



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/2016

GRA 6345 Research Methods in Business and Leadership

Programme

Master of Science in Business

Responsible for the course

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Department

Department of Leadership and Organizational Behaviour

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

Language of instruction

English

Introduction

The main aim of the course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills to critically evaluate and use research results as well as preparing students for planning and executing a master's thesis. The course will inquire into the philosophy and methods of how to generate valid and reliable knowledge by use of scientific methods and analytical tools. Students are also trained in critical evaluation of research conducted by others as well as their own research. The course is specially directed towards familiarizing students with the most common research designs and methods in International Business and Leadership & Change

Learning outcome

Acquired knowledge

- (i) To gain knowledge of concepts and tools to collect and analyse data for research in international business.
- (ii) To understand and appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of different methodologies and data sources.
- (iii) Knowledge of central research questions and appropriate research designs in various subfields of international business research

Acquired skills

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

Reflection

- (i) Awareness of ethical issues in doing research and disseminating research
- (ii) To appreciate how to conduct original research at the MSc level and evaluate the research process.

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:

Bryman, Alan, Emma Bell. 2015. Business research methods. 4th ed. Oxford University Press

Other:

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

Recommended reading

Books:

Piekkari, Rebecca, Catherine Welch, eds. 2011. Rethinking the case study in international business and

management research. Edward Elgar
Thietart, Raymond Alain ... [et al.]. 2001. Doing management research : a comprehensive guide. Sage. available electronically

Course outline

The course will cover the following themes:

- Introduction to the Research Process - philosophy of science, research proposals, research process, research ethics
- Systematic and explorative Research Designs
- Search and evaluation of information sources
- Quantitative approaches: data and measurement, survey studies, quantitative analysis, panel data
- Qualitative approaches: Doing qualitative research, interviewing, qualitative analysis
- Writing up research

Computer-based tools

Not applicable

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.

Research Methodology is a very important course in the MSc Programme as the course is central to the thesis work. Please make sure you read the information about the thesis work in the student portal @bi

Examination

Your course grade will be based on the following activities and weights:

- A completed and approved work assignment given by the library (accounts for 10% of the final grade)
- Group presentation of assigned empirical article (accounts for 10% of the final grade)
- Written assignment - Literature review, can be written in groups up to two students (accounts for 30% of the final grade)
- 3-hour written individual final examination (accounts for 50 % of the final grade)

Form of assessment	Weight	Group size
Work assignment by the library	10%	
Presentation	10%	
Assignment	30%	
Written examination 3 hours	50%	

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 63453 continuous assessment accounts for 100% of the final grade in GRA 6345.

Examination support materials

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

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.