



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/2016

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

All courses in the Masters programme will assume that students have fulfilled the admission requirements for the programme. In addition, courses in second, third and/or fourth semester can have specific prerequisites and will assume that students have followed normal study progression. For double degree and exchange students, please note that equivalent courses are accepted.

Compulsory reading

Books:

Boe, Erik. 2012. Grunnleggende juridisk metode : en introduksjon til rett og rettstenkning. 3. utg.

Universitetsforlaget

Ghuri, Pervez N., Kjell Grønhaug. 2010. Research methods in business studies. 4th ed. Financial Times Prentice Hall

Book extract:

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

Other:

-I løpet av kurset kan det bli delt ut materiale på flere emner som er relevante for kurset og eksamen
Statistikkunnskap for GRA 6276 (undervisningsnotat)

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

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 (accounts for 10 %) and a hand-in project relating to the statistical software (accounts for 20 %).

The course includes a 3-hour written examination (accounts for 70 % of the final letter grade).

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

Form of assessment	Weight	Group size
Thesis Registration Form	Pass/fail	
Work assignment by the library	10%	
Assignment	20%	
Written examination 3 hours	70%	Individual

Specific information regarding student assessment will be provided in class. This information may be relevant to requirements for term papers or other hand-ins, and/or where class participation can be one of several components of the overall assessment. This is a course with continuous assessment (several exam components) and one final exam code. Each exam component is graded using points on a scale from 0-100. The final grade for the course is based on the aggregated mark of the course components. Each component is weighted as detailed in the course description. Students who fail to participate in one/some/all exam components will get a lower grade or may fail the course. You will find detailed information about the points system and the mapping scale in the student portal @bi.

Examination code(s)

GRA 62763 Thesis registration form (pass / fail).

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

Examination support materials

BI approved exam calculator

Bilingual dictionary

Permitted examination support materials for written examinations are detailed under examination information in the student portal @bi. The section on support materials and the use of calculators and dictionaries should be paid special attention to.

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. All retaken examinations will incur an additional fee. Please note that you need to retake the latest version of the course with updated course literature and assessment. Please make sure that you have familiarised yourself with the latest course description.

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.