

Ph.d. i bedriftsøkonomi

[Se studieprogram](#)

Høst 2026 (1. semester)

Research Design and Scientific Methods in Business Research (1/2)	MET9000 0 sp
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Theoretical Foundations and Current Topics in Business Research	ECO9002 2.5 sp
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Valgemner

Introduction to Academic Writing	MET9014 3 sp
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Qualitative Research Methods in Innovation and Entrepreneurship	MET9013 7.5 sp
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Vår 2027 (2. semester)

Research Design and Scientific Methods in Business Research (2/2)	MET9000 7.5 sp
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Valgemner

Foundations and Future Perspectives in Entrepreneurship Research	DR430E 7.5 sp
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Høst 2027 (3. semester)

Vitenskapsteori og forskningsetikk	VIT9000 7.5 sp
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Avansert akademisk skriving (1/3)	MET9011 0 sp
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Vår 2028 (4. semester)

Avansert akademisk skriving (2/3)	MET9011 0 sp
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Beskrivelse av studiet

Doktorgradsutdanningen er en videreføring av de bedriftsøkonomiske studiene ved Handelshøgskolen. Studiet inneholder en kursdel som skal utgjøre minst 40 studiepoeng. Hovedtyngden av studiet er imidlertid det selvstendige forskningsarbeidet som utgjør grunnlaget for doktoravhandlingen.

Doktorgradsutdanningen skal først og fremst kvalifisere for forsknings- og utviklingsvirksomhet, men også for annet arbeid i samfunnet som krever innsikt i vitenskapelige arbeidsmetoder og resultater. Gjennom utdanningen skal studenten skaffe seg faglig dybde i faget bedriftsøkonomi, samt kunne sette faget inn i en større ramme. I tillegg skal studenten ha kjennskap til aktuelle metoder i faget og kunne beherske minimum en av disse på anvendelsesnivå.

Avhandlingen skal være et selvstendig, vitenskapelig arbeid som oppfyller internasjonale standarder innen fagområdet. Avhandlingen skal bidra til å utvikle ny faglig kunnskap og ligge på et nivå som tilsier at den vil kunne publiseres som en del av fagets vitenskapelige litteratur.

Handelshøgskolen ved Nord universitet er medlem av European Doctoral Programmes Association in Management & Business Administration (EDAMBA). Som en del av et internasjonalt nettverk som strekker seg over 28 land, arbeider EDAMBA for å styrke kvaliteten på doktorgradsutdanning gjennom felles standarder, verdier og praksiser på tvers av landegrenser. [Mer informasjon.](#)

Opplæringsdel

Opplæringsdelen skal inneholde doktorgradskurs tilsvarende minst 40 studiepoeng og skal inkludere opplæring i vitenskapsteori/etikk, vitenskapelig metode, akademisk fremstilling (academic writing) og perspektiver i det bedriftsøkonomiske fagområdet. Disse emnene tilbys jevnlig som en obligatorisk kurspakke. Utover denne velger kandidaten kurs som tilbys ved HHN eller andre universiteter og handelshøgskoler.

Læringsutbytte

Læringsutbytte

Kunnskap

Kandidaten skal:

ha faglig dybde innen faget bedriftsøkonomi på høyt vitenskapelig nivå
være i stand til å sette faget inn i en større ramme.

ha dyptgående innsikt i anvendte vitenskapelige metoder og kunnskap innenfor det studerte område
kunne bidra til utvikling av fagområde i form av nye teorier, metoder, fortolkninger og lignende

Ferdigheter

Kandidaten skal:

kunne formulere og løse problemstillinger på høyt vitenskapelig nivå

kunne anvende aktuelle vitenskapelige teorier og metoder i faget.

kunne kritisk vurdere og ta stilling til anvendelse av aktuelle teorier og metoder i faget

kunne utføre selvstendig forskningsarbeide på høyt vitenskapelig nivå

Generell kompetanse

Kandidaten skal:

kunne identifisere, utføre og videreformidle forsknings- og utviklingsoppgaver med stor faglig integritet i samsvar med grunnleggende verdier for akademisk virksomhet

kunne reflektere over og ta stilling til grunnleggende etiske problemstillinger i relasjon til forsknings og utviklingsoppgaver

kunne anvende sin forsknings- og utviklingskompetanse på alle områder som krever innsikt i bedriftsøkonomiske vitenskapelige arbeidsmetoder og resultater.

være i stand til å videreformidle problemer, analyser og resultater til fagfeller, men også til allmennheten, herunder delta i debatter på konferanser og i al alminnelighet.

