

**COMILLAS**

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

Syllabus
2026 - 2027**TECHNICAL SHEET OF THE SUBJECT**

Data of the subject	
Subject name	Trabajo Fin de Máster / Master Dissertation
Subject code	E000014113
Main program	Máster Universitario en Métodos de Investigación para Gestión Empresarial, Economía y Finanzas / Master in Research Methods for Management, Economics and Finance por la Universidad Pontificia Comillas [MIGEEF 25]
Involved programs	Máster Universitario en Métodos de Investigación para Gestión Empresarial, Economía y Finanzas [First year]
Level	Posgrado Oficial Master
Quarter	Anual
Credits	16,0 ECTS
Type	Prueba Final Máster
Department	Facultad de Ciencias Económicas y Empresariales
Coordinator	Elena María Díaz Aguiluz
Office hours	By appointment arranged via email
Course overview	The Master's Dissertation constitutes the integrative activity of the Master's Degree in Research Methods for Management, Economics and Finance. It consists of the individual development of a research project, either academic or applied in nature, through which the student demonstrates the ability to formulate a relevant research question, design and implement an appropriate methodology, analyse and interpret the results, and communicate the conclusions in a rigorous manner. The dissertation is carried out under the supervision of a faculty supervisor and culminates in the submission of a written dissertation and its public defence.

Teacher Information**SPECIFIC DATA OF THE SUBJECT**

Contextualization of the subject
Contribution to the professional profile of the degree
The Master's Dissertation constitutes the integrative activity of the Master's Degree. Its purpose is to provide students with the opportunity to consolidate and further develop the research competencies acquired throughout the programme, while demonstrating their ability to independently design, conduct and communicate an original and methodologically rigorous research project in the field of the social sciences. Through the Master's Dissertation, students integrate and apply the knowledge, competencies and methodological tools acquired during the programme to address a relevant research question, select and justify an appropriate research design, analyse and interpret evidence, and communicate research findings in a rigorous manner. The Master's Dissertation contributes to the development of essential competencies for professional practice in research-intensive environments, both in academia and in public and private organisations, fostering autonomy, critical thinking, research project planning, scientific communication and academic integrity.



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

Syllabus
2026 - 2027

Prerequisites

There are no specific prerequisites other than those established by the general admission regulations of the Master's Degree and the University.

Competencies - Objectives

Competences

Conocimientos o contenidos

CN01	Los fundamentos, controversias, retos y contextos del trabajo de investigación, desde principios y valores democráticos, de justicia y de cuidado y con orientación hacia el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.
CN02	Las posiciones onto-epistemológicas, metodológicas y axiológicas que representan el contexto del trabajo de investigación.
CN03	Los principios y elementos integrantes del diseño de una investigación en el ámbito de la Gestión, la Economía y la Empresa.
CN04	Los principales enfoques, métodos y técnicas de investigación que permiten responder a problemas de investigación propios de la diversidad de áreas y disciplinas ligadas al territorio de la Gestión, la Economía y la Empresa.
CN05	Aspectos teóricos y prácticos del ámbito de la Gestión, la Economía y las Finanzas, como base para el desarrollo de conocimiento nuevo en un contexto de investigación.

Competencias

CM01	Identificar y formular de modo claro, fundamentado y consistente problemas de investigación relevantes tanto desde la perspectiva científico-académica como social, desde los principios y valores democráticos y el marco de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible como referentes.
CM02	Desarrollar el proceso completo de diseño y ejecución de un proyecto de investigación (en elementos y fases del proceso), consistentes con el problema de investigación, generadores de contribución científica relevante, y orientados por el impacto social.
CM03	Aplicar enfoques, métodos, análisis y técnicas de investigación propios de las áreas de Gestión Economía y Finanzas de modo consistente y coherente, desde principios y valores democráticos y con orientación hacia el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.
CM04	Reportar y difundir resultados fundamentados de la investigación a través de una comunicación eficaz, oral y escrita, tanto a la comunidad de investigadores y de profesionales relacionados con las problemáticas estudiadas, como a una diversidad de públicos no especializado.

