



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Master Thesis	

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinator: ass. prof. L. Urbsiene Other(s): academic advisors of Master's Final Thesis	Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Vilnius University

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
Second	Compulsory

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Individual work, consultations, seminars	Spring semester	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: completion of Master Thesis Project 1 and Master Thesis Project 2	Additional requirements (if any): none

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
15	390	12	378

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed		
<p>The aim is to review the Methodology of research, to conduct the research, to present the results and their interpretation, to compare the research findings with the results of other authors, to write the conclusions and suggestions. The writing of the Master Thesis seeks to develop the following generic and professional competences:</p> <p>Generic competences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- the ability to analyze, systematize, evaluate and use the obtained information, - the ability to think critically. <p>Professional competences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ability to formulate the problems of business management or economics, to prepare the methodology of research and to conduct the research, - the skills to describe and to prepare the data for the research, - the ability to describe the methods and explain the arguments for choosing them, - the ability to collect data and apply methods, - the ability to describe and to interpret the results, -- the ability to make conclusions and suggestions. 		
Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Student will be able: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to apply the principles of social sciences in order to perceive and evaluate the performance phenomena of economics and/or management in a complex and systematic manner; 	Independent studies of scientific literature, academic advisor's consultations, seminars	Evaluation of the written Master Thesis, oral presentation and answers to the questions

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to develop and/or apply original ideas in a research context; to critically evaluate and select the most appropriate national and international sources of information to analyse and critically evaluate economic and/or management ideas, formulate arguments and assumptions, apply models; to systematise and evaluate information in order to carry out research on selected topics; to integrate knowledge and make decisions in the absence of complete and defined information; to understand the models and interdisciplinary research methods, to know their possibilities and limitations; to initiate, and conduct research, interpret results from national and international perspectives applying an interdisciplinary approach; to apply quantitative and/or qualitative methods of analysis; to communicate effectively, fluently and persuasively and discuss relevant practice and theory issues, including presentation of ideas and issuing reports; 		
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Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours							Self-study work: time and assignments	
	Consultations	Tutorials	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	E-learning	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
Improving the formulation of the problem, the novelty, the aims and objectives of the research, research hypothesis/main question and the object;	1						1	20	Completing the Introduction of Master Thesis
Analysis and summary of the theoretical and previous empirical researches' findings on the issue;	2						2	20	Improving the analysis and synthesis of scientific literature
Improving the Methodology of the Research, data and methods explanation and argumentation;	2						2	20	Completing and improving the methodology of research
Implementation of the empirical research, description and the analysis of the results;	5						5	260	Data processing
Drawing conclusions and suggestions	2						2	46	Drawing conclusions and suggestions
Total	12						12	378	

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Assessment criteria
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Introduction. Definition of the aim, objectives and the main research question	10	
Analysis and the summary (i.e. generalization) of the scientific publications on the issue;	10	Master Thesis shall be graded by the Master Thesis Defence Committee. Master Thesis shall be assessed on a ten-point scale (from 5 to 10 is passed and less than 5 is not passed), according to the Assessment scale and criteria for master theses approved by the VU Faculty of Economics and Business Administration Council in 2020 July 1 electronic meeting, Minutes no. No. 210000-TP-5.
Methodology of research, explanations of the data and the methods;	20	
Implementation the research, presentation and explanations of results	30	
Validity of conclusions and suggestions	10	
Research Project presentation	10	
Completeness, clarity, and accuracy of the answers to the questions	10	

