



## Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2021

### 8,187: Research Seminar Financial Economics

ECTS credits: 3

#### Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Decentral - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (60%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (20%)

Examination time: term time

Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Examination time: term time

#### Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[8,187.1.00 Research Seminar Financial Economics](#) -- Englisch -- [Rinaldo Angelo](#)

#### Course information

#### Course prerequisites

It is recommended, that students attending the MBF research seminar have already finished their compulsory coursework. The contents of these compulsory courses are considered as prerequisites.

#### Learning objectives

In the research seminar, students practice important skills in scientific research including topic motivation, literature research, paper structuring, empirical design and execution, economic interpretation of findings, and paper presentation. The experience from the seminar and the feedback received during writing will be very relevant for the master's thesis.

#### Course content

The objective of the MBF research seminar is to give students the opportunity to learn how to conduct independent and original research on a current topic of academic interest, present the results, and receive feedback. The research seminar in Financial Economics focuses on deepening our understanding of current issues, such as:

- Asset pricing and market functioning (microstructure) of traditional assets such as bonds, stocks, money market instruments, foreign exchange by applying recent methods such as machine learning and big data.
- Asset pricing and market functioning (microstructure) of new assets such as digital currencies and the role of blockchain and (smart) contract designs.
- How institutional and infrastructural issues such as new regulation (e.g. Basel III) and policy (e.g. Quantitative Easing) as well as new technologies (e.g. FinTech) impact asset prices and market functioning.
- Safe assets (e.g. Gorton (2017): The history and economics of safe assets. Annual Review of Economics)
- Intermediary asset pricing (e.g. He and Krishnamurthy (2013): Intermediary asset pricing. American Economic Review).
- Policy asset pricing, i.e. how (unconventional) monetary and fiscal policy affects financial markets. Of particular interest: the policy effects on money markets (repurchase agreement or repos) and FX rates.
- Market liquidity, for instance (i) market liquidity during the Covid-19 crisis, (ii) illiquidity risk of crypto currencies, and (iii) inventory risk in FX Markets.

In addition to these topics, we welcome suggestions from students. Some high-frequency data sets (e.g. European repurchase agreements, bonds, and FX rates) are available at the chair of prof. Rinaldo or via the HSG library (e.g. Trades & Quotes Data). The individual topic may also have a connection to the student's Master's thesis. During the block seminar participants will be asked to present the main findings of their paper and take the role of a discussant for another paper. The discussant is assigned



by the instructor after receipt of the paper. In addition, participation in the general discussion is expected.

## Course structure

There will be an introductory session in the first week of the semester in St. Gallen. The two-day seminar sessions are currently scheduled to take place off-campus. If the situation does not allow for physically held seminars, we will switch to Zoom presentations.

### 1. Introductory meeting

See Syllabus on Canvas for further information

### 2. Two days of seminar sessions

The date of the seminar will be announced by MBF mail before the bidding start.

## Organization and bidding process

The seminar sessions of the research seminar are scheduled to take place off-campus. The travel by bus as well as the overnight stay and the catering are organized by the MBF programme. The research seminar is subsidized by the MBF corporate partners reducing the individual cost for students to CHF 100. Students will need to pay the fee of CHF 100 after registering for the seminar.

The bidding process for the seminar is organized decentral. The registration link will be distributed by MBF mail a few days before the 1<sup>st</sup> main round of the bidding begins.

Please contact Natascha John (Natascha.john@unisg.ch) in case of any questions regarding the organization and bidding process.

## Course literature

Course material is provided on Canvas. Suggestions for research topics and information about the paper, presentation, and discussion will be presented and discussed in the introductory meeting.

## Additional course information

- Attendance during the introductory lecture is strongly recommended.
- The research paper can be written individually or in groups of two students. Group work is encouraged.
- The deadline for the submission of the research paper is Wednesday, 14 April, 2021 23:59:59 CET. The paper should be submitted as a pdf-file to peteris.kloks@unisg.ch.
- Students are required to be present during all presentations and discussions.
- All students are requested to participate actively in all discussions.

In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in Spring Semester 2021, the course information listed above will be changed as follows:

- The course is conducted online via Zoom
- The recordings of the course are available for 30 days

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- The presentations of the seminar papers are conducted online and are being recorded



## Examination information

### Examination sub part/s

#### 1. Examination sub part (1/3)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Group examination paper with presentation (all given the same grades) (60%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

Individually or in groups of two.

##### Examination-aid rule

Term papers

Term papers must be written without anyone else's help and in accordance with the known quotation standards, and they must contain a declaration of authorship which is a published template in StudentWeb.

The documentation of sources (quotations, bibliography) has to be done throughout and consistently in accordance with the chosen citation standard such as APA or MLA.

For papers in law, the legal standard is recommended (by way of example, cf. FORSTMOSER, P., OGOREK R. et SCHINDLER B., *Juristisches Arbeiten: Eine Anleitung für Studierende*, newest edition respectively, or according to the recommendations of the Law School).

The indications of the sources of information taken over verbatim or in paraphrase (quotations) must be integrated into texts in accordance with the precepts of the applicable quotation standard, while informative and bibliographical notes must be added as footnotes (recommendations and standards can be found, for example, in METZGER, C., *Lern- und Arbeitsstrategien*, newest edition respectively).

For any work written at the HSG, the indication of the page numbers is mandatory independent of the chosen citation standard. Where there are no page numbers in sources, precise references must be provided in a different way: titles of chapters or sections, section numbers, acts, scenes, verses, etc.

##### Supplementary aids

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##### Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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#### 2. Examination sub part (2/3)

##### Examination time and form

Decentral - Presentation (in groups - all given the same grades) (20%)

Examination time: term time

##### Remark

Individually or in groups of two.

##### Examination-aid rule

Practical examination

No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

##### Supplementary aids

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## Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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## 3. Examination sub part (3/3)

### Examination time and form

Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Examination time: term time

### Remark

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### Examination-aid rule

Practical examination

No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

### Supplementary aids

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## Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

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## Examination content

Course evaluation is based on a preparation and presentation of a research paper (60% of final grade), a prepared discussion of another research paper (20% of final grade), and oral participation in the seminar (20% of final grade).

## Examination relevant literature

The relevant literature depends on each individual paper topic.

### Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 12 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 28 January 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 14 (Thursday, 8 April 2021).