Syllabus
Course description

Course title	**ACADEMIC WRITING AND RESEARCH SKILLS**
Course code	**25449**
Scientific sector	L-LIN/12
Degree	Master in Accounting and Finance
Semester and academic year	1st semester 2023/2024
Year	2
Credits	6
Modular	No

Total lecturing hours	36
Total office hours	18
Total exercise hours	-
Attendance	Although course attendance is not compulsory, active participation is highly recommended.
Prerequisites	Not foreseen.
Course page	To be announced at the beginning of the course.

Specific educational objectives	The objective of this course is to provide students with a solid grounding in the scientific method as it applies to research in Accounting and Finance. Throughout the course, students are introduced to the theoretical knowledge and practical skills that are essential for conducting rigorous academic research in various areas of Accounting and Finance. Building upon state-of-the-art literature, students learn how to identify, critically evaluate, and develop relevant and researchable topics useful for a Master thesis in Accounting and Finance. Writing skills and applications in data collection and data analysis equip students with competences necessary to complete their thesis trajectory.

Lecturers	Prof. Paolo Perego (paolo.perego@unibz.it)
Scientific sector of the lecturers	SECS-P/07
Teaching language	English
Office hours	Please refer to the unibz timetable
Lecturing assistant	NA
Teaching assistant	Alex Laimer MSc (alex.laimer@economics.unibz.it)
Office hours	NA

List of topics covered	The course covers the following topics: • Scientific method and research methodology • Selection of a research topic and research question • Structure, content, and objective of a literature review • Data collection and sampling strategies • Data analysis techniques and tools • Interpretation and critical reflection of findings • Academic writing of a scientific text • Presentation and defense of research ideas
Teaching format	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). Students are expected to engage in the course activities, which will give them the opportunity to effectively apply academic writing and research skills during their Master thesis trajectory.

Learning outcomes	At the end of this course a student is expected to attain the following learning outcomes: Knowledge and understanding: • knowledge of theoretical foundations of scientific research • knowledge of methodological approaches to address a problem conduct an analysis of relevant data for the successful completion of a research project • a clear understanding of the structure and objectives of a scientific text at academic level. Applying knowledge and understanding: • identify and formulate a clear, relevant, researchable research question in line with scientific standards • develop a research framework and translate the research question into a coherent methodological approach with logically ordered and concrete research steps that minimize common pitfalls • collect, select, and synthesise information applying appropriate and state-of-the-art data collection and data analysis strategies • interpret this information vis-a-vis a research question and the inherent academic debate developed in the literature. Making judgments: • conduct independent assessment of specialized academic literature and synthesize knowledge about research topics • demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on the information collected and the research findings, based on theoretically sound argumentation and personal judgment.

	Communication skills: • develop specialised skills to report in writing and communicate orally about scientific research and its findings • demonstrate advanced competence in summarising, paraphrasing, synthesis, critical analysis, comparing and contrasting, citing, and referencing in an academic written text.

Assessment	The course grade is based on a combination of: • a written exam with a mix of multiple-choice and open questions • a research proposal in the form of an essay A bonus (from 1/30 to 3/30) can be awarded on top of the course grade if a student actively engages in course activities.
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	Detailed information on the course program and assessment criteria are provided at the beginning of the course.

Required readings	To be announced at the beginning of the course.
Supplementary readings	To be announced at the beginning of the course.