

<b>Title of the Course</b>	<b>RESEARCH DESIGN</b>		
Amount in credit points/ ECTS)	2/3	Volume (in hours)	80
Grounding	-		
Science Sector	Economy and Business		
Science Subsector	Econometrics		
<b>Summary of academic hours</b>		<b>Amount (academic hours)</b>	
Distance learning		40	
Contact hours / video lessons		8	
Exercises, self – assessment questions and tests		14	
Individual work/ discussions in distance		16	
Exams/tests		2	
<b>1. level professional study programme</b>	Organisation and management of government institutions. Commerce. Management of micro, small and middle enterprises. Accounting and finance planning. Law. Human resource psychology and human resource management.		
<b>Author(s) of the course</b>	Mg. psych. Liga Roke-Reimate		
<b>Lecturer(s) of the course</b>	Mg. psych. Liga Roke-Reimate		
<b>Goal of the course:</b>	To prepare students for creating, designing and defending of the qualification work. To provide with basic knowledge about the scientific research methods, summarising information and analyses. To learn how to do scientific research, starting with identification of a problem and formulation of work hypotheses up to gathering and summarisation of data. To promote interest about research activities and its practical benefits.		
<b>Requirements for obtaining credit points (structure of course evaluation):</b>	<p><u>The final evaluation is calculated:</u>                      Moodle discussions and tasks – 40%                      Exam – 60%  <i>For obtaining final evaluation, both activities should hold successful evaluation – not below 4 points.</i>  <i>Final evaluation is the average grade in 10-point system, in proportion of percentage distributed amongst both activities</i></p>		
<b>Study Results</b>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Knowledge:</i> Students understand terms of research, the importance of correctly made research and know research methods, stages of research preparation for the purpose of being able to use this knowledge during preparation of scientific work in any sphere, creating of reasonable conclusions and decisions.</li> <li><i>Skills:</i> Students are able to formulate the objective of the research, questions/hypotheses, to create the design of the research, to choose suitable research methods, to gather and process empirical data, to process it, to analyse and to make correct conclusions. Students are able to design the theoretical empirical part according to the requirements of the qualification work.</li> <li><i>Competency:</i> Students are able to use research methodologies. Students are able to formulate the objective of the research and questions/hypotheses, to create research design, to choose appropriate research methods, to gather empirical data, to process it, to analyse and to make correct conclusions. Students are able to design theoretical and empirical parts according to the</li> </ol>			

requirements of the qualification work. To use basic principles of the research in preparing any research work, to judge critically about the strengths, weaknesses and restrictions of own and other people researches, understand the ethics of research.

**Content of the Course**

No.	Subjects	Contact hours/ video audio lessons	Distance learning	Exercises, self-assessment questions and tests	Individual work/ discussions in distance	Exams/tests
1.	Scientific, especially applied research objectives, basic principles, basic notions. Description of scientific approach, purpose and usefulness. General description of research process. Difference between scientific and non-scientific approach; examples of scientific and non-scientific explanation for one problem; most common biases about the scientific approach; research credibility; hypothesis; method; interpretation.	8	3	2	16	2
2.	Theoretical and empirical research. Strategies and types of researches. Quantitative, qualitative and mixed strategy. Theoretical research as a summary and analysis of the findings of a previous study for the purpose of preparation for own empirical research. Empirical research: based on observations, with a specific data gathering method practically obtained data for a specific		4	2		

	selection. Description of quantitative and qualitative strategy, weaknesses and restrictions.					
3.	<p>Overview of literature as an important part of research. Work with scientific article databases, selection of information sources, creation of summary. Requirements for preparation of theoretical part of the research.</p> <p>Sub-themes: what to start theoretical research with; literature overview as bases for the problem, hypotheses or research question promoted by the student. Types of literature sources and criteria. Primary and secondary sources. Ways for obtaining information; bibliography. How to do analyses of the literature and to prepare overview of the literature. Referencing. Writing styles.</p>		5	2		
4.	<p>Research process stages. Formulation of the problem, designing a research question or hypothesis, formulating the purpose and subject of the research, developing a research design for the research work. Planning of the research, possible risks to the reliability of the research and their reduction.</p>		5	2		
5.	<p>Methods of obtaining information for the research (qualitative research, quantitative research). Choosing the most appropriate method</p>		4	2		

	according to the purpose of the research. Sub-topics: surveys, questionnaires, tests, interviews, focus group discussion, document analysis. Choice between already exported data mining tools or newly created ones (for the student's own work purpose). Examples of successful and unsuccessful surveys, etc.					
6.	Statistical method of the study. Statistical concept, subject and methods. Benefits from statistical analysis opposite to intuitive, simplified calculations. Measurements and statistical scales. Data analysis and statistical indicators. Data analysis using descriptive and conclusive statistical tools (mean value comparative analysis and correlation analysis).		5	2		
7.	Representation of the results of the research, design requirements. Why are there design requirements (including examples of successful and unsuccessful designs). Stages of the study work development process, structure of the work, design and defence.		4	2		
8.	Interpretation of the research results in relation to the question / hypothesis, linking the results with the practical aspects of the topic and real problem situations. Examples of correct and		4	2		

less correct conclusions from the research results. Ethical aspects of scientific research. Types of plagiarism.					
<b>TOTAL:</b>	8	34	18	16	2
	<b>80</b>				