Opptakskrav

Opptakskravene er beskrevet i Reglement for graden philosophiae doctor (ph.d.) ved Nord universitet, med utfyllende retningslinjer for ph.d i bedriftsøkonomi ved Handelshøgskolen, Nord universitet.

For opptak til ph.d.-utdanningen må søkeren normalt ha vitenskapelig mastergrad på 120 studiepoeng, 300 studiepoeng, jf. forskrift om krav til mastergrad § 3 og § 4, og beskrivelsene i kvalifikasjonsrammeverkets andre syklus. Søker skal normalt ha karakter B eller bedre i vektet snitt på høyere grad.

Nord universitet kan etter særskilt faglig vurdering godkjenne annen likeverdig utdanning som grunnlag for opptak, jf. UH-loven § 3-5 (2).

Det kreves tilfredsstillende resultater på språktest (TOEFL eller IELTS) . Unntak gis for kandidater med mastergrad fra en nordisk institusjon. Testresultater bør foreligge når man søker stipendiatstilling og før man starter arbeidet med prosjektbeskrivelse (proposal).

Søknaden bør inneholde:

- Dokumentasjon av gjennomført utdanning.
- Prosjektbeskrivelse som gir en faglig redegjørelse for prosjektet (se egne retningslinjer for dette som kalles et "research proposal")
- Plan for opplæringsdelen, dvs. hvilke doktorgradskurs som kan være aktuelle.
- Forslag på veileder hvilket forskningsmiljø man ønsker å være tilknyttet.
- Det skal fremgå av søknaden om prosjektet er avhengig av tillatelse fra forskningsetiske komiteer eller andre. Slike tillatelser bør om mulig være innhentet og legges ved søknaden.
- Dokumentasjon av finansiering for doktorgradsperioden må følge søknaden.
- Privat finansiering (egne eller familiens midler og lignende) aksepteres normalt ikke.

Finansiering

Før du sender inn din søknad om opptak til vårt doktorgradsprogram, må du skaffe tilstrekkelig finansiering for hele doktorgradsperioden. Mulige finansieringstyper kan være stipendiatmidler og andre forskningsmidler, eller annen ekstern finansiering. Tilstrekkelig finansiering er en absolutt forutsetning for å kunne få opptak.

Særlig om stipendiatmidler:

Stipendiater er en egen stillingskategori hvor du blir ansatt og lønnet, for å gjennomføre en doktorgrad. Ved utlysning av slike stillinger, forutsettes at du får opptak til et bestemt doktorgradsprogram. Søkere til stipendiatstilling legger ved en prosjektbeskrivelse (2-4 sider). Vi ansetter stipendiater for 3 år eller 4 år. Stipendiater ansatt for en 4-års periode har 25 % arbeidsplikt. Ansettelse av stipendiater følger universitetets egne prosedyrer for ansettelse av vitenskapelig personell.

For stipendiater ansatt ved Handelshøgskolen, Nord universitet skal søknad om opptak og research proposal være endelig godkjent senest to måneder etter ansettelse. Du vil bli tildelt en veileder som vil bidra i prosessen med å skrive research proposal.

Annen finansiering:

Også andre enn de som er ansatt som stipendiater kan søke om opptak til et doktorgradsprogram. For disse vil vilkåret om finansiering kunne være oppfylt ved at for eksempel arbeidsgiver inntar arbeidet med doktorgradsavhandlingen som del av den ansattes primæroppgaver. Et annet alternativ kan være at søkeren har søkt om midler fra for eksempel Norsk forskningsråd, og at disse midlene benyttes til å kjøpe søkeren fri fra ordinære oppgaver hos sin arbeidsgiver. Dette gjelder også utenlandske stipendiater som har med seg finansiering fra hjemlandet.

Yrkesmuligheter

Med en doktorgrad i bedriftsøkonomi fra Handelshøgskolen Nord blir du kvalifisert for krevende undervisnings- og forskningsvirksomhet i akademien, eller en spennende karriere i næringslivet. Vi ønsker å tilby et førsteklasses ph.d.-program som forbereder kandidatene for karrierer innen forskning og undervisning ved ledende utdanningsinstitusjoner og for karrierer som krever høy kompetanse og analytiske evner.

