



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2016/2017

## GRA 6345 Research Methods in Business and Leadership

### Programme

Master of Science in Business

### Responsible for the course

Jon Erland Lervik

### Department

Department of Leadership and Organizational Behaviour

### Term

According to study plan

### ECTS Credits

6

### Language of instruction

English

### Introduction

The purpose of this course is to provide students with knowledge and skills that enable them to conduct the initial phase of their Thesis projects. The course is process-oriented and has an applied focus, where students are initially given a general introduction to research methodology covering issues in both quantitative and qualitative methodology, the philosophy of science, theories of knowledge and knowledge development, research ethics, and learn to search and critically examine available sources for scientific knowledge. Students are also trained in critical evaluation of research conducted by others as well as their own research.

### Learning outcome

After undertaking this course you should:

- Be familiarized with key insights from the philosophy of science, including issues such as what science is and where knowledge comes from, and research ethics.  
Be provided with appropriate tools for evaluating the validity of inferences drawn from empirical research using both quantitative and qualitative methodology.
- Be able to apply these insights to conduct research within the field of organisational psychology and understand the main approaches by which researchers attempt to provide answers to research questions within our field.
- Be provided with a broader understanding of advanced information search strategies. Know what a critical literature review is and how this type of articles may be searched for and used.
- Be able to apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the course when writing and presenting your initial Thesis proposal document.

### 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 learning outcomes will be realized by five course components consisting of:

1. Philosophy of science
2. Research ethics
3. Qualitative and quantitative research designs
4. Thesis seminars
5. Practical exercises in a pc lab

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

Not applicable

### Learning process and workload

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

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

Form of assessment	Weight	Group size
Written examination 3 hours	90%	Individual
Work assignment by the library	10%	

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. Candidates may be called in for an oral hearing as a verification/control of written assignments.

### 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

Honour code. Academic honesty and trust are important to all of us as individuals, and are values that are integral to BI's honour code system. Students are responsible for familiarising themselves with the honour code system, to which the faculty is deeply committed. Any violation of the honour code will be dealt with in accordance with BI's procedures for academic misconduct. Issues of academic integrity are taken seriously by everyone associated with the programmes at BI and are at the heart of the honour code. If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the honour code, please ask. The learning platform itslearning is used

in the teaching of all courses at BI. All students are expected to make use of its learning.