



School of Economics and Management

BUSN64, Strategic Cost Management, 7.5 credits

Strategic Cost Management, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Academic Director of Studies at Department of Business Administration on 2016-05-02 and was last revised on 2019-02-28. The revised syllabus applies from 2019-02-28, autumn semester 2019.

General Information

BUSN64 is a course in Business Administration at the advanced level.

Language of instruction: English

The course is offered in English. Students must therefore be able to communicate in both spoken and written English.

Main field of studies

Business Administration

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

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

Learning outcomes

A passing grade on the course will be awarded to students who:

Knowledge and understanding

- have acquired a deepened knowledge of investment planning in different contexts, in companies as well as in public sector enterprises.
- have acquired a deepened knowledge about costing with a focus on cost determination in different settings and from a systems perspective.

Competence and skills

- have developed the ability to critically examine and discuss how economic theories and methods can be applied in different situations within business companies as well as in public sector enterprises,

- have developed the ability to independently and critically handle quantitative and qualitative empirical material and to be able to use scientific methods to analyze such material,
- have acquired, developed and deepened the ability to present their own and others results in a clear, pedagogic and interesting manner,
- are able to present results orally, in written form and through the use of IT-media for both experts and non-specialist audiences,
- are able to search for, collect and evaluate information from various sources, in particular from both the theoretical and empirical literature within a specified area of Business Administration,
- are able to create and use advanced models for investment analysis and costing by means of Excel or equivalent software.
- are able to undertake further studies in Business Administration with a high degree of autonomy.

Judgement and approach

- are able to independently formulate and demarcate relevant investment and costing problems from different decision-making perspectives,
- to be able to choose adequate theoretical and empirical methods to analyze these problems.

Course content

The course aims to provide students with a deepened and thorough knowledge of investment analysis and costing within a strategic framework. Special emphasis is put on the importance of combining managerial judgement with financial analysis from a decision-making viewpoint. Important objectives are to give students the basic tools necessary at this level to investigate business problems, to give them specialized knowledge about investment planning and costing on an aggregate level, to critically handle quantitative and qualitative empirical material in decision making as well as knowledge about the design and use of management controls in a strategic framework and to familiarize them with major and recent literature in their field. The following points characterise the course contents:

- Strategic positioning and strategic cost management
- Strategic investment decisions in theory and practice in different contexts, i.e. private companies as well as public sector enterprises.
- Application of investment calculation methods in complex economic systems.
- Value chain analysis
- Costing and pricing of products and services in companies and public organizations
- Cost and revenue driver analysis
- Decision-making under information constraints
- The importance of learning for the development of cost and quality of goods and services.
- The importance of learning for the development of strategic decision making

Course design

The course includes lectures, seminars and workshops.

Assessment

See appendix including examination sessions. (Will be attached to the curriculum automatically in the system).

The assessment of the course consists of two group assignments which are solved in groups with 3-4 students and an individual exam. The group assignments are graded and each group will receive detailed feedback on each assignment. The two group assignments constitute 40% of the credits that are the basis for the grades. In addition, there is an individual examination in the form of a test covering the additional 60% of the credits.

About one month after the individual examination there is a re-examination.

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

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

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Grades

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

Grade (Definition) Points or % out of maximum points. Characteristic

A (Excellent) 85-100 points. A distinguished result that is excellent with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

B (Very good) 75-84 points. A very good result with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

C (Good) 65-74 points. The result is of a good standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought and lives up to expectations.

D (Satisfactory) 55-64 points. The result is of a satisfactory standard with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

E (Sufficient) 50-54 points. The result satisfies the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought, but not more.

F (U) (Fail) 0-49 points. The result does not meet the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independent thought.

Some occasional examination elements of the course may have the grading scale pass (D) / fail U(F).

Plagiarism is considered to be a very serious academic offence. The University will take disciplinary actions against any kind of attempted malpractice in examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other improper practices in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University for a specific period of time.

Entry requirements

Students admitted to a Master Programme where this course is either a compulsory or elective part, are qualified for the course. For other students, at least 60 UCP or ECTS-cr in Business Administration is required. These must include a course in basic Business Administration, (e.g., FEK502 Business Administration, General Course, FEKA01 Business Administration: Introductory Course, or the equivalent).

Further information

The course BUSN64 Strategic Cost Management cannot be combined with BUSM32, FEK524 or FEKM12 in a degree.

Subcourses in BUSN64, Strategic Cost Management

Applies from H11

- 1101 Case Assignment 1, 1,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1102 Case Assignment 2, 1,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 1103 Exam, 4,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass