

## Syllabus

### Course description

<b>Course title</b>	<b>ACADEMIC WRITING AND RESEARCH SKILLS</b>
<b>Course code</b>	<b>25449</b>
<b>Scientific sector</b>	L-LIN/12
<b>Degree</b>	Master in Accounting and Finance
<b>Semester and academic year</b>	1st semester 2020/2021
<b>Year</b>	2
<b>Credits</b>	6
<b>Modular</b>	No
<b>Total lecturing hours</b>	36
<b>Total office hours</b>	18
<b>Total exercise hours</b>	No
<b>Attendance</b>	Although course attendance is not compulsory, active participation is <u>highly recommended</u> for all sessions.
<b>Prerequisites</b>	Not foreseen.
<b>Course page</b>	To be announced by the beginning of the course.
<b>Specific educational objectives</b>	<p>The objective of this course is to help students acquire the foundations of scientific method in Accounting and Finance research. Throughout the course, students are exposed to modern research topics and methods in several areas of academic research in Accounting and Finance.</p> <p>Building upon state-of-the-art literature, students learn to identify, critically evaluate, and further develop relevant and researchable topics. The overall goal is to convey specialized academic writing and research skills necessary to successfully complete the Master thesis research trajectory in Accounting &amp; Finance.</p>
<b>Lecturers</b>	<p>Several lecturers of the Cluster Financial Markets &amp; Regulation with expertise in Accounting and Finance research are involved in this course.</p> <p>Prof. Paolo Perego (<a href="mailto:paolo.perego@unibz.it">paolo.perego@unibz.it</a>) acts as course coordinator.</p> <p>Prof. Maurizio Murgia (<a href="mailto:maurizio.murgia@unibz.it">maurizio.murgia@unibz.it</a>)</p> <p>Prof. Alex Weissensteiner (<a href="mailto:alex.weissensteiner@unibz.it">alex.weissensteiner@unibz.it</a>)</p> <p>Dr. Claudia Curi (<a href="mailto:claudia.curi@unibz.it">claudia.curi@unibz.it</a>)</p> <p>Dr. Dmitri Boreiko (<a href="mailto:dmitri.boreiko@unibz.it">dmitri.boreiko@unibz.it</a>)</p>
<b>Scientific sector of the lecturers</b>	SECS-P/07; SECS-P/11; SECS-S/06; SECS-P/09; SECS-P/09;

<b>Teaching language</b>	English
<b>Office hours</b>	Please refer to the lecturers' webpage
<b>Lecturing assistant</b>	NA
<b>Teaching assistant</b>	NA
<b>Office hours</b>	Please refer to the lecturers' webpage

<b>List of topics covered</b>	<p>The course covers the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific method and research methodology</li> <li>• Structure, content, and objective of a literature review</li> <li>• Selection of a research topic and research question</li> <li>• Data collection and sampling strategies</li> <li>• Data analysis techniques and tools</li> <li>• Interpretation and critical reflection of findings</li> <li>• Academic writing of a scientific text</li> </ul>
<b>Teaching format</b>	<p>The course combines lectures focused on research methodology with individual and group practical assignments. The teaching format of the course comprise lecturers' presentations, interactive discussions, and readings (academic articles and textbook chapters).</p> <p>Students are expected to actively participate in the course activities, which will give them the opportunity to effectively apply academic writing and research skills during their Master thesis trajectory.</p>

<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p>A Master student needs to demonstrate her/his ability to analyse complex problems independently and at an academic level in the disciplines of Accounting and Finance. Thesis work requires individual effort in developing a research problem, collecting information, analyzing data, and communicating the results clearly. Propaedeutic to the process of developing and completing the Master thesis, at the end of this course a student is expected to attain the following learning outcomes:</p> <p><u>Knowledge and understanding:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knowledge of theoretical foundations of scientific research</li> <li>• a clear understanding of the structure and objectives of scientific text at academic level</li> <li>• advanced knowledge of methodological approaches to select research topics and conduct an analysis of relevant data for the successful completion of a Master thesis</li> </ul> <p><u>Applying knowledge and understanding:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify and formulate a clear, relevant, researchable research question in line with scientific standards</li> <li>• develop a research framework and translate the research question into a coherent methodological approach with</li> </ul>
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	<p>logically ordered and concrete research steps that minimize common pitfalls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• collect, select, and synthesise information applying appropriate and state-of-the-art data collection and data analysis strategies</li> <li>• interpret this information vis-a-vis the research question and the inherent academic debate developed in the literature</li> </ul> <p><u>Making judgments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conduct independent assessment of specialized academic literature and synthesize knowledge about research topics</li> <li>• demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on the information collected and the research findings, based on theoretically sound argumentation and personal judgment</li> </ul> <p><u>Communication skills:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop specialised skills to report in writing and communicate orally about scientific research and its findings</li> <li>• demonstrate advanced competence in summarising, paraphrasing, synthesis, critical analysis, comparing and contrasting, citing and referencing in academic written text</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assessment</b></p>	<p>For <u>attending students</u>, the course evaluation is based on a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual classroom contribution</li> <li>• Midterm exam</li> <li>• Presentations in small groups and other project work</li> <li>• Master thesis draft proposal as final exam</li> </ul> <p><u>Non-attending students:</u> the course evaluation is based on a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final exam</li> <li>• Master thesis draft proposal</li> </ul> <p>Note: Project work and classroom contributions are valid for 1 academic year and cannot be carried over beyond that timeframe.</p>
<p><b>Assessment language</b></p>	<p>English</p>
<p><b>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks</b></p>	<p>Detailed information on evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks are provided at the beginning of the course. They will reflect the learning goals of the course and will be differently calibrated for attending versus non-attending students.</p>
<p><b>Required readings</b></p>	<p>To be announced by the beginning of the course</p>
<p><b>Supplementary readings</b></p>	<p>To be announced by the beginning of the course</p>

