



## Syllabus

# *BA Seminar: Empirical Corporate Finance*

## 1 General Description

This seminar offers bachelor students the opportunity to work on selected topics in the field of empirical corporate finance and to present their results. The seminar serves as preparation for the bachelor's thesis. The thesis can subsequently be written on the same topic, supervised by Prof. Dr. Axel Kind. After a preliminary meeting, during which a list of possible research areas will be presented, students will choose their topic on a first-come-first-served basis.

The seminar consists of two elements: (i) Presenting a research proposal on a selected topic in the field of empirical corporate finance (ca. 30 minutes – including a 10-15-minute discussion) and (ii) writing a term paper (8-10 pages) which will serve as an extended research proposal for the bachelor's thesis. Active participation to plenary discussions is encouraged and rewarded.

Students are expected to:

- Prepare an own research proposal that serves as basis for their bachelor's thesis;
- Provide an accurate literature review and, possibly, develop (own) research ideas and/or testable hypotheses in a topic of interest;
- Work independently on a selected research topic in the field of empirical corporate finance/governance;
- Practice skills not trained by ex-cathedra teaching in regular courses (writing, programming, dealing with real-world data)

Both the presentation and the term paper should be considered as sales pitches of the research proposal. They should include the following aspects:

- Introduction of the topic
- Research question (What are you going to investigate?)
- Motivation and significance (Why is the topic interesting and relevant? Why do we care?)
- Contribution (What exactly is new in the papers reviewed?)

- Literature review (How is the research question examined in the related literature? Which methods are used and why? What are the main findings? Address both, theoretical and empirical aspects)
- Own critical comments and outlook on bachelor thesis (judgment of results in related literature and own assessment of aspects that can be examined (empirically) in future work, such as in the bachelor thesis)

## 2 Time and Location

The preliminary meeting takes place on October 27, 2023 at 10:00 am. Details can be obtained from Zeus. Even before the first meeting, specific information regarding the seminar will be made available to students via ILIAS. After the kickoff meeting, students will choose a topic on a first-come-first-served basis based on a doodle survey. Each student is then allowed to register for one individual feedback meeting, where questions can be asked regarding the chosen topic.

## 3 Grading

The grading is based on the term paper (60%) and the presentation (40%). The following aspects of the research proposal will be considered for grading:

- Content (incl. contribution);
- Logical structure of the arguments (red thread);
- Coverage of all the most relevant papers in the literature;
- Own critical comments;
- Structure of the paper;
- Formal aspects: language, layout, and readability (see articles in JF, JFE, RFS, JFQA, JBF, JCF, JEF);

Students are required to write and present in English.

## 4 Prerequisites

Students should have basic knowledge in financial economics and statistics.

## 5 Registration

Registration is centralized and takes place during the official exam registration period in June. Further information are available at the webpage of the department.

## 6 Contact Information

Lukas Freudenthal

Department of Economics

Chair of Corporate Finance

Office F 241

Email: [lukas.freudenthal@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:lukas.freudenthal@uni-konstanz.de)

Stephan Sontheimer

Department of Economics

Chair of Corporate Finance

Office F 241

Email: [stephan.sontheimer@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:stephan.sontheimer@uni-konstanz.de)

Important: This syllabus is subject to changes (last update: 20.06.2023)