PhD in Business

See study programme

Autumn 2024 (1. semester)

Philosophy of Science and Research Ethics	VT409E 7.5 sp
Advanced Academic Writing (1/3)	MET9011 0 sp
Research Design and Scientific Methods in Business Research (1/2)	MET9000 0 sp

Elective cources

Qualitative Research Methods in Innovation and Entrepreneurship	MET9013 7.5 sp
Introduction to Academic Writing	MET9010 2.5 sp
Circular Economy Business Models	ECO9005 5 sp
Contemporary Streams of Institutional Theory in Management and Accounting	ECO9004 7.5 sp

Spring 2025 (2. semester)

Theoretical Foundations and Current Topics in Business Research	ECO9002 2.5 sp
Advanced Academic Writing (2/3)	MET9011 0 sp
Research Design and Scientific Methods in Business Research (2/2)	MET9000 7.5 sp

Elective cources

Colloqium on Qualitative Research	ECO9006 3 sp
Management of Artificial Intelligence and Digitization	LED9000 7.5 sp
Machine Learning for Finance	FIN9004

	5 sp
Governance in the High North: Implications for Arctic Private and Public Sector	DR437E 0 sp
Ethics, Nature and Society	DR432E 7.5 sp
Foundations and Future Perspectives in Entrepreneurship Research	DR430E 7.5 sp
Clustering and Scaling of Categorical Data, With Applications in Business and Social Sciences	STT9000 5 sp
Qualitative Research Methods	MET9009 7.5 sp
Advanced Marketing Theory: Critical Thinking	MAF9001 5 sp

Autumn 2025 (3. semester)

Advanced Academic Writing (3/3)	MET9011 7.5 sp
Elective cources	
Governance in the High North: Implications for Arctic Private and Public Sector	DR437E 7.5 sp

Programme description

The doctoral program is a continuation of the business studies at the Nord University Business School. The program contains of course work that must amount to at least 40 credits. The main emphasis of the study, however, is the independent research work that forms the basis for the doctoral dissertation.

The doctoral program must first and foremost qualify for research and development activities, but also for other work in society that requires insight into scientific working methods and results. Through the educational programme, students gain high-quality in-depth academic understanding, skills, and knowledge in their chosen business management field. This also enables research students to relate the subject to the larger context. In addition, as PhD student you will gain knowledge of current methods used in the discipline and will be able to master at least one of these methods at advanced and applied levels.

The dissertation must be an independent, scientific work that meets international standards in the field and contributes to the development of new professional knowledge. The dissertation is usually written in the form of 3 - 5 articles, these should be able to be published as part of the subject's scientific literature.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge

Upon completion, the candidate should:

have an academic specialisation within the field of business
be able to locate this field within a larger framework
have specialised insight into the scientific methods used in, and knowledge of, their field of study
be able to contribute to development of the field in the form of new theories, methods, interpretations and the like.

Skills

Upon completion, the candidate should be able to:

formulate and solve problems at an advanced scientific level
utilise relevant scientific theories and methods in their field
critically evaluate and form an opinion about the use of relevant theories and methods in the field
conduct indpendent research work at an advanced scientific level.

General competence

Upon completion, the candidate should:

be able to indentify, carry out and disseminate research and development tasks with academic integrity, in accordance with founding principles of the institution of academia.
be able to reflect upon and form an opinion about integral ethical challenges in relation to research and development task
be able to utilise their research and development expertise within all areas that require insight into business-related scientific methods and results
be able to communicate problem, analyses and results to their peers, as well as to the general public, including participating in debates at conferences and in the public arena.

Admission requirements

The admission requirements are described in the Regulations for the doctor of philosophy degree (PhD) at Nord University with supplementary provisions for the PhD in Business at Nord University Business School (HHN).

For admission to a PhD programme, applicants must normally have an academic master’s degree of 120/300 ECTS credits; cf. Sections 3 and 4 of the Regulations concerning requirements for master’s degrees and the descriptions in the second cycle of the qualifications framework. Applicants must normally have an average weighted grade of B or higher for their master’s degree.

