignment organized by the library (counts for 10 % of the final letter grade).

Further more detailed information on the evaluation will be given in class. This may be information on requirements to term papers or other hand-in assignments, and/or class participation when this is included in the evaluation.

Examination code(s)

GRA 62763 Hand-in project for the master thesis (pass/ fail).

GRA 62764 for the final letter grade in the course

Examination support materials

BI-approved calculator. Bilingual dictionary.

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 the next time that the course is taught.

Additional information

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.