Doctoral course: Empirical financial accounting research

Forskarutbildningskurs: Empirisk externredovisningsforskning

Credit points: 7.5 ECTS
Course code: 
Responsible department: Umeå School of Business
Subject: Business Administration
Level: Doctoral education
Specialisation in relation to degree requirements:
Subject area/Field of education: Social Sciences
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
Any programme affiliation: This course is given as a Ph.D. course for doctoral students in Business Administration at Umeå School of Business. It is also offered for Ph.D. candidates from other universities.

1. Confirmation: The course is established by Umeå School of Business, Umeå University, and the syllabus was confirmed by the Board of Umeå School of Business on 2011-04-15. The syllabus is valid as from 2011-09-01.

2. Contents
A good understanding of rules and standards regulating the conduct of accounting is crucial for successful empirical financial accounting research. The purpose of this course is two-fold: to develop students’ knowledge about the international financial reporting standards as well as to review a number of current issues in financial accounting research. Students will also be introduced to different methodological issues related to the conduct of empirical financial accounting research.

3. Expected learning outcomes
Upon successful completion of the course, the participants should have acquired a good understanding of the International financial reporting standards as well as empirical research related to the efficacy and consequences of requirements in different accounting standards. Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- Assess a number of different directions in the empirical financial accounting research
- Solve intermediate as well as more advanced financial accounting problems
- Review the developments as well as evaluate the research in a chosen financial accounting research area
- Examine and analyze the impact of provisions in accounting standards using methodologies in modern financial accounting research

4. Required knowledge
Applicants are required to be registered as a PhD-student in Business Administration with Umeå University or any other University.

5. Form of instruction
The course is offered as a reading (distance study) course.

6. Examination modes
The examination consists of a term-paper and a written examination. More specifically, students are expected to write a term-paper that comprises about 7000-9000 words. The term-paper should include a review and assessment of the research within a financial accounting area chosen by the student and approved by the teacher. The student has to review and assess literature about specific accounting issues: examples of topics that could be suitable for the term-paper are impairments, pensions, deferred taxes and fair value valuations of financial instruments or investment properties. The review is expected to show how the literature has developed over time, include an evaluation of the current state of the literature, an assessment of the methodologies used in the studies as well as include suggestions for future research.

The goals of the written examination are to test the students’ ability to solve accounting problems as well as to use theory to evaluate accounting standards and practices. The exam will be conducted as an “open book exam”. However, only the literature specified by the teacher can be used at the exam.

There will only be pass/fail grades of assessment. Assessment will comprise the following:
- Term-paper (50 %)
- Written examination (50 %)
- More than 50 per cent of the total points is required in the written exam as well as for the term-paper in order to pass the course.

7. Academic credit transfer
Academic credit transfers are reviewed individually. The University’s rules and academic credit transfer regulations apply.

8. Course literature (written examination)

Books:
International Financial Reporting Standards IFRS 2011

Articles:

