Course Descriptions None 2013-2014

Course Title	Business Research Design
Course Code	EBC4070
ECTS Credits	6,5
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2-9-2013	25-10-2013	X			X	

Level	Advanced
Coordinator	Boris Blumberg For more information:b.blumberg@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	-Understand and learn how to design and conduct a research study by applying the appropriate methodology. -Get acquainted with the different phases of research and the typical problems encountered in these phases. -Understand interdependencies and trade-offs between choices in making a research design. -Learn to critically read research from a methodological perspective.
Description	The course is structured in accordance with the phases of research: conceptualising, conceptual modelling, deriving propositions and hypotheses, making research designs, selecting measurement approaches, selecting appropriate analysis methods, sampling and data gathering, getting access to the field, conducting analyses, interpretation, selecting results for publication, drafting a research paper. Articles from the research literature and case material are used to confront students with typical problems of conducting research. Group discussions and assignments are used to gain insights in these problems and to identify potential solutions. The course will emphasise the interdependencies and trade-offs in research decisions and help the student to learn making more realistic choices. In the end the student will have acquired the necessary knowledge and skills to set up and conduct a sound research study him/herself. The emphasis of the course is on the logic of research and the requirements to be put regarding the research design. The main focus is quantitative research but some aspects of qualitative research are covered as well. Although the issues addressed are generic applications in this course mainly pertain to organisation studies.
Literature	Boris F. Blumberg, Donald R. Cooper and Pamela S. Schindler. Business Research Methods.(2011), McGraw-Hill Steven G. Rogelberg (Ed.) (2004). Handbook of Research in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. Oxford, Blackwell Publishers (selection). Articles on specific aspects of organisational research and assessment provided via ELEUM
Prerequisites	Students should be familiair with methodological prinicples. Previous courses in organisational research methods or organisational assessment at the Bachelors level provide usually the expected pre-knowledge. As this course deals with methodological issues at the advanced level, we strongly recommend that students have followed courses in research methods and quantitative analysis previously. In particular, we expect that students are familiar with the following topics at an intermediate level: philosophies of science, formulating research problems, sampling, measurement and scaling issues, survey research, experiments, case studies and observational studies.
Teaching methods	PBL / Presentation / Lecture / Assignment / Groupwork
Assessment methods	Final Paper / Participation
Evaluation in previous academic year	For the complete evaluation of this course please click http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation

Master Business Research	Compulsory Courses