

**The Government of the Russian Federation
Federal State Autonomous Institution for Higher Professional Education
National Research University Higher School of Economics
St. Petersburg Branch
St. Petersburg School of Economics and Management**

**Course Syllabus
Research Seminar**

Area of Studies: 38.04.08 "Finance and Credit"
Level: Master
Master Programme "Finance"

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Recommended by the Head of the Students' Office for Master in Finance Master Programme
Neklyudova M.A. _____ " ____ " _____ 20__

Approved by the Academic Council of Master in Finance Master Programme
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Academic director: Rogova E.M. _____ " ____ " _____ 20__

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Course Syllabus

Title of the course	Research Seminar				
Title of the Academic Programme	Master's program, "Finance"				
Type of the course	Mandatory				
Prerequisites	Research Seminar, Year 1				
ECTS workload	6				
Total indicative study hours	Directed Study	Self-directed study	Total		
	64	164	228		
Course Overview	<p>The objective of this course is to help students prepare to write their master's thesis.</p> <p>This course consists of an introductory lecture that focuses on (1) certain issues related to research and (2) relevant academic research articles.</p> <p>In the rest of the course, students will (1) begin to work on their master's thesis, (2) receive feedback on their work, and (3) give feedback to another student on the master's thesis of this other student.</p>				
Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)	<p>Upon completing this course, students should be able to do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) to plan and begin to perform an independent research project in the area of finance 2) to select and apply appropriate theories within finance to use for a research project 3) to select and apply appropriate research methods to use for a research project 4) to make a clear, concise presentation of their research (i.e., the preliminary version of their master's thesis) 				
Teaching and Learning Methods	<p>The course will start the introductory lecture discussed in "Course Overview."</p> <p>Thereafter, students will work on, present, and receive feedback on their own research (i.e., their master's thesis). In addition, for one of the tasks in this course, students will give feedback to another student on this other student's own research.</p>				
Content and Structure of the Course					
№	Topic / Course Chapter	Total	Directed Study		Self-directed Study
			Lectures	Tutorials	
1	Introductory lecture	28	4	0	24
2	Students' work on their own preliminary master's thesis	168	0	48	120

3	Students' feedback on another student's preliminary master's thesis	32	0	12	20
Total study hours		228	4	60	164
Indicative Assessment Methods and Strategy	<p>Students' academic progress will be measured by the tasks specified below. Each task may not be taken after the deadline. The final deadline for each task is determined by the course instructor.</p> <p>The evaluation in this course is based on four assignments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline of the preliminary master's thesis (PMT) – 20% • Final (written) version of the PMT – 30% • Report on and presentation of another student's PMT – 20% • Oral defense of the PMT – 30% 				
Readings / Indicative Learning Resources	<p><u>Mandatory</u> Documents posted on LMS Academic research articles posted on LMS</p> <p><u>Optional</u> Roberts, Carol M. (2010). The Dissertation Journey: A Practical and Comprehensive Guide to Planning, Writing, and Defending Your Dissertation. Certain academic research articles posted on LMS</p>				
Indicative Self- Study Strategies	Type			+/-	Hours
	Reading for seminars / tutorials (lecture materials, mandatory and optional resources)			+	24
	Assignments for seminars / tutorials / labs			+	70
	E-learning / distance learning (MOOC / LMS)			-	0
	Fieldwork			-	0
	Project work			+	70
	Other (please specify)			-	0
	Preparation for the exam			+	0
Academic Support for the Course	Academic support for the course is provided via LMS, where students can find: guidelines and recommendations for doing the course; guidelines and recommendations for self-study; samples of assessment materials				
Facilities, Equipment and Software	(If required)				
Course Instructor	Jeff Downing, associate professor (email: jdowning@hse.ru)				

