



School of Economics and Management

EKHM52, Economic History: Second Year Independent Research, 15 credits

Ekonomisk historia: Uppsatskurs, år 2, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economic History on 2013-12-03 to be valid from 2014-03-25, autumn semester 2014.

General Information

Independent research with the completion of a thesis is mandatory for a Master of Science (two year) in Economic History, in Economic Growth, Innovation and Spatial Dynamics, in Economic Demography, as well as in Economic Development and Growth.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Economic History

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Learning outcomes

On a general level the student will acquire skills and abilities for independent research in economic history and with a specialization pertaining to the respective master's programme. More specifically, students will be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- independently identify and develop a relevant research question;

- transform theoretical models into testable empirical models and conduct the appropriate empirical research

- analyse and interpret the findings of advanced theoretical and empirical applications;

Competence and skills

- choose and strictly apply scientific methods for the research issues
- assess the relevance and implications of their findings for research and for policy purposes
- present a written report, in accordance with scientific standards, describing their research

Judgement and approach

- discuss and assess, on the basis of scientific standards, research reports

Course content

The second year Master's thesis presupposes and builds upon the first year Independent Research and its completion of a first year Master's thesis. The student has to define a research issue, carry out research and write the thesis independently, although with support from a supervisor. At an early stage a supervisor will be allotted to the student on the basis of her/his area of interest. It is the task of the supervisor to support the development from idea to plan, and thereafter to stimulate and criticize the student's work.

Course design

Teaching takes place primarily through individual supervision and discussions in the student group at seminars, at different phases of the project. Throughout the writing process the student can consult her/his supervisor for advice, feedback and constructive criticism.

In general, a second year thesis (15 ECTS) consists of 12,000-17,000 words, plus a list of references and relevant appendices. The general structure of the content should be: (1) Introduction of the issue with a discussion of the literature in the field, (2) methods and data, (3) narrative, (4) results, and (5) conclusion. Of course the general structure has to be adapted and refined according to each thesis.

What is said pertains to individually performed master's theses. If the research issue is defined wider and/or deeper, two students can be allowed to cooperate in research and thesis writing. Then the thesis (15 ECTS) should consist of 20,000 – 30,000

words.

Besides the completion of her/his own thesis, the student is also expected to act as a discussant on another student's thesis at the final seminar.

Assessment

The examiner and not the supervisor is responsible for the grading of the thesis. If a thesis does not pass the first examination, the examiner and the supervisor will specify the required improvements that have to be made and the student will be given the opportunity to hand in a revised version for assessment.

The University views plagiarism very seriously, and will take disciplinary actions against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

At the School of Economics and Management grades are awarded in accordance with a criterion-based grading scale UA:

A: Excellent

B: Very good

C: Good

D: Satisfactory

E: Sufficient

U: Fail

Students have to receive a grade of E or higher in order to pass a course.

GRADE	CHARACTERISTIC	CRITERIA
A	Excellent	A distinguished result that is excellent with regard to the following aspects – theoretical depth, relevance for the subject matter, analytical ability and independent thought.

B	Very good	A very good result with regard to the above mentioned aspects.
C	Good	The result is of a good standard with regard to the above mentioned aspects and lives up to expectations.
D	Satisfactory	The result is of a satisfactory standard with regard to the above mentioned aspects and lives up to expectations.
E	Sufficient	The result satisfies the minimum requirements with regard to the above mentioned aspects, but not more.
U	Fail	The result does not meet the minimum requirements with regard to the above mentioned aspects.

If the student does not submit the thesis on time, this will negatively affect the grade, except if the student can demonstrate special circumstances for the delay, in which case the assignment will be assessed according to regular procedure.

Entry requirements

Students, who have completed a First Year Master Thesis in Economic History, or the corresponding independent research, qualify for this course.

Further information

This course can be accounted for the previous courses EKHR02, EKHR12, EKHR22, EKHR52, EKHR62, EKHR72, and EKHR92 and cannot be included in the same degree with any of these courses.

Subcourses in EKHM52, Economic History: Second Year Independent Research

Applies from V14

1301 Second Year Independent Research, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A