

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Course code	GRAE030
Compulsory in the programmes	Financial Economics
Level of studies	Graduate
Number of credits	6 ECTS (12 contact hours + 8 consultation hours, 124 individual work hours)
Course coordinator (title and name)	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pijus Krūminas pijkru@faculty.ism.lt
Prerequisites	Research Methodology
Language of instruction	English

THE AIM OF THE COURSE:

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. All these elements are key in developing a thesis. 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 begins with a discussion on research questions and research feasibility, then moves on to discussing the literature review process. It then lasts throughout the semester with consultations and concludes with the thesis proposal defence.

MAPPING OF COURSE LEVEL LEARNING OUTCOMES (OBJECTIVES) WITH DEGREE LEVEL LEARNING OBJECTIVES (See Annex), ASSESMENT AND TEACHING METHODS

Course level learning outcomes (objectives)	Degree level learning objectives (Number of LO)	Assessment methods	Teaching methods
CLO1. Identify a gap in the financial economics literature and cultivate interests in topics relevant to students' career paths.	LO1.1, LO1.2	Written proposal, proposal defence	Seminars, self-study, consultations
CLO2. Critically evaluate various research methods, especially given the data availability.	LO1.1, LO1.2	Written proposal, proposal defence	Seminars, self-study, consultations
CLO3. Formulate a series of hypotheses relevant to the given research questions and develop a habit to continuously assess the progress of own research.	LO1.1, LO1.2	Written proposal, proposal defence	Seminars, self-study, consultations
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.	LO3.1, LO3.2	Written proposal, proposal defence	Seminars, self-study, consultations

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY

The ISM University of Management and Economics Code of Ethics, including cheating and plagiarism are fully applicable and will be strictly enforced in the course. Academic dishonesty, and cheating can and will lead to a report to the ISM Committee of Ethics. With regard to remote learning, ISM remind students that they are expected to adhere and maintain the same academic honesty and integrity that they would in a classroom setting.

COURSE OUTLINE

Topic	In-class hours	Readings
Seminar: Hypotheses vs Research Questions: Assessing the Feasibility	4	-
Seminar: Annotated Bibliography vs Literature Review	4	-
Workshop: Developing research questions and Q&A	4	-
Consultations	8	-
Proposal defence	-	-
	Total: 20 hours	

FINAL GRADE COMPOSITION

Type of assignment	%
<i>Group Components 0%</i>	
<i>Individual Components 100%</i>	
Final assignment - written proposal and proposal defence	100
Total:	100

DESCRIPTION AND GRADING CRITERIA OF EACH ASSIGNMENT

The course is graded as pass/fail.

First, the topic will have to be registered. This 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.

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. It covers 40% weight for the consideration of pass/fail.

Note: The proposal is checked for plagiarism.

Proposal defence is a 10-minute presentation and Q&A session 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. It covers 60% weight for the consideration of pass/fail.

Date	Milestone	How to do it?	How to submit it?	Where to submit it?
1 st October	Topic registration	Register the topic of your Thesis on the eLearning platform	Electronic copy	http://elearning.ism.lt
4 th December (09:00)	Submitting supervisor to	Send your research proposal to your supervisor	Electronic copy	E-mail your supervisor
15 th December (by noon)	Submitting on eLearning	Upload your research proposal to the eLearning system	Electronic copy	http://elearning.ism.lt
15-19 th December (specific dates TBC)	Proposal defence	Defend your research proposal with the committee	-	-

RETAKE POLICY

If a student does not pass the course, the second proposal defence will be organized in January, 2026 based on the updated proposal.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

The role of the course coordinators is to deliver seminars and guide students to identify the research questions through consultations.

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.

REQUIRED READINGS

-

ADDITIONAL READINGS

-

ANNEX

DEGREE LEVEL LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Learning objectives for Master of Social Science

Programme:

Financial Economics

Learning Goals	Learning Objectives
Students will be critical thinkers	LO1.1. Students will be able to identify underlying assumptions, limitations of previous research; evaluate managerial solution alternatives.
	LO1.2. Students will become independent learners and develop their own comprehension of scientific theories, models, and concepts.
Students will be socially responsible leaders	LO2.1. Students will be able to evaluate past and current practices in their discipline from an ethical perspective .
Students will be effective communicators	LO3.1. Students will develop and deliver a coherent oral presentation .
	LO3.2. Students will develop and deliver a coherent written research paper .