



RTU Course "Research Methodology"

22423 Ekonomikas teorijas un tautsaimniecības kat.

General data

Code	IET516
Course title	Research Methodology
Course status in the programme	Compulsory/Courses of Limited Choice; Courses of Free Choice
Course level	Post-graduate Studies
Course type	Academic
Field of study	Economics
Responsible instructor	Juris Saulītis
Academic staff	Līga Kamola
Volume of the course: parts and credits points	1 part, 2.0 Credit Points, 3.0 ECTS credits
Language of instruction	LV, EN
Possibility of distance learning	Not planned
Abstract	The course deals with the concept of a scientific study, induction and deduction. Types of research. Research methods. Research ethics and academic honesty. Characteristics of qualitative and quantitative research, research and data collection phases and their analysis. Research topic selection, justification and literature review studies. Academic publication databases and their use in the study process and conducting of research are considered and evaluated. Discussion of the requirements of research design and presentation. Research organization on the Internet: The advantages and disadvantages. The course provides insights into research funding types and sources.
Goals and objectives of the course in terms of competences and skills	To understand research methods as a basis for scientific research. Mastering research stages, the structure and organization.
Structure and tasks of independent studies	1. Students develop a group presentation about some of the topics considered within the study course and publicly defend it. 2. Students in a group study a topical economic and business topics, using a variety of qualitative and quantitative research methods. Students in the auditorium present the data collected through multi-media system. 3. Students individually develop and submit a review of a scientific paper.
Recommended literature	1. Eko U. Kā uzraksīt diplomdarbu. - R.: Jāņa Rozes apgāds, 2006. - 319 lpp. 2. Kropļijs A., Raščevska M. Kvalitatīvās pētniecības metodes sociālajās zinātnēs. - Rīga: Izdevniecība Raka, 2004. - 178 lpp. 3. Rubenis A. Ētika XX gadsimtā. - Rīga, Zvaigzne ABC, 1996. - 223 lpp. 4. Bryman A., Social Research Methods, Oxford University Press, 2001. - 501 p. 5. Leedy P.D., Ormrod J.E.. Practical Research. Planning and Design, 7th ed. - Prentice Hall, 2000. - 346 p 6. Ruane, J. M. Essentials of research methods: a guide to social science research. - Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 2006 - 239 p. 7. Robert L. Miller, John D. Brewer. The A- Z of Social Research. -UK, SAGE Publications, 2003. - 362 p. 8. http://www.socialresearchmethods.net 9. http://gsociology.icaap.org/methods 10. http://www.wdl.org/en/
Course prerequisites	The course is based on general knowledge obtained at Bachelor studies.

Course outline

Theme	Hours
The concept of scientific research. Induction, deduction.	2
Social Research Strategies. Research stages.	2
Types of research and research organization. Research principles.	2
Research topic selection, justification, literature evaluation, data collection, analysis of primary and secondary data	4
Ethical principles of research and academic honesty.	4
Quantitative research methods and their usage opportunities.	4
Qualitative research methods and application prerequisites.	4
Quantitative and qualitative research methods in the combined use.	2
Applied programs and data processing characteristics.	2
Research organization using e-resources, benefits and problems.	2
Research funding types and sources.	2
Research design and presentation.	2

Learning outcomes and assessment

Learning outcomes	Assessment methods
Able to define the concepts of social studies. Understanding of research strategies and research types.	Discussions and group work and reports show the knowledge, showing understanding of the term. Exam
Able to distinguish between qualitative and quantitative research. Knowledge of the particular research methods and ability to apply them in conducting studies.	To conduct the study using the most appropriate research methods, which corresponds to the program specifics. Exam.
The student knows how to select, collect, analyze, systematize, and interpret research data.	To develop a study, in which conclusions made reflect students' understanding of the topic.
Able to use e-resources in research and know how to use software for data collection and analysis	Research developed making use of IT. Exam.
Able to assess the scientific content of publications and knows how to develop a review, in which the student is able to substantiate one's views	A review of a scientific paper is made.

Study subject structure

Part	CP	ECTS	Hours per Week			Tests			Tests (free choice)		
			Lectures	Practical	Lab.	Test	Exam	Work	Test	Exam	Work
1.	2.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	0.0		*		*		