



GRADUATE SCHOOL

GM0823 Strategy and Organisation, 7.5 credits

Strategi och Organisation, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Graduate School on 2019-04-29 to be valid from 2019-09-02, autumn semester of 2019.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Graduate School

Position in the educational system

The course Strategy and Organisation 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

Management

Specialization

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

Entry requirements

To be eligible for the course Strategy and Organisation the participant must fulfil the entrance qualifications for the Master of Science programme in Management. For programme specific entrance requirements, see programme syllabus.

Learning outcomes

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

1. account for the role of strategy in organisations
2. identify strategic problems, particularly concerning strategic business development and renewal, and apply relevant theoretical perspectives on real cases

3. discuss, analyse and evaluate the strategy process, orally and in writing.

Course content

This advanced course in strategy and organisation is concerned with how organisations meet and manage significant threats and challenges, as well as opportunities, both internally and externally. The purpose of the course is to develop an intellectual understanding of the processes leading to strategic business renewal as well as an ability to apply this understanding to real and current problems. The ambition is to prepare students to take part in business development and strategic work as analysts and, in later stages of their careers, to lead such processes.

There is a rich scientific knowledge base on how companies perceive and make sense of emerging problems and opportunities. In the Scandinavian setting, researchers on strategy have taken a deep interest in processes and relational aspects of corporate strategy. Learning, negotiation and networks are important concepts. To some extent large Scandinavian corporations have applied these ideas, and that might be a significant explanation to their relative success. It is natural to exploit the Scandinavian heritage, but without losing the global perspective.

Strategic problems and opportunities arise in all sectors. Important aspects are not only the company's positioning in relation to its market, but also the technological development, the supply of labour, political developments in society and other factors crucial for how organisations manage their business. Strategic work is to a large extent a question of understanding these contingencies and to reinterpret them as assets rather than as restrictions.

While knowledge of strategic processes emerges, there is still a large market for simple rules of thumb in strategic work. Academic education aspires to equip students with a scientific approach and thereby to create a buffer against the temptation of a quick fix. An important part of the course is to confront students with real strategic problems during the period of the course. This is partly done by carefully analysing an organisation with strategic dilemmas.

Form of teaching

Form of teaching: Lectures, seminars and group work.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Learning outcome 1 will be examined through written examination.

Learning outcome 2 and 3 will be examined through a written report.

Learning outcome 3 will also be examined orally through seminars.

A failed written report can be supplemented to a Pass grade.

Participation in seminars is compulsory. Absence from seminars can be substituted with alternative assignments.

If a student, who has failed the same examined element on two occasions, wishes to change examiner before the next examination session, such a request is to be submitted to the department in writing and granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

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, though at most two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to work experience and VFU, although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

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).

For Pass (grades A-E) on the course, pass is required on all examination forms.

The grade (A-E) corresponds to the total score a student obtains on the written exam (60%), the written report and oral presentations (40%).

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.

