



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2012/2013

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., Kjell Grønhaug. 2010. 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.. 2012. Research methods for business students. 6th ed.. Pearson Education; Essex.. Chapter 3: Critically reviewing the literature, pp. 70-124.. Will be 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
Literature search
Advice on writing the master thesis

Computer-based tools

Workshop in statistical software.

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

A mandatory element of the course is to prepare and get approved a first outline of the master thesis, cf. the course description of GRA 1920. The outline must as a minimum include a well-defined and operational approach to the problem, a complete overview of the contents of the 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 outline is graded pass / fail. Students that follow the course without the intention to produce a GRA 1920 master thesis are exempted from preparing such outline.

The course also includes a hand-in project to the library (counts for 10 %) and a hand-in project relating to the statistical software (counts for 20 %). Both hand-in projects are graded pass / fail. The hand-in projects are not mandatory, but the grades are included in the total evaluation.

The course includes a 3 hour written exam (counts for 70 % of the final letter grade).

Students must submit and pass (graded pass/fail) thei outline of their master thesis, as a prerequisite for course completion.

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.

This is a course with continuous assessmen, applies for the part counting 40% (several exam elements) . Each exam element will be graded using points on a scale (e.g. 0-100). The elements will be weighted together according to the information in the course description in order to calculate the final letter grade for the course. You will find detailed information about the point system and the cut off points with reference to the letter grades on the course site in It's learning.

Examination code(s)

GRA 62763 Outline of the master thesis (pass / fail).

GRA 62764 accounts for 100% of the final grade in GRA 6276

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.