



Kursplan

Fakultetsnämnden för ekonomi och design
Ekonomihögskolan

4FE72E Business Administration IV - Thesis Project Management,
Methodology and a Master's Thesis, 30 högskolepoäng

Business Administration IV - Thesis Project Management,
Methodology and a Master's Thesis, 30 credits

Ämnesgrupp

Företagsekonomi

Nivå

Avancerad nivå

Fördjupning

A1E

Fastställande

Fastställd av institutionsstyrelsen vid Ekonomihögskolan 2009-10-08

Senast reviderad 2012-06-25. Reviderad pga ändrad behörighet

Kursplanen gäller från och med vårterminen 2013

Förkunskaper

Grundläggande behörighet för studier på avancerad nivå samt särskild behörighet
Företagsekonomi 1-105 hp, varav 15 hp på avancerad nivå inom ledarskap och
organisation, inklusive ett examensarbete på nivå G2E . Engelska B.

Mål

This course is offered as an integrated part following the general structure of the
syllabus of the

Master's Programme in Leadership and Management in International Context.

After completing this course the student should be able to:

- implement thorough and qualified skills in the art and process of planning, conducting, implementing and presenting a research in a thesis form.
- identify a research question and design a project to answer it
- write a critical literature review
- define working concepts and conceptual frameworks to give structure to the work
- collect and analyse research data efficiently and effectively
- interpret findings sensitively as a basis for making recommendations for action that are practicable and sound
- write reports and dissertations that are persuasive, well structured and well written demonstrating:

- i. A systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study, or area of professional practice;
- ii. A comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship;
- iii. Originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline;
- iv. Conceptual understanding that enables the student:
 - ..XTo evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline; and
 - ..XTo evaluate methodologies and develop critiques thereof and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

- deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in - planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level;

- i. Continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.
- ii. Acquire the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring:
 - ..XThe exercise of initiative and personal responsibility;
 - ..XDecision making in complex and unpredictable situations; and
 - ..XThe independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

- understand how this course is connected to society at large and to be able to relate to, grasp and use the state of the art of the research within the subject.

Innehåll

The course consists of three distinctive and integrated activities:

Project Management

This is a process that starts at early stage of this course and aims at organising and managing all the activities related to the thesis. These groups are formed, and seminars are organised in order to culminate in a thesis proposal for each group. The thesis proposal must contain a thorough description of the research problem, the research questions as well as a vision of a supporting theoretical framework and a vision of how a prospective empirical investigation is to be conducted. During this initial process, the students have the opportunity to specialise in areas with relevance to leadership and management in international contexts.

Methodology

Throughout the whole course regular seminars on methodology are provided. Different methodological approaches are studied and the implications they have on research are examined. Each thesis group is given the possibility to relate methodological issues to their particular research problem. Thus, approaches such as case study, grounded theory and quantitative survey methods are examined and evaluated. The students are thereby trained in the principles of valid research methodologies and in the relationship between the research problem and the adequate methodological approach. The project management part of this course starts at the very beginning of the programme where the course is integrated, thus encouraging and helping the students to enter into the process of formulating a thesis proposal and related issues at an early stage. This process allows for the maturation of the end result and gives many correcting opportunities.

Research and the art of writing

The student's progress and knowledge acquisition are continually monitored through written papers, team work activities and presentations of the progress and results. Students have the opportunity to study scientific papers, conference proceedings, journal articles and finished theses in order to gain and improve their own research and writing skills. The course also hosts researchers and PhD students who present their work, their methodologies and their writing routines.

Undervisningsformer

Theses teams are normally constituted by 2 students. Participation in lectures, seminars and teamwork activities is mandatory. There will be a possibility to present the written thesis either in a monographic form or in a series of short scientific papers.

The teaching forms are integrated.

Examinationsformer

Kursen bedöms med betygen Underkänd, Godkänd eller Väl godkänd.

The examination of the thesis course including all its parts is based on the following activities:

Master thesis: 70 %

Methodology: 20%

Opposition and defence of the master thesis: 10 %

Results are graded using one of the terms Passed with distinction, Pass or Fail, and A-F according to the ECTS scale. The grade is set depending on how well the student has fulfilled the learning outcomes. Pass with distinction requires deeper, more elaborated and complex discussions around the same learning outcomes. The weighing of grades to a course grade is done based on the document "Principer för betygsrapportering" dnr 2011/160.

Kursvärdering

Continuous monitoring and evaluation of the progress of the students is carried out through seminars, workshops and submission of reports. The written thesis in itself

through seminars, workshops and submission of reports. The written tests in itself constitutes the final examination.

Kurslitteratur och övriga läromedel

Daudi, Ph., (1986). *Generating Knowledge and the Theory of Discourse*, Ch 3 in *The Discourse of Power in Managerial Praxis*, Basil Blackwell, Oxford

Fisher, C., and others, (2004). *Researching and Writing a Dissertation for Business Students*, Pearson Education Ltd.

Strauss, A., and Corbin, J., (1990). *Basics of Qualitative research: Grounded Theory Procedures and Techniques*, Sage Publications, Newbury Park

Strauss, A., and Corbin, J., (1997). *Grounded Theory in Practice*, Sage Publications

Yin, Robert K., (1994). *Case Study Research. Design and Methods*, Second Edition, Sage

Additional teaching material

Bruton, G D., Lohrke F T. and Lu, J W., The evolving definition of what comprises international strategic management research, *Journal of International Management*, Volume 10, Issue 3, 2004, Pages 413-429

Cherchye, L. and Vanden Abeele, P., On research efficiency: A micro-analysis of Dutch university research in Economics and Business Management, *Research Policy*, Volume 34, Issue 4, May 2005, Pages 495-516

Dews, P. (1987). *Logics of disintegration: Post-structuralist thought and the claims of critical theory*, London, Verso

Frisby, D. (1988). *Fragments of modernity*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press

Habermas, J., Translated by Lawrence, F. (1987). *The philosophical discourse of modernity: Twelve lectures*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: M.I.T. Press

Harwood, N., Nowhere has anyone attempted ... In this article I aim to do just that': A corpus-based study of self-promotional I and we in academic writing across four disciplines, *Journal of Pragmatics*, Volume 37, Issue 8, August 2005, Pages 1207-1231

Lehman, G., Taylor, Expressivism and Interpretation: Toward a New Evaluative Discourse Lost to Modernity? *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*, Volume 11, Issue 4, August 2000, Pages 433-445

Lyons, J B. and Schneider, T R., The influence of emotional intelligence on performance, *Personality and Individual Differences*, April 2005

O'Sullivan, N., Nietzsche and the agenda of post-modernity, *History of European Ideas*, Volume 20, Issues 1-3, January 1995, Pages 145-151

Papalexandris, A., Ioannou, G., Prastacos, G. and Soderquist, KE., An Integrated Methodology for Putting the Balanced Scorecard into Action, *European Management Journal*, Volume 23, Issue 2, April 2005, Pages 214-227

Prybutok, V R. and Ramasesh, R., An action-research based instrument for monitoring continuous quality improvement, *European Journal of Operational Research*, Volume 166, Issue 2, 16 October 2005, Pages 293-309

Shamir, B. and Eilamb G., "What's your story?" A life-stories approach to authentic

leadership development , *The Leadership Quarterly*, Volume 16, Issue 3, June 2005,
Pages 395-417