Utenlandsopphold

Handelshøgskolen ønsker generelt at kandidatene gjennomfører et utenlandsopphold. Basert på forskningsprosjektet som kandidaten arbeider på kan det være aktuelt med både feltarbeid / forskningsopphold / opphold på nasjonale og internasjonale institusjoner.

Programevaluering

Studieprogrammet evalueres årlig av studentene i dialogmøtet med programmets koordinatorene.

Emnebeskrivelse for 2026/27

Research Design and Scientific Methods in Business Research

MET9000

Beskrivelse av emnet

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.

[Information on dates and link to registration.](#)

Course coordinator: Professor Jan-Oddvar Sørnes

Faculty: Professor Frank Lindberg, Associate Professor Maria Bogren, Associate Professor Oleg Nenadic, Professor Markus Fitza, Professor Tommy Clausen.

Forkunnskapskrav

Admitted to a Ph.D. program or have the qualifications to be admitted to a Ph.D. program. Must fulfill the English language requirements or must be from approved partner institutions.

Læringsutbytte

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, research designs, 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 practice in 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 Norwegian and international channels.

Kostnader

No tuition fees.

Type emne

Compulsory

Læringsaktiviteter og undervisningsmetoder

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

Emneevaluering

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

Eksamensbeskrivelse

Essay, 8000-10000 words. Pass/Fail. 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.

Emnebeskrivelse for 2026/27

Theoretical Foundations and Current Topics in Business Research

ECO9002

Beskrivelse av emnet

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).

Registration: nettskjema.no/a/402409.

Forkunnskapskrav

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

Læringsutbytte

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.

Kostnader

No tuition fees.

Type emne

Mandatory.

Læringsaktiviteter og undervisningsmetoder

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

Emneevaluering

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

Eksamensbeskrivelse

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.

Anbefalte forkunnskaper

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

Emnebeskrivelse for 2026/27

Vitenskapsteori og forskningsetikk

VIT9000

Beskrivelse av emnet

Lecture dates:

25 - 27 February

23 - 25 March

The course in philosophy of science and research ethics is about a systematic examination of scientific activity and the scientific quest for knowledge. The course focuses on the fundamental epistemological, ontological and ethical dimensions of science in a way that enables participants to take a position on the connection between knowledge interests, ontology, epistemology, methodological approaches and value judgments. The relationship between scientific approaches drawn from the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities respectively is critically discussed in light of central philosophical theories of science. Students also gain in-depth knowledge of relevant research ethics legislation and guidelines, which are discussed and analysed. The teaching invites conversation about the relationship between research, researcher, subject and society.

Content

This course will address the following areas:

The basic concepts of science are discussed, such as knowledge and truth, inferential logic, hermeneutics, explanation and understanding, causality and intentionality, objectivity and subjectivity, falsification, paradigm and pluralism. Different forms of knowledge, the relationship between practical and theoretical knowledge, Forms of science and types of justification are discussed considering the different backgrounds and contexts of scientific practice,

The status and conditions of research (sociology of science).

Adgangsregulering

The course is open to students enrolled in a doctoral program.

Forkunnskapskrav

Open to PhD students at Nord University. Open for external PhD students if sufficient number of places are available.

Læringsutbytte

After completing the course, the student must have advanced knowledge about:

Knowledge

After completing the course, students should have gained advanced knowledge about:

central theoretical positions and basic concepts in philosophy of science.
the different understandings of knowledge, ontology and epistemology, and how they relate to different research traditions and methods
central principles and guidelines of research ethics, relevant for a PhD study

Skills

After completing the course, students should have advanced their ability to:

assess and discuss key scientific theoretical issues in connection with one's own PhD project.
apply scientific theoretical concepts analytically to challenge established knowledge and practice within one's own PhD project.
identify and critically assess research ethical obligations and issues related to the entire research process in one's own PhD project.

General competence

After completing the course, students should have advanced their ability to:

present key theoretical arguments about basic scientific problems in a debate with peers
assess the need for reflection in one's own professional field and identify and communicate how scientific theory can contribute to development within the field
participate in the social debate on issues where philosophy of science and ethics are relevant.

Kostnader

No fees for internal candidates. Fee of NOK 1000 for external candidates.

