The pre-master programme consists of 30 EC (5 courses of 6 EC each) and runs for half a year (February till July). The pre-master programme is only to be taken by students with a suitable HBO degree. It is a bridge programme that aims to prepare HBO students for studying at a university. Therefore, it mostly consists of courses that provide training in academic reading, reasoning, and writing, research methodologies and statistics. Each master has its own pre-master programme. Upon successfully completing the pre-master programme you are entitled to enrol in the master programme.
### Inhoudsopgave

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<td>Vak: Quantitative Research Methods (Periode 5)</td>
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This course will provide you with the academic knowledge and skills that are needed for theory-oriented research in the field of business and management. Attention is paid to:

- Academic orientation: you are able to explain the difference between practice, consultancy and research; and also the difference between two types of research: practice-oriented and theory-oriented research.
- Academic reading: you are able to search, select, read, summarize and analyze academic literature starting from a conceptual question.
- Academic topic choice: you are able to choose a topic for a literature review and describe its scientific and societal relevance.
- Academic reasoning: you are able to make an argument, starting from a conceptual question, think from different perspectives about this question and create linkages between concepts.
- Academic writing and presenting: you are able to write and present a literature review that is structured in a clear way, with references complete, correct language and good layout.
- Academic reviewing: you are able to formulate a research question based on your literature review; you are able to review other’s (proposal for) literature review.
**Onderwijsvorm**
The course consists of two elements: lectures and workgroup sessions. The final assignment of the workgroup is to make a literature review. Lectures: During the course six lectures will be given. You are expected to attend all lectures as the workgroup sessions follow the topics of the lectures. Work group sessions: Details about the work group assignments can be found in the manual of your workgroup on Blackboard. Step by step these assignments will help you to write a literature review. Each respective master or (BA) specialisation will have their own work group. Thus, marketing students attend the marketing work group, strategy students the strategy work group, etcetera. In case of small numbers of students, some specialisations may be grouped together.

**Toetsvorm**
There are two types of assessment in this course. The knowledge acquired during the lectures and the designated chapters from the textbook by Turner et al. (see course readings) are assessed by means of an exam. Secondly, students will produce a literature review. During the work groups you will receive further guidance and feedback. There will be three work groups: one for Marketing, one for Strategy and Organisation, and a combined group for MC, ENT, IKM and HRM. More details about the review will be provided by the respective coordinators of the workgroups. The final grade for Academic Knowledge and Skills is based on the exam result and the grade for the review. The student has to achieve of 5,5 for both parts in order to pass this course. In case of a failing grade on the exam, a re-sit will be granted at the end of the next period (period 5). In case of a failing grade on the work group result, it will not be possible to get credits from this course.

**Literatuur**
- Scientific articles, course slides and other reading material are provided online and can be downloaded from Blackboard.

**Vereiste voorkennis**
The course is part of the pre-Master programme of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration. Participation is reserved for students of this pre-master programme and other students who have been granted permission by the programme director of the pre-master programme.

**Overige informatie**
Voor dit vak hoef je je niet zelf in te tekenen. Je wordt door de faculteit ingetekend op het vak en de onderliggende activiteiten.

**Academic Paper**

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Doel vak
To gain experience in designing, executing, and reporting research

Inhoud vak
Academic Paper is the capstone course of the premaster programme. You will conduct a piece of research for which you will go through an entire research cycle. In your academic paper you report on a piece of research that you have conducted. The academic paper is written in accordance with standards and conventions for academic writing. The academic paper is written in English.

Each master and BA specialisation has their own manual for academic paper, which can be found on the Blackboard site.

For a number of masters and specialisations, period 6 is too short to conduct a complete research, and you will start already in period 4 or 5.

Most masters and BA specialisations will start their research already in period 5 while doing the method courses such as Qualitative Research Methods and Quantitative Research Methods. These two courses provide training in research design and data analysis. Please note, however, that your instructors for the methodology courses hold no responsibility for the supervision of, or data collection for the academic paper – these responsibilities remain with your academic paper supervisor. Parallel to these courses you will meet with your supervisor to decide on a research design, and you will start collecting data so that you can devote period 6 mostly to writing up your results.

Those who study Accountancy will take part in the part-time Accountancy programme and have their own arrangements. Please contact Cees Camfferman for details (c.camfferman@vu.nl).

Academic Paper supervision

Master/specialisation Supervisor Email address
Finance Victoria Atanasov (v.atanasov@vu.nl)
Marketing Ingmar Leijen (ingmar.leijen@vu.nl)
BA – Strategy & Organisation Astrid ter Wiel (a.a.ter.wiel@vu.nl)
BA – IKM Marlous Agterberg (m.agterberg@vu.nl)
BA – HRM Evgenia Lysova (e.lysova@vu.nl)
BA – Management Consultancy Koen van Bommel (k.van.bommel@vu.nl)
Entrepreneurship Etienne Schraven (e.schraven@vu.nl)
BA – Financial Management Norman Seeger (n.j.seeger@vu.nl)
BA - TSCM Eirini Spiliotopoulou (e.spiliotopoulou@vu.nl)

Contact your master- or specialisation supervisor for any questions or guidance. If that does not resolve your issues, then contact the overall pre-master programme coordinator Marco van Gelderen at m.w.van.gelderen@vu.nl.

Onderwijsvorm
You will make individual appointments with your supervisor. Those of you who start their academic paper in period 4 or 5 will make appointments with your supervisor in that period.

**Toetsvorm**
Each master and specialisation has its own manual for the academic paper. This manual contains information on such things as assessment criteria, assessment procedures, minimum requirements and expectations, structure of the paper, deadlines, and responsibilities of students and supervisors. This manual will be found in due course on the Academic Paper blackboard site.

