

# Syllabus

## *Course Description*

<b>Course Title</b>	Academic Writing and Research Skills
<b>Course Code</b>	25449
<b>Course Title Additional</b>	
<b>Scientific-Disciplinary Sector</b>	L-LIN/12
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Degree Course</b>	Master in Accounting and Finance
<b>Other Degree Courses (Loaned)</b>	
<b>Lecturers</b>	Prof. Paolo Maria Perego, Paolo.Perego@unibz.it <a href="https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/38679">https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/38679</a>
<b>Teaching Assistant</b>	
<b>Semester</b>	Second semester
<b>Course Year/s</b>	2
<b>CP</b>	6
<b>Teaching Hours</b>	36
<b>Lab Hours</b>	-
<b>Individual Study Hours</b>	-
<b>Planned Office Hours</b>	18
<b>Contents Summary</b>	This course guides students through the research process in Accounting and Finance, from shaping a strong research question to structuring their Master thesis. It builds key skills in academic writing, literature review, and data analysis to develop a solid thesis proposal that will lead to the preparation of the final Master thesis manuscript.
<b>Course Topics</b>	The course covers the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific method and research methodology</li> <li>• Selection of a research topic and research question</li> <li>• Structure, content, and objective of a literature review</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collection and sampling strategies</li> <li>• Data analysis techniques and tools</li> <li>• Interpretation and critical reflection of findings</li> <li>• Academic writing of a scientific text aimed at the preparation of the MSc thesis proposal</li> <li>• Presentation and defense of research ideas</li> </ul>
<b>Keywords</b>	Research methodology, Literature review, Data collection and analysis, Academic writing, Thesis preparation, Research presentation and defense
<b>Recommended Prerequisites</b>	Not foreseen.
<b>Propaedeutic Courses</b>	
<b>Teaching Format</b>	The course combines lectures focused on research methodology with individual and group practical assignments. The teaching format of the course comprise lecturers' presentations, interactive discussions, and readings (academic articles and textbook chapters). Students are expected to engage in the course activities, which will give them the opportunity to effectively apply academic writing and research skills during their Master thesis trajectory.
<b>Mandatory Attendance</b>	Although course attendance is not compulsory, active participation is highly recommended
<b>Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>ILO (Intended Learning Outcomes)</p> <p>ILO 1 – Knowledge and Understanding</p> <p>ILO 1.1 Knowledge of economic-financial communication to stakeholders in national and international contexts</p> <p>ILO 1.2 Understanding of business models and performance measurement for planning and management control, as well as internal and external auditing methods and models.</p> <p>ILO 1.3 Accounting courses will also provide expertise in specialised topics that characterise the profession of chartered accountant and auditor</p> <p>ILO 1.4 Knowledge of economic and financial planning and evaluation of new investments</p> <p>ILO 1.5 Understanding of characteristics associated with extraordinary corporate management events, such as capital operations, access to financial markets, mergers and acquisitions, corporate crises, and restructuring</p>

	<p>ILO 1.6 Understanding of issues and techniques related to the organisation and financial management of companies and financial intermediaries</p> <p>ILO 1.7 Knowledge of the fundamentals of corporate finance for the correct application, for example, of decision-making models and the management of financial data and risks in treasury management</p> <p>ILO 1.8 Understanding of management models and cost-effectiveness of different types of intermediaries, market microstructure, operational efficiency of financial markets, and the impact of financial markets on the economic conditions of intermediaries</p> <p>ILO 1.9 Knowledge of a wide range of investment, financing, and risk management tools, starting from the fundamentals of portfolio diversification and the classical models for asset pricing and risk measurement</p> <p>ILO 1.10 Understanding of specific Finance topics that characterise the roles of Financial Analyst, Portfolio Manager, Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Administrative Manager, Controller, Internal Auditor, and Business Consultant</p> <p>ILO 1.11 Knowledge of economic-business models and tools for managing companies, whether family-owned or small-sized or internationally oriented</p> <p>ILO 1.12 Understanding of Management topics that characterise the roles of financial analyst, portfolio manager, risk manager, and consultant</p> <p>ILO 2 – Applying Knowledge and Understanding</p> <p>ILO 2.1 Ability to analyse and solve complex problems in a national and international interdisciplinary context</p> <p>ILO 2.2 Ability to develop and integrate the results of economic-financial communication into corporate decision-making models</p> <p>ILO 2.3 Ability to design and manage corporate restructuring and other extraordinary operations</p> <p>ILO 2.4 Ability to engage and interact competently with heads of the various functional areas of the company, with financial markets, and with professionals in corporate and tax law</p> <p>ILO 2.5 Ability to analyse complex problems in national and international interdisciplinary contexts</p>
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	<p>ILO 2.6 Ability to design and implement corporate restructuring and other extraordinary operations</p> <p>ILO 2.7 Ability to identify, evaluate, and manage investments in financial markets</p> <p>ILO 2.8 Ability to design coherent financial management strategies in companies or financial intermediaries, applying acquired knowledge in risk management techniques, asset valuation, and derivative handling</p> <p>ILO 2.9 Ability to conduct critical analysis and formulate solutions to complex problems in national and international interdisciplinary contexts within organisations of varying sizes</p> <p>ILO 3 – Making Judgements</p> <p>ILO 3.1 Ability to apply acquired knowledge to make managerial and operational decisions and to solve problems related to administration and finance in companies, intermediaries, and financial markets, while jointly considering multiple analytical perspectives, from economic to legal, financial, strategic, and managerial</p> <p>ILO 4 – Communication Skills</p> <p>ILO 4 Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, the specialised content of individual disciplines, using different registers depending on the audience and the communicative and educational purposes, and to assess the educational impact of such communication</p> <p>ILO 5 – Learning Skills</p> <p>ILO 5.1 Ability to use IT tools independently for bibliographic research, investigations, and for personal training and professional development</p> <p>ILO 5.2 Ability to frame a new problem systematically and to generate appropriate taxonomies</p>
<b>Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)</b>	
<b>Assessment</b>	<p>The course grade is based on a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a written exam with a mix of multiple-choice and open questions</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a research proposal in the form of an essay (ILOs assessed 1-5)</li> </ul>
<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	Detailed information on the course program and assessment criteria are provided at the beginning of the course.
<b>Required Readings</b>	To be announced at the beginning of the course.
<b>Supplementary Readings</b>	To be announced at the beginning of the course.
<b>Further Information</b>	The OLE course page is announced at the beginning of the course.
<b>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	Quality education, Industry, innovation and infrastructure, Decent work and economic growth