After special assessment, Nord University may approve other equivalent education as a basis for admission; cf. Section 3-5 (2) of the Act relating to universities and university colleges.

Satisfactory results are required on language tests (TOEFL or IELTS). Exceptions are granted for candidates with a master's degree from a Nordic institution. Test results should be available when applying for a PhD position and before starting work on a project description (proposal).

Career possibilities

A doctoral degree in business from Nord University Business School qualifies successful candidiates for demanding academic and research activities in higher education, or in business and industry. We aim to provide a first class PhD programme, which prepares candidates for careers within education and research at leading insitutions, as well as for careers that demand expertise and analytical skills.

Further education

PhD is the highest form of academic education offered, and signifies the conclusion of studies.

Study abroad

The Business School encourages students to participate in mobility programmes. Based on the chosen research project, fieldwork, residencies and/or visits to insitutions nationally and internationally may all be an option.

Programme evaluation

Dialogue meetings are conducted between students and the programme director every year.

Current active subject description (last updated 2023/24)

Philosophy of Science and Research Ethics

VT409E

Subject description

The course provides doctoral students opportunities to become familiar with different perspectives in philosophy of science and research ethics with general relevance for social sciences and economics. Ontology and epistemology with relevance for methods in scientific research are discussed. The debates about the nature of scientific methods, theories of confirmation, the demarcation of science from non-science, evolutionary and revolutionary theories of scientific development are enlightened in lectures and dialogues.

The connection between multi-disciplinarity, inter-disciplinarity and trans-disciplinarity will be discussed and illustrated. The ideas behind scientific realism and narrative research methodology are discussed. The course will pay special attention on the philosophical and methodological preconditions in the research projects of the participants.

Content from the final paper (if it is chosen to be as an assessment form in the course) can be partially used in the kappa/Ph.D. thesis and will require substantial rewriting.

Prerequisites

Enrollment in a PhD Programme is a general requirement for participation in PhD courses at Nord University Business School.

Candidates must also fulfil English language requirements. Applicants from Nord University are prioritized.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge

The candidate;

- is in the forefront of knowledge within topics discussed in the course

- has deep knowledge concerning similarities and differences between different positions in philosophy of science

- can evaluate the expediency and application of different philosophy of science perspectives in research in social sciences and economics

- can evaluate and applicate central terms and theories within philosophy of science and researchethics in his/her own research and development projects.

Skills

The candidate;

- can apply their knowledge in philosophy of science to contemporary debates about science policy and understand the terminology and concepts presupposed by advanced literature in the area.

- can manage complex interdisciplinary assignments and projects

- can formulate problems, plan and carry out complex research projects based on knowledge within philosophy of science and research ethics.

- can handle philosophical and ethical challenges in their own research projects based on wellfounded arguments.

General competence

The candidate:

- can manage complex disciplinary and interdisciplinary research and projects

- can apply his/her knowledge in philosophy of science on contemporary debates about science and research policy

- can understand the terminology and concepts presupposed by advanced literature in the area.

- can identify relevant ethical challenges and carry out his/her research with scholarly integrity.

Costs

No tuition fees.

Subject type

Compulsory

Learning activities

Lectures, student presentations and dialogues.

Subject evaluation

Evaluation using final survey sent to the participants.

Exam description

Draft of paper developed and presented during the first and second module; the final paper (maximum 10 pages 12 point font and line spacing 1.5) submitted after the course in March/April and graded pass/not pass.

Current active subject description (last updated 2023/24)

Advanced Academic Writing

MET9011

Subject description

The ability to write good academic texts is one of the most important skills of a researcher. Communicating the insights from your research in a clear and convincing way is essential for others to verify, make use of, and build on them.

This course in advanced academic writing is aimed at PhD students with some prior experience in writing academic text and is aimed at further developing their writing skills.

The course will focus on how to write a scientific article of sufficient quality to be published in an international scientific journal of highquality. The students will work on and develop their own paper and give and receive feedback on written text as part of the course. The course will cover key aspects of academic writing ranging from how to identify an audience and conversation to more detailed issues of how to construct sentences, paragraphs, and the different sections of an academic article.