In case your academic paper does not pass, you will have the opportunity to submit a new version.

**Literatuur**
The readings involved in producing the academic paper are master/specialisation specific, and mainly consist of journal articles to be gathered by the student. Individual supervisors may supply you with a key starting reference where needed.

**Overige informatie**
For this course you do not need to subscribe. You will be subscribed by the department.

### Organizational Management and Strategy

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<tr>
<td>Coördinator</td>
<td>dr. ir. A.A. ter Wiel</td>
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<td>Examinator</td>
<td>dr. ir. A.A. ter Wiel</td>
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**Doel vak**
After this course you:
- (a) are familiar with what strategy is, why it is important and how strategic thinking and strategic change work in organizations;
- (b) understand what corporate entrepreneurship is and how it is deployed in organizations;
- (c) have learned the basics of human resource theory and practice;
- (d) know about roles of consultants and their relationships with their clients;
- (e) are able to read scientific articles in the field of organizational management and strategy, and to make links between practical examples and scientific literature.

**Inhoud vak**
During the premaster course ‘Organizational Management & Strategy’ (OMS) you will be provided with an introduction to important business topics such as strategy, consulting, entrepreneurship and human resource management.
**Onderwijsvorm**
During the course you may attend six lectures. These lectures are facilitated by six different lecturers from the department ‘Management & Organization’, giving the course an exciting and varied setup. The content of each lecture connects to specific sections of the book that is used in the course and/or additional scientific articles.

**Toetsvorm**
The assessment for OMS consists of an individual exam. The exam is made up of open questions.

**Literatuur**
For OMS you will need a copy of:
The articles that you need to study will be posted on Blackboard. More details can be found in the course manual.

**Overige informatie**
Voor dit vak hoef je je niet zelf in te tekenen. Je wordt door de faculteit ingetekend op het vak en de onderliggende activiteiten.

**Qualitative Research Methods**

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<td>dr. M.H. Rezazade Mehrizi</td>
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<td>Examinator</td>
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**Literatuur**
A collection of book chapters and the materials provided on Blackboard.

**Quantitative Research Methods**

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Doel vak
Objectives of the course
After having completed this course, you must be able to:
• Describe the characteristics of two quantitative research strategies (i.e., surveys and experiments).
• Explain the advantages/disadvantages of these two quantitative research strategies (i.e., surveys and experiments).
• Compare the two quantitative research strategies on their characteristics and advantages/disadvantages (i.e., surveys and experiments).
• Perform essential steps in a quantitative research cycle: develop hypotheses, translate concepts into survey items, and analyze survey data to test the psychometric quality of items and answer a research question/test hypotheses.
• Recognize steps of quantitative research in academic papers.
• Understand what is presented in the Method and Results sections of academic papers with regard to participants and procedure, type of analyses, outcomes.
• Write an academic report according to scientific standards.

Inhoud vak
Course activities
This course consists of lectures, tutorials, and a team research project for practicing various aspects of the quantitative research cycle. The assignment will be described in more detail in a separate document. For benefiting mostly from the course, you need to devote a good number of hours reading the associated chapters of the book, actively take part in the lectures, critically and creatively work with your team members on your research project, and properly understand the concepts and their applications for the final exam.

Onderwijsvorm
Lectures and Lecture Quiz
During lectures, we discuss the main concepts and apply them to real examples. Lectures are on Tuesdays, from 13:30 to 15:15. Each session, you are asked to write down a "reflection quiz". This takes around 15 minutes, in which you are individually asked to write about your own understanding of a specific subject. The aim is to see how you learned about various subjects. You are asked to write "in your own words”, which means trying to stick to your own words and understanding, rather than simply echoing the technical terms. The quiz counts for 15% of your final grade. The criteria for evaluating the quiz are 1) the depth of the answers, 2) the attention to nuances and details, 3) showing critical reflection skills (i.e., not repeating the ideas, but rather providing some personal criticisms of them and arguing for that). We provide you with feedback on your answers, yet not necessarily each week.

Note: You need to bring your own laptop or I-Pad, or any device that can be connected to the internet by which you can easily write down your answers and submit it "electronically".

Tutorials
The tutorial sessions are on Fridays (three groups of around 30 students each). In each tutorial session, we practice the skills that are central to the current week. We also apply the concepts to the group projects. You will receive feedback on your research project on the planned deadlines.

To familiarize you with the research report, some tutorials will require you to critically read and review specific parts of selected articles.
This will help you to see the structure that we use when writing our own reports. A list with articles is provided in the appendix.

Finally, your participation in the tutorials is highly important which is why participation in the tutorial meetings will be graded by the tutorial lecturer. The criteria for evaluating your participation is your preparation before the tutorial, your input during the tutorial, and your timeliness. The participation grade counts for 15% of your final grade.

**Toetsvorm**
Individual exam, team report, quiz

**Literatuur**

**Aanbevolen voorkennis**
SPSS knowledge

**Overige informatie**
Introduction
Quantitative research methods refer to the empirical investigation of social phenomena among large groups of individuals. All kinds of issues can be studied using quantitative methods: what factors influence employee motivation?; how does parental break-up influence children?; when are people most likely to go to the gym? etc. Statistical techniques are used to answer these questions. The objective of quantitative research is to develop and employ mathematical models, theories and/or hypotheses pertaining to phenomena. The process of measurement is central to quantitative research methods because the way phenomena are measured imply how much credibility the results will have and what answers you are able to give. Quantitative research methods are widely used in social sciences such as psychology, economics, sociology, marketing, and political science. The challenge is to analyze the data with the help of statistics and investigating whether the numbers will yield an unbiased result that can be generalized.