Type emne

Theory course, elective.

Læringsaktiviteter og undervisningsmetoder

Analytical and critical thinking is promoted through lectures, seminars and selected course literature. Critical reflection is encouraged through student presentations and discussions.

To ensure the quality of seminars and that students achieve the learning outcomes of the course, including with respect to preparation for their final paper, students must attend the lectures and the seminars in the course.

Emneevaluering

The study program is evaluated annually by the students through course surveys (mid-term evaluation and final evaluation). Evaluation is part of the university's quality assurance system.

Eksamensbeskrivelse

Compulsory participation

Written assignment - passed/not passed

Hjelpemidler til eksamen

Generating an answer using ChatGPT or similar artificial intelligence and submitting it wholly or partially as one's own answer, is considered cheating.

Overlappende emner

Med overlap menes en faglig likhet mellom emner med samme faginnhold. Du vil derfor få følgende reduksjon i studiepoeng om du har tatt emner som er angitt under:

PRO9015 - Vitenskapsteori og forskningsetikk - 7.5 Studiepoeng

VT409E - Vitenskapsteori og forskningsetikk - 7.5 Studiepoeng

Avansert akademisk skiving

MET9011

Beskrivelse av emnet

The ability to write good academic texts is one of the most essential skills of a researcher. Communicating the insights from your research clearly and convincingly is essential for others to verify, use, and build on them. This course in advanced academic writing is designed for PhD students with some prior experience in writing academic texts, aiming to further develop their writing skills. The course will focus on how to write a scientific article of sufficient quality to be published in a high-quality international scientific journal. The students will work on and develop their papers, giving and receiving feedback on written texts as part of the course. The course will cover key aspects of academic writing, ranging from identifying an audience and conversation to more detailed issues of constructing sentences, paragraphs, and the different sections of an academic article. The course will also cover both individual and collaborative aspects of the writing process, as well as the process of publishing an article in a high-quality scientific journal, and writing for other audiences.

[Information on dates and link to registration.](#)

Course coordinator: Einar Rasmussen

Faculty: Andrew Corbett, Markus Fitza, Johan Wiklund

Adgangsregulering

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.

Forkunnskapskrav

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.

Læringsutbytte

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 that is publishable in scientific journals
- knows different genres of scientific writing and the functions of the various parts of a research article
- knows 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 on 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 of 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 writing practices
- can target a text to the intended audience,
- can reflect strategically on where and how to publish his/her scientific research

Kostnader

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

Type emne

Compulsory

Læringsaktiviteter og undervisningsmetoder

Because participation in the course is based on developing a draft of a paper of sufficient quality for publication in a scientific journal, the course is organized into three modules/workshops spread over two semesters, allowing 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, theoretical framework, empirical material, discussion, and conclusion will be discussed for each PhD project. Between each module, students should revise their papers and submit improved manuscripts. The participants are also required to comment on each other's papers.

Student workload:

The course consists of three 2-day workshops. There is considerable reading to be done in the weeks leading up to the course, and students must prepare for assignments to be presented and discussed at the workshops. The students also need to write a reflection note for the course evaluation. Overall, we expect the time spent to be no less than 200 hours distributed as follows:

14 hours for pre-course assignment (900 words)
70 hours for reading course literature (400-500 pages)
36 hours for workshop sessions (physical)
30 hours for assignments during the course
50 hours for final reflection note (maximum 5000 words) to be graded pass/no pass

Emneevaluering

Evaluation using final survey sent to the participants.

Eksamensbeskrivelse

Students must participate actively in all three course modules. The following compulsory work needs to be completed during the course to get credits:

Submit a pre-course assignment
Present an overview of writing styles in 3 selected target journals
Submit two reviews of other students' papers
Submit two revisions of your paper 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 submitting an individual reflection note (maximum 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 learning during the course, and 3) a plan for how to further develop your academic writing skills. The reflection note will be graded pass/not pass.

Anbefalte forkunnskaper

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 participants may have different professional backgrounds, however, the main disciplinary approaches should be within the broad field of business and management.

Overlappende emner

Med overlapp menes en faglig likhet mellom emner med samme faginnhold. Du vil derfor få følgende reduksjon i studiepoeng om du har tatt emner som er angitt under:

DR427E - Akademisk skriving - 7.5 Studiepoeng