The course will also cover both individual and collaborative aspects of the writing process and the process of publishing an article in a high-quality scientific journal. Content from the final paper (if it is chosen to be as an assessment form in the course) can be partially used in the kappa/Ph.D. thesis and will require substantial rewriting. B.

Registration for Autumn 2023

Prerequisites

Students must fulfill the requirements for admission to the PhD program and the student must have completed a course at PhD-level in research methods.

Students should have some experience on writing academic articles or have passed the digital course MET9010 “Introduction to Academic Writing”.

In addition, participants are required to have collected some empirical data to be developed into a scientific article/working paper. Students without empirical data at hand for the first workshop would not be admitted to the course.

The course has a limit of 15 participants. In case of demand over this limit, the criterion of selection will be the amount of course work previously done in the doctoral program.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge

The candidate...

- can understand the purpose of academic writing and the concepts of target audience, scientific debates, and conversations in academic writing

- can evaluate the structure of an academic article

- can understand the process from conducting research to developing an academic text which is publishable in scientific journals

- has knowledge about different genres of scientific writing and the functions of the various parts of a research article

- has knowledge about the scientific publishing process

Skills

The candidate...

- can identify and set up a proper structure of a scientific article

- can develop paragraphs conveying scientific arguments

- can write the different sections of an academic article

- can critically assess and evaluate academic texts and provide constructive comments for how the text can be improved

Competence

The candidate...

- can identify relevant ethical issues associated with academic writing and carry out his/her academic writing with scholarly integrity

- can manage the writing process of an academic article with sufficient quality to be published in an international scientific journal

- can manage collaborative writing processes

- can provide high-quality feedback on the scientific writing of other academics

- can reflect on and improve his/her own writing practices

- can target a text to the intended audience,

- can reflect strategically on where and how to publish his/her scientific research

Costs

No tuition fees. Costs for semester registration and course literature apply.

Subject type

Compulsory

Learning activities

Because the participation in the course is based on developing a draft of a paper with sufficient qualify for being

published in a scientific journal, the course is organized in three modules/workshops spread over two semesters to allow for manuscript revision between each session. Each module consists of plenary lectures, group work, individual presentations, and comments on written work.

During the course, the research problem, the theoretical framework, empirical material, discussion, and conclusion will be discussed for each individual project. Between each of the modules, students should do a (re)writing process and submit improved revisions of the manuscript. The participants are also required to comment on each other's papers.

Subject evaluation

Evaluation using final survey sent to the participants.

Exam description

The students have to participate actively during all three courses modules. The following compulsory work needs to be completed during the course in order to get credits:

Submit a pre-course assignment
Present an overview of writing styles and a selected target journal
Submit 2 reviews of other students' papers
Submit 2 revisions of your paper/article in accordance with the targeted scientific journal profile based on comments received during course sessions and reviews
Submit a response letter to the comments received on your paper

The final assessment will be based on the submission of an individual reflection note (about 5000 words). The reflection note should contain 1) a description of how your paper has developed during the course and reflections on how and why it has improved, 2) a reflection on your own learning during the course, and 3) a plan for how you can further develop your academic writing skills. The reflection note will be graded pass/not pass by the faculty.

Recommended prerequisites

The course is offered on a PhD-level. It aims at students who already have collected some empirical data, and students with empirical data will be prioritized. The participators may have different professional backgrounds, however, the main disciplinary approaches should be within the broad field of business and management.

Current active subject description (last updated 2023/24)

Research Design and Scientific Methods in Business Research

MET9000

Subject description

Research Design and Scientific Methods in Business Research comprehensively covers research design and how to plan, carry out, and evaluate research through the process of collecting, analyzing and interpreting data to generate knowledge. The chosen design will guide and influence the research process, how data is collected and analyzed, how findings are presented, and what claims we can make about reliability and validity. Research design involves science, handicraft and sometimes art, grounded firmly in existing knowledge and theoretical considerations.

