



## GRADUATE SCHOOL

### **GM0120 International Business and Trade Research Methods, 7.5 credits**

Forskningsmetoder inom International Business and Trade, 7,5 högskolepoäng  
*Second Cycle*

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#### **Confirmation**

This course syllabus was confirmed by Graduate School on 2020-03-24 and was last revised on 2024-02-22 to be valid from 2024-09-02, autumn semester of 2024.

*Field of education:* Social Sciences 100%

*Department:* Graduate School

#### **Position in the educational system**

The course International Business and Trade Research Methods is a course within the Master of Science programmes at the Graduate School, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg.

#### *Main field of studies*

International Business and Trade

#### *Specialization*

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

#### **Entry requirements**

To be eligible for the course International Business and Trade Research Methods the participant must fulfill the entrance qualifications for the Master of Science programme in International Business and Trade. For programme specific entrance requirements, see programme syllabus.

#### **Learning outcomes**

The overall outcome of the course is to increase students' knowledge of research methodology in general, and those employed within international business research in particular. Furthermore, the course also aims to give students training in applied knowledge of business research methodology.

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

*Knowledge and understanding*

1. give an account for and explain the most common qualitative and quantitative research methods of International Business Studies
2. discuss different ontological and epistemological issues associated with International Business research methodology

*Competence and skills*

3. evaluate and distinguish suitable research methods to a given research problem
4. apply and argue for suitable research methods to given research problems

*Judgement and approach*

5. critically apply and argue for suitable research methods to the own research problem
6. plan the data collection and data analysis of own research projects by selecting suitable research methods
7. critically assess others' research.

**Course content**

The course provides an insight into fundamentals of philosophy of science, and various methodological approaches as well as practical training in applying methods discussed in the course. Furthermore, the students will be presented to the logics behind designing and executing research projects at an advanced level of studies. This includes problem discussion and the formulation of research questions, research problem conceptualization, sampling techniques, data collection methods, survey design, interview techniques, observation methods, experiments, data analysis and interpretation, and how to write scientific theses at an advanced level of studies.

The first part of the course focuses on the fundamentals of philosophy of science in regards to the different ontological and epistemological issues associated with international business research. The second part of the course focuses on qualitative research methods, and the third part on quantitative research methods. The fourth part deals with practical aspects in writing academic theses, and how to assess theses authored by others. A research proposal is also included in the course, preparing the student for the upcoming master degree project.

**Form of teaching**

Lectures, seminars, group work and computer labs.

*Language of instruction:* English

### **Assessment**

Learning outcomes 1 and 2 are assessed through an individual written exam and group assignments.

Learning outcome 3 and 4 are assessed through an individual written exam and group assignments. Group assignments include both written and oral components.

Learning outcome 5, 6, and 7 are assessed through group assignments and authoring a research plan for the upcoming master degree project.

Participation in seminars is compulsory. If the course coordinator agrees that the reason for absence from seminars is valid, then the missing elements can be replaced with alternative assignments.

A failed group work can be supplemented to a pass grade.

Individual exams shall be written individually. Cooperation in formulating texts, tables, figures, etc. is not allowed.

If a student who has twice received a failing grade for the same examination component wishes to change examiner ahead of the next examination session, such a request should be made to the department in writing and should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student who has twice received a failing grade for the same examination component wishes to change examiner ahead of the next examination session, such a request should be made to the department in writing and should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years after the course has ceased/been changed.

The number of examinations is limited to five.

**Grades**

The grading scale comprises: Excellent (A), Very good (B), Good (C), Satisfactory (D), Sufficient (E) and Fail (F).

Pass is required on all examination forms. The group assignments and research plan assignment are graded pass/fail. The grade (A-E) corresponds to the total score a student obtains on the individual written exam. To receive a pass grade (A-E)  $\geq 50\%$  points is required. The scale is tied to fixed score intervals:

A: 85-100%

B: 75-84%

C: 68-74%

D: 60-67%

E: 50-59%

F:  $<50\%$

**Course evaluation**

The course will be evaluated upon completion. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.