

MSc Research Seminar

Instructor: Prof. Maxim Nikitin, PhD

Master 's research seminar is an essential part of the curriculum of the ICEF master's programme "Financial Economics". The main goals of the seminar is to teach students research techniques used in modern economics and finance, to familiarize them with the research agenda of ICEF faculty as well as the research methodology they employ , and help students develop their research and presentation skills. The seminar is attended by both student cohorts. It is conducted in English.

Prerequisites

None

Course objectives:

- To acquaint students with research topics and techniques of potential supervisors
- To expose them to modern research in economics and finance
- To motivate students towards an early start on their research projects
- To develop their presentation skills

Teaching Methods

- Lectures
- Student presentations
- In-class discussions
- Self-study

Readings

Provided by the faculty.

Grade Determination

First Term

Grades of the first-year students are based on their referee reports on the second-year student research presentations. Each first-year student must choose a presentation by a second-year student and submit one referee report. The report must contain a brief description of the research proposal and an evaluation of both the quality of the presentation and the quality of the research proposal it describes. If the student attends at least 3 research seminars, his/her grade equals the grade for the report. If the student attends fewer seminars, his/her grade is reduced by 1 point (out of 10) for each missed seminar.

Grades of the second-year students are based on their own research presentations. Students present their research proposals and preliminary results . The grade for the presentation depends on the quality of the research proposal, degree of progress towards obtaining results, and on the clarity of the

presentation. The term grade is equal to the grade for the presentation if the student attends at least 3 seminars . If the student attends fewer seminars, his/her grade is reduced by 1 point (out of 10) for each missed seminar.

Second Term

For all the students who attended at least 3 seminars their grades are based on their research presentations. If the student attends fewer seminars, his/her grade is reduced by 1 point (out of 10) for each missed seminar.

Course Outline

Semester I

September – October 10 – Presentations of PhD-educated faculty . Faculty (potential supervisors) tell incoming first-year students (and second-year students who wish to change their topic/supervisor) about potential MSc dissertation topics, their own research agenda and research methodology. 38 hours

October 20- December 20 – Presentations of second-year students. Second-year students present their Msc dissertation proposals and first results (if available). 30 hours.

Semester II

March 1 –April 1 – Presentations of first-years students. First-year students present their first ideas/research proposals. 36 hours.

Mid-April – Mini-Conference: presentations of the second-year students (preliminary research results). 28 hours.