



RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Course code	<i>GRAE030</i>
Course title	<i>Research Proposal</i>
Type of course	<i>Compulsory</i>
Stage of study	<i>Graduate</i>
Year of study	<i>2nd</i>
Semester	<i>Fall</i>
Number of credits / ECTS	<i>6 ECTS: 9 academic hours of seminars, 124 hours of self-study, 6 hours of consultations</i>
Coordinator	<i>Tom Hashimoto (Room 205) tomhas@ism.it</i>
Study form	<i>Full-time (consecutive / evening)</i>
Course prerequisites	<i>Research Methodology</i>

Course description:

This course guides students to prepare for their thesis writing process by surveying various topics in the field of Financial Economics. The three main foci are: literature review, research methodology, and hypotheses. First, by systematically highlighting the differences between the annotated bibliography and the literature review, we emphasise the link between the existing literature and the research questions at hand. Second, by skimming through the preliminary data, we check the data availability and the feasibility of the chosen research method. Third, by articulating the hypotheses, we evaluate the proposed research design. The course lasts throughout the semester and concludes with the thesis proposal defence.

Course objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

Course learning outcomes (CLO)	Study methods	Assessment methods
CLO1. Identify a gap in the financial economics literature and cultivate interests in topics relevant to students' career paths.	Seminars, self-study, consultations	Written proposal, proposal defence
CLO2. Critically evaluate various research methods, especially given the data availability.	Seminars, self-study, consultations	Written proposal, proposal defence
CLO3. Formulate a series of hypotheses relevant to the given research questions and develop a habit to continuously assess the progress of own research.	Seminars, self-study, consultations	Written proposal, proposal defence
CLO4. Strengthen communication skills both in the written form as well as in presentation in order to stimulate discussions in the field of financial economics.	Seminars, self-study, consultations	Written proposal, proposal defence

Course schedule:

Seminar	Topics	Classroom hours
1	Annotated Bibliography vs Literature Review	3
2	Assessing the Feasibility	3
3	Hypotheses vs Research questions	3
--	Proposal defence	--



Assessment methods:

Type	Self-study hours	Weight, %
Topic registration	10	--
Written proposal	100	40 %
Proposal defence	14	60 %
Total	124	100 % (pass / non-pass)

Topic registration refers to Appendix 1 of the Thesis Requirements. It lists a preliminary topic choice. The appointment of thesis adviser shall follow shortly after the submission of Appendix 1. Thereafter, students are entitled for periodical consultations from their appointed advisers.

Topic registration is submitted via our e-learning system and due 12 October 2020 (by 18:00).

Written proposal is a 4,500 – 5,500-word document highlighting the relevance of the chosen research question. It is equivalent to the introduction and literature review chapters of the thesis and can be included as a part of master's thesis after a successful defence. It must demonstrate the students' reply to the three main foci of this course, i.e. literature review, research methodology, and hypotheses. The proposals are evaluated by their thesis advisors on the pass / non-pass basis.

Written proposal is submitted via our e-learning system and due 11 January 2021 (by 18:00).

Note: The proposal is checked for plagiarism.

Proposal defence is a 10-minute presentation to communicate the results of the survey on the relevant literature as well as the hypotheses. The committee asks questions regarding the literature review, methodology, and hypotheses during the defence, and evaluates on the pass / non-pass basis. The advisers may attend the defence as observers but cannot contribute to the grading of the defence. Proposal defence is also a requirement specified in the Thesis Requirements.

The time and place of proposal defence are to be announced at a later stage.

Retake:

If a student does not pass the course, the second proposal defence will be organised based on the updated proposal.

The roles of the course coordinator and the adviser:

The role of the coordinator is to deliver three seminars and guide students to identify the research questions.

The role of the adviser is to guide students to prepare the written proposal as a part of the thesis. Please refer to the Thesis Requirements for details.