**Mastering the course and successfully passing examination, student is capable of** (*knowledge, skills and competencies*)

Study Results:	Evaluation Criteria		
	(40-69%)	(70-89%)	(90-100%)
<b>Knowledge</b>	Students moderately understand the terminology of scientific research, the importance of correctly conducted research, and have a satisfactory knowledge of the research types, stages of research development, in order to use this knowledge for the development of research papers and for making reasonable conclusions and decisions in any field of activity.	Students understand the terminology of scientific research well, the importance of correctly conducted research, and have good knowledge of the research types, stages of research development, in order to use this knowledge for the development of research papers and for making reasonable conclusions and decisions in any field of activity.	Students demonstrate excellent knowledge of the terminology of scientific research well, the importance of correctly conducted research, and have excellent knowledge of the research types, stages of research development, in order to use this knowledge for the development of research papers and for making reasonable conclusions and decisions in any field of activity.
<b>Skills</b>	Students are moderately able to formulate the research goal and questions / hypotheses, create a research design, choose appropriate research methods, collect empirical data, process them, analyse and make	Students are well able to formulate the research goal and questions / hypotheses, create a research design, choose appropriate research methods, collect empirical data, process them, analyse and make correct conclusions.	Students are independently able to formulate the research goal and questions / hypotheses, create a research design, choose appropriate research methods, collect empirical data, process them, analyse and make

	<p>correct conclusions.          Students can moderately design the theoretical and empirical part of research work in accordance with the requirements for the qualification work design.</p>	<p>Students can moderately design the theoretical and empirical part of research work in accordance with the requirements for the qualification work design.</p>	<p>correct conclusions.          Students can moderately design the theoretical and empirical part of research work in accordance with the requirements for the qualification work design.</p>
<b>Competencies</b>	<p>Students are moderately able to use research methodologies.          Students are moderately able to formulate the research goal and questions / hypotheses, create a research design, choose appropriate research methods, collect empirical data, process them, analyse and make correct conclusions.          Students can moderately design the theoretical and empirical part of research work in accordance with the requirements for the qualification work design, the basic principles of creating a research, critically judge about the strengths and limitations of own or other people's research, and understanding of ethical principles in research.</p>	<p>Students are well able to use research methodologies.          Students are able to formulate the research goal well and questions / hypotheses, create a research design, choose appropriate research methods, collect empirical data, process them, analyse and make correct conclusions.          Students can design well the theoretical and empirical part of research work in accordance with the requirements for the qualification work design, the basic principles of creating a research, critically judge about the strengths and limitations of own or other people's research, and understanding of ethical principles in research.</p>	<p>Students are independently able to use research methodologies.          Students are independently able to formulate the research goal and questions / hypotheses, create a research design, choose appropriate research methods, collect empirical data, process them, analyse and make correct conclusions.          Students can independently design the theoretical and empirical part of research work in accordance with the requirements for the qualification work design, the basic principles of creating a research, critically judge about the strengths and limitations of own or other people's research, and understanding of ethical principles in research.</p>

**Acknowledgement of the obtained study results**

Study Results	1.	2.	3.
<b>Evaluation Method</b>			
Moodle discussions/tasks	x	x	x
Exam	x	x	x

**Core Literature**

1.	Kristapsone, S. (2014). <i>Scientific Research During the Study Process. Second revised edition.</i> Riga: Biznesa augstskola Turība.
2.	Kristapsone, S., Kamerade, D., Lazda, R., u.c. (2011). <i>Introduction to Research: Strategies, Desings, Mothods.</i> Riga: RaKa.
3.	Kropļijs, A., Rascevska, M. (2010). <i>Qualitative Research Methods in Social Siences.</i> Riga: RaKa
4.	Cooper, D.R. (2014). <i>Business research methods.</i> New York: McGraw-Hill

**Additional Literature**

1.	Hancké, B. (2009). <i>Intelligent Research Design: a Guide for Beginning Researchers in the Social Sciences.</i> New York: Oxford University Press.
2.	Easterby-Smith, M. (2008). <i>Management research.</i> London: Sage.
3.	Gosa, Z. (2003). <i>Statistics: Student's book.</i> Riga: Latvijas Universitate.

**Recommended Periodicals**

1.	Social Science Research. <a href="https://www.journals.elsevier.com/social-science-research">https://www.journals.elsevier.com/social-science-research</a>
2.	Articles of Latvijas Universitate. Economy. Management Science. (annual eddition). <a href="https://www.lu.lv/apgads/lu-raksti-pdf/">https://www.lu.lv/apgads/lu-raksti-pdf/</a>