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO) Delivering

Programme ILO(s)	Course ILO(s)	Teaching and Learning Methods for delivering ILO(s)	Indicative Assessment Methods of Delivered ILO(s)
<p>LO2 Demonstrate deep knowledge and critical understanding of theories, principles, concepts and methodologies in finance</p>	<p>Course ILO2 – students’ preliminary masters’ theses (PMT) should be based on relevant theories within finance.</p> <p>In addition, when discussing the PMT of another student, students should discuss the theoretical part of this other student’s PMT.</p>	<p>Lecture Individual projects</p>	<p>Tasks 1, 2, 3, and 4</p>
<p>LO4 Examine and critically appraise research methods and tools relevant for research in finance</p>	<p>Course ILO3 – students’ PMT should be based on appropriate research methods and tools.</p> <p>In addition, when discussing the PMT of another student, students should discuss the research methods and tools of this other student’s PMT.</p>	<p>Lecture Individual projects</p>	<p>Tasks 1, 2, 3, and 4</p>
<p>LO5 Plan and perform an independent research project in the area of finance</p>	<p>Course ILO1 – students have to plan and start to perform an independent research project.</p>	<p>Lecture Individual projects</p>	<p>Tasks 1, 2, and 4</p>
<p>LO8 Take the responsibility and persuade the audience in the efficiency and reasonability of your decisions</p>	<p>Course ILO1 – students have to make a presentation of their PMT. In this presentation, students will have to justify their research question, their use of a given theory, their use of a given research method, etc.</p>	<p>Individual projects</p>	<p>Tasks 1, 2, 3, and 4</p>

	Moreover, students will have to discuss similar issues during their presentation of another student's PMT.		
LO9 Demonstrate a range of generic skills including information and time management, team and project work, computing and autonomous learning, digital skills	Course ILO1 – planning and beginning to perform a research project requires students to develop a research question, gather data, choose appropriate research methods, and analyze these data, among other tasks. This process requires many of the skills specified under LO9	Individual projects	Tasks 1, 2, and 4
LO10 Demonstrate an innovative, open and ethical mindset	Course ILO1 – planning and beginning to perform a research project requires an open and innovative mindset. For example, students have to develop a research question and identify the research method that is most appropriate for this research question.	Individual projects	Tasks 1, 2, and 4

Course Content

Session 1 – introduction to research projects

Relevant subjects:

- developing hypotheses
- choosing appropriate research methods
- ensuring that a research project is internally consistent (i.e., that each part of the project is consistent with the other parts)
- certain econometric issues (e.g., endogeneity)

Sessions 2, 3, and 4 – independent work

During these sessions, students will work on the outlines of their preliminary master's thesis (task 1). The professor will be available to give comments, suggestions, etc.

Sessions 5 and 6 – independent work

During these sessions, students will work on their preliminary master's thesis (task 2). The professor will be available to give comments, suggestions, etc.

Sessions 7, 8, and 9 – presentations

During these sessions, students will give a presentation on the preliminary master's thesis of another student (task 3).

Sessions 10, 11, and 12 – presentations

During these sessions, students will give a presentation on the final version of their preliminary master's thesis (task 4).

Assessment Methods and Criteria

Assessment Methods

Types of Assessment	Forms of Assessment	Modules			
		1	2	3	4
Formative Assessment	Test				
	Essay				
	Report/Presentation	*			
	Project	*			
	In-class Participation				
	Other (write appropriate control forms for the course)				
Interim Assessment (if required)	Assignment (e.g. written assignment)				
Summative Assessment	Project and presentation		*		

Assessment Criteria

Project Work

Grades	Assessment Criteria
«Excellent» (8-10)	A well-structured, analytical presentation of project work. Shows strong evidence and broad background knowledge. In a group presentation all members contribute equally and each contribution builds on the previous one clearly; Answers to follow-up questions reveal a good range and depth of knowledge beyond that covered in the presentation and show confidence in discussion.
«Good» (6-7)	Clearly organized analysis, showing evidence of good overall knowledge of the topic. The presenter of the project work highlights key points and responds to follow up questions appropriately. In group presentations there is evidence that the group has met to discuss the topic and is presenting the results of that discussion, in an order previously agreed.
«Satisfactory» (4-5)	Takes a very basic approach to the topic, using broadly appropriate material but lacking focus. The presentation of project work is largely unstructured, and some points are irrelevant to the topic. Knowledge of the topic is limited and there may be evidence of basic misunderstanding. In a group presentation, most of the work is done by one or two students and the individual contributions do not add up.
«Fail» (0-3)	Fails to demonstrate any appropriate knowledge.