

DISSERTATION THESIS

Core Course, 5th semester

ECTS units: 30

Course level: Graduate (MSc)

Language: English

Course Description

In the dissertation thesis, the student writes a research assignment, in which the existing literature is reviewed, research hypotheses are proposed and basic results from the literature are reproduced. The aim is to introduce the student to (a) the existing research literature, (b) analytic/numeric methodologies, (c) data collection methods, (d) result reporting and conclusions drawing. The dissertation can involve analytic or computational data analysis techniques, in topics revolving around quantitative risk management. The outline of the dissertation will usually contain the following: Abstract/Summary, Introduction, Literature Review, Research Hypotheses Development, Research Methodology, Empirical Results, Sensitivity Analysis and Discussion, Synopsis and Conclusions, References, Appendices (e.g. Programming Code). The dissertation is organized in Chapters and the outline is agreed upon by the student and the supervisor in common.

Prerequisites

In order to undertake a dissertation thesis, the student must have successfully completed all taught courses of the program.

Target Learning Outcomes

The dissertation thesis aims at giving the student the opportunity to develop and apply research methods on topics related to risk management. The goal is to allow the student to deeply appreciate the selected research topic and the related literature, to develop her/his critical thinking (by developing research hypotheses), to collect and analyse appropriate empirical data and to acquire skills in drawing evidence-based conclusions.

General skills: Search, analyse and synthesize data and information, using appropriate technologies. Produce new research ideas. Advance free and creative thinking.

Recommended Bibliography

Dissertation thesis outline

Appropriate recent research literature

Teaching and Learning Activities

The assessment of the dissertation depends on a series of assessment criteria, such as:
Are (a) the research question and (b) its importance to science adequately described?

Is the research aim presented?
Are the research framework and the methodology briefly described?
Are the research findings summarised?
Are the research questions and motives clearly presented?
Are the research questions linked to the existing literature?
Are the research hypotheses clearly presented and described?
Is the dissertation topic relevant to the Master program?
Does the student understand the relevant terminology? Does she/he correctly use it?
Is the outline of the literature review clearly presented?
Is the literature reviewed relevant to the research question?
Does the literature review analyse, synthesize, compare and evaluate related research?
Are the research hypotheses well developed?
Is the selected methodology adequately justified?
Are the empirical results clearly linked to the study's research hypotheses, are they correctly interpreted and presented?
Is the dissertation summarised in a clear and understandable way? Are future research topics suggested?
Has the dissertation thesis outline being followed?

Assessment and Grading Methods

The dissertation is assessed by a three-member examining committee, that comprises of the dissertation supervisor and two other faculty members of the program. The student must make a presentation of the dissertation thesis to the three-member committee.