The aim of this course is to present major design types and examine the various elements that characterizes them. In this course we cover a wide range of designs relevant for business research, instead of just focusing on a limited subset. Our goal with providing such a broad view of the research process is that it will allow Ph.D. students to recognize strengths and weaknesses of empirical research and to apply this in the design of their own Ph.D projects.

Content from the final paper (if it is chosen to be as an assessment form in the course) can be partially used in the kappa/Ph.D. thesis and will require substantial rewriting.

Prerequisites

Must fulfill the requirements for admission to the Ph.D program.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge

The candidate...

- is in the forefront of knowledge about research designs and associated sample-, measurement-, coding, analysis- and interpretation issues, and how to present findings.

- can evaluate the practicality and application of different research designs, methods and processes in business research.

- Is able to contribute to the development of new knowledge, new theories, researchdesigns, methods, interpretations and forms of documentation in the field.

Skills

The candidate...

- can develop research problems and questions, plan and carry out research projects by developing robust research designs including sound sample, measurement, analysis and interpretation strategies.

- can assess the suitability and application of a wide selection of designs, evaluate the value of empirical data and the strength and validity of statements and findings.

- can handle complex academic issues and challenge established knowledge and practicein the field of research design and methods.

General competence

The candidate...

- is able to identify relevant ethical issues and carry out research with scholarly integrity.

- will be better producers, evaluators and users of research, and to advance further in their scientific career.

- can participate in debates and communicate research through recognized Norwegianand international channels.

Costs

No tutition fees.

Subject type

Compulsory

Learning activities

Lectures, practice sessions, seminars, tutored assignment work and online material.

Subject evaluation

Online survey will be implemented asking for feedback on the course, including how it can be improved.

Exam description

Essay, 8000-10000 words. Pass/Fail.

Current active subject description (last updated 2023/24)

Theoretical Foundations and Current Topics in Business Research

ECO9002

Subject description

The purpose of the course is to introduce PhD students in business to (i) ongoing discussions over what theory (is not) in business research, including the relationship between theory-practice, (ii) theoretical foundations in the field of business research and (iii) current topics/phenomena within the field of business research which may challenge extant theory and/or identify opportunities for new theory development within the field. Examples of theories that will be discussed are transaction cost economics, resource-based theory, and institutional theory. Examples of current topics/phenomena are ecological economics and digitalization. Students need to write up a reflection note (about 2 pages) within two weeks after the seminar. The reflection note will be read and approved (pass/no pass).

Registation: nettskjema.no/a/402409.

Prerequisites

Must fulfil the requirements for admission to the PhD program and English language requirements.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge

The candidate:

Will obtain advanced knowledge about major theories in the field of business research, including ongoing discussions over what theory is (not)
Will acquire an in-depth understanding of the research frontier within business research, particularly theoretical developments within the major theories in the field

Will be on the forefront of knowledge on chosen theories, their development over time, and interesting theoretical gaps that remain to be filled.
Will be able to critically assess major theoretical approaches in the field of business research, including their assumptions, factors, and boundary conditions.

Skills

The candidate:

Will acquire skills for how to identify potential theoretical contributions
Will be able to interpret seminal theoretical work within business studies and use this insight when carrying out practical research
Will be able to understand how they can build on and contribute to major theories in the field of business studies through their own research
Will be able to apply prominent theories in business studies to research projects.

General competence

The candidate:

Will be able to discuss new relevant business topics using major theories in business research
Will be able to participate on theoretical issues in academic debates
Will be able to critically challenge established theoretical knowledge in the field of business research

Will be able to critically reflect over the relationship between theory and practice.

Costs

No tuition fees.

Subject type

Mandatory.

Learning activities

Lectures and discussions. Digital and/or physical (depending on number of students and their geographical dispersion).

Subject evaluation

Evaluation (survey) will be sent to PhD students after the seminar.

Exam description

Mandatory lectures. Students need to attend lectures, participate in discussions during the seminar, and submit a reflection note. The reflection note will be assessed (pass/no pass). At least 80 % attendance.

Recommended prerequisites

Knowledge of writing essays. It is expected that students read assignments before each presentation.