

RESEARCH SEMINAR

Module 5, 2018/19

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Course description

In this course students will learn the basic principles and acquire the practical skills of doing research. We will discuss different stages of making an applied research project: getting an idea, formulating a research question, writing the project proposal, making a literature review, describing data and methodology, making tables and graphs, describing results, writing introduction and conclusion, etc. A particular emphasis will be put on rules of citation and quotation, ethics and avoiding plagiarism. The ultimate goal of the course is to make students fully prepared to make an individual project during the second year of Masters in Finance program.

Grading

The course grade will be based on three home assignments: short project description (30%), review of the detailed project proposal (30%), and referee report for the project (40%). Active class participation may contribute up to 5%, if the grade is on the margin.

Course contents

Class	Topic	Reading
1	General approach to doing research. Objectives of research. Research methodology. Structure of the research paper. Individual projects at MiF program. Project requirements. Typical examples of projects. Stages of working on the project. Typical problems and mistakes. Starting the project. Searching for ideas. Gathering and processing information. Formulating a research question. <i>Practicum: formulating the research question</i>	
2	<i>Hand in Home assignment 1</i> Working with literature. Finding relevant literature. Writing referee report and literature review. Rules of citation and quotation. Ethics and plagiarism. Data and methodology. Sources of data. Basic analysis of the data. Statistical packages. Formulation and testing of a hypothesis. Visualization of the results: tables and graphs. Interpretation of the results. Robustness checks. <i>Practicum: reviewing the project proposal</i>	

Class	Topic	Reading
3	<i>Hand in Home assignment 2</i> Writing a project. Interaction with the supervisor. Working through the drafts. Writing introduction and conclusion. Editing the project. Preparing to the project defense. Structure of the presentation. Making slides. Responding to questions. <i>Practicum: refereeing the project and evaluating the presentation</i>	

Description of course methodology

The course will be highly interactive featuring guest speakers (NES professors and MiF alumni who made an excellent project) and including practicum sessions with active in-class discussions.

Sample tasks for course evaluation

Prepare a project description. Your write-up should contain the **topic and short description** (around 500 words) of the potential individual project. The goal of this assignment is to prepare you to fulfilling Project Requirements for the first deadline of June 30. This write-up will serve as a good starting point in negotiations with potential supervisors.

Course materials

The course webpage at my.NES will include project requirements, sample MiF projects from the previous years and other related materials.

Academic integrity policy

Cheating, plagiarism, and any other violations of academic ethics at NES are not tolerated.