Assessment scale and criteria for master theses

Assessment in points	Assessment criteria
Excellent (10) Rounding 9.5–10	Excellent, outstanding knowledge and skills. The original scientific/applied research, the problem under analysis is new, unexplored, the findings are original and relevant from the point of view of theory and/or practice. The topic has been examined in detail; innovativeness, creativity, excellent knowledge, appropriate theoretical models and research methods are applied. The work is impeccable in discipline-related, methodological and technical terms. High level of defence, demonstration of deep knowledge of the field. The work can be recommended for publication in a scientific journal.
Very good (9) Rounding 8.5–9.4	Strong, good knowledge and skills. The original scientific/applied research, the problem under analysis is new, unexplored, the findings are original and relevant from the point of view of theory and/or practice. The topic has been examined in detail, innovativeness, creativity, very good knowledge, appropriate theoretical models and research methods are applied. The work has insignificant discipline-related, methodological and/or technical shortcomings and inaccuracies. The defence demonstrates very good knowledge of the field, but there are insignificant shortcomings in the defence.
Good (8) Rounding 7.5–8.4	Knowledge and skills are above the average. A comprehensive scientific/ applied research, the problem under analysis is acute, the outcomes meet the aims and objectives. The topic has been examined well and qualitatively, but not deeply enough; there is a noticeable lack of the latest theoretical and practical approaches. Appropriate theoretical models and research methods are applied; the work has discipline-related, methodological and/or technical shortcomings. The defence has demonstrated good knowledge of the field, but no comprehensive answers are received to the questions given.
Highly satisfactory (7) Rounding 6.5–7.4	Average knowledge and skills, there are significant errors. The topic has been examined, theoretical analysis and adequate research have been performed, but there is a lack of methodological justification, integrity of the work, relevance of the topic. Not all the objectives are sufficiently developed, the results lack completeness. The work has discipline-related, methodological and/or technical shortcomings. Mid-level knowledge in the field has been demonstrated in the defence.
Satisfactory (6) Rounding 5.5–6.4	Knowledge and abilities (skills) are worse than average, there are mistakes. The topic has been examined, but the work is incomplete, there is a lack of analysis and there are elements of descriptive work. The work lacks integrity, the relationship between the theoretical and research parts. The research has not been formulated correctly enough, there are methodological shortcomings, research methods are not properly applied. The objectives of the work are not sufficiently developed, not all the results of the work correspond to the aim and the problem of the work. The work has significant discipline-related, methodological and/or technical shortcomings. The defence demonstrates a significant lack of knowledge in the field.
Sufficient (5) Rounding 4.5–5.4	Knowledge and abilities (skills) meet the minimum requirements. The work is dominated by descriptive text. The work has significant methodological shortcomings, the aim and problem of the work are not formulated correctly, there is no adequate theoretical analysis, research methods are not properly applied. The objectives of the work are insufficiently developed, the results of the work do not sufficiently correspond to the aim and problem of the work. There are significant discipline-related, methodological and/or technical shortcomings. The defence demonstrates weak knowledge of the field.

Insufficient (1, 2, 3, 4) Rounding 1–4.4	Minimum requirements not met. The work does not clearly state the problem and/or aim of the work. The content of the work does not correspond to the title and/or aim of the work. Compilational elements of plagiarism are visible in the work. There are many significant errors, factual, methodological and/or technical shortcomings. During the defence, the questions are not answered; a fundamental lack of knowledge in the field is demonstrated.
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Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				
Prof. dr. Vytautas Dikčius, Prof. dr. Gindrutė Kasnauskienė	2019	The General Requirements of Master Thesis Preparation and Defence.	1	Economics and Business administration faculty
Louis Cohen, Lawrence Manion and Keith Morrison	2018	Research Methods in Education	8 th	Routledge
Neuman L. W.	2018	Social research methods. Qualitative and quantitative approaches	7th	Pearson
Optional reading				
ICC/ESOMAR	2008	International code of market and social research.		http://www.esomar.org/knowledge-and-standards/codes-and-guidelines.php
Hamilton, J.	1994	Time Series Analysis	1th	Princeton University Press
Kumar, Ranjit	2019	Research methodology : a step-by-step guide for beginners	5th	SAGE Publications
Saunders, M., Lewis P., Thornhill, A.	2018	Research methods for business students	8th	Pearson