



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/2014

GRA 6836 Research Methodology for Strategy

Programme

Master of Science in Business (Logistic - Supply Chains and Networks), Master of Science in Business (Strategy)

Responsible for the course

Lars Huemer

Department

Department of Strategy and Logistics

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

English

Introduction

Students participating in this course will be guided towards the completion of a research proposal. The main aim of the course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills in order to successfully complete a master's thesis.

The first part of the course covers the philosophical underpinnings of research in the strategy field. This includes the fundamentals of research design. The main section of the course covers both qualitative and quantitative research methods.

Learning outcome

Acquired knowledge

- (i) To understand how to write a research proposal.
- (ii) To gain knowledge of concepts and tools to collect and analyse data for strategy research.
- (iii) To understand and appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of different methodologies and data sources.
- (iv) To gain a broader understanding of advanced information search strategies.

Acquired skills

- (i) To be able to compare and contrast different research designs.
- (ii) To be able to compare and critique different research designs, methodologies and data collection methods.
- (iii) To be able to design samples, research questions and research proposals appropriately.
- (iv) To be able to use and evaluate advanced methods for information 'harvesting' and search techniques, and critically evaluate information sources.
- (v) To understand what a critical literature review is and how it can be designed and executed.

Reflection

- (i) To understand how research design influences and is influenced by the theme of interest.
- (ii) To appreciate how to conduct original research at the MSc level and evaluate the research process.

Prerequisites

A Bachelor's degree qualifying for admission to the Master programme. Students should have basic knowledge in statistics and in the use of library sources and search techniques. To be a student on the Strategy major. Or to be an exchange student majoring in strategy at their home institution.

Compulsory reading

Books:

Bryman, Alan, Emma Bell. 2011. Business research methods. 3rd ed. Oxford University Press

Collection of articles:

Various authors. Various articles. As detailed in the course outline

Other:

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

Saunders et al. 2012. Research Methods for Business Students. 6th. Pearson Essex, UK. Chapter 3: Critically reviewing the literature, pp. 70-124. will be available electronically

Recommended reading

Course outline

Introduction to the Research Process - philosophy of science, research proposals, research process, research ethics
Research Design - problems, questions, collection and design
Secondary Research and Analysis - literature searching, literature reviews, review articles.
Qualitative Research - assumptions, ideas, methodologies and methods
Computer-assisted data analysis
Research ethics

Qualitative and quantitative methodology, either one or combined, with a focus on the needs of designing strategy research

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

Tools will be used for database searching (ISI, etc), for qualitative data analysis and for database management. To some extent, generic statistics software such as SPSS.

Learning process and workload

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

Students are expected to participate actively and to be well prepared before attending class.

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.

Examination

Term paper (55%)

Class participation (35%)

A completed and approved work assignment given by the library (10 %)

Completion of a thesis registration form – pass/fail

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.

This is a course with continuous assessment (several exam elements) and one final exam code. 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 68361 for thesis registration form pass/fail.

GRA 68362 (continuous assessment) accounts for 100% of the final letter grade.

Examination support materials

Not applicable, no written exam.

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