Habilidades o destrezas

HA01	Aportar perspectivas originales, críticas y holísticas en el desarrollo y aplicación de investigaciones que permitan abordar la complejidad de los problemas de investigación
------	---



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

Syllabus
2026 - 2027

HA02	Apreciar las implicaciones de los enfoques metodológicos alternativos (y sus fundamentos onto-epistemológicos y axiológicos) sobre el diseño de la investigación, sobre el análisis, interpretación y reporte de datos, y sobre la construcción de teorías.
HA03	Evaluar críticamente los diversos métodos y técnicas de investigación, así como discernir su utilidad para cada contexto de investigación.
HA04	Ser consistentes en el uso de las herramientas de investigación en el conjunto dentro del diseño y el contexto de un proyecto de investigación.
HA05	Mantener una actitud reflexiva y consciente sobre sus posiciones como investigadores y de sus necesidades formativas en términos de investigación
HA06	Saber aplicar e integrar fundamentos teóricos y metodológicos para resolver problemas en entornos nuevos y complejos relacionados con los campos de estudio de la Gestión, la Economía y las Finanzas

THEMATIC BLOCKS AND CONTENTS

Contents - Thematic Blocks
Definition and Planning of the Research Project
Definition of the research problem
Formulation of the research question and research objectives
Development of the work plan and timeline
Development of the Research Project
Critical review of the scientific literature
Research design
Data collection and analysis
Interpretation and discussion of the results
Preparation and Defence of the Master's Dissertation
Writing of the dissertation
Public defence of the Master's Dissertation

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

General methodological aspects of the subject
The Master's Dissertation is developed through a supervised independent learning process. Each student will be assigned a faculty supervisor who will guide the development of the research project, providing methodological guidance and academic support throughout the different stages of the dissertation.
The teaching methodology combines students' independent work with individual supervision meetings, progress review meetings, and



continuous feedback on the development of the research project. Students are responsible for planning, conducting, and documenting their research, demonstrating initiative, organisational skills, and autonomy in decision-making.

The learning process culminates in the submission of a written dissertation and its oral defence before an assessment committee.

In-class Methodology: Activities

Individual supervision meetings: Regular meetings between the student and the faculty supervisor to guide the development of the research project, review progress, and provide feedback.

Information sessions: Introduction to the organisation, procedures, and assessment of the Master's Dissertation.

Non-Presential Methodology: Activities

Independent work: Planning and development of the research project, literature review, research design, data collection and analysis, interpretation of results, and preparation of the written dissertation.

Supervised work: Preparation for meetings with the faculty supervisor, incorporation of feedback received, and monitoring of the research work plan.

Preparation for the oral defence: Preparation of the presentation and the oral defence of the Master's Dissertation.

SUMMARY STUDENT WORKING HOURS

CLASSROOM HOURS
AF6. Sesiones tutoriales. Orientación personal o virtual que el docente realiza con los/as estudiantes y que consiste en una ayuda particular integrada dentro del proceso formativo, ayudando así al avance en el proceso formativo.
2.00
NON-PRESENTIAL HOURS
AF9. Trabajo monográfico de investigación Fin de Máster. Desarrollo individual de un trabajo monográfico de investigación que muestre las habilidades, los conocimientos y las competencias adquiridos por el estudiante a lo largo del máster.
400.00
ECTS CREDITS: 16,0 (402,00 hours)

EVALUATION AND CRITERIA

The use of AI to produce full assignments or substantial parts thereof, without proper citation of the source or tool used, or without explicit permission in the assignment instructions, will be considered plagiarism and therefore subject to the University's General Regulations.

Evaluation activities	Evaluation criteria	Weight
-----------------------	---------------------	--------



A1. (50%) Development of the Master's Dissertation under the supervision of the assigned faculty supervisor. A2. (20%) Preparation and submission of the written Master's Dissertation.	A1. (50%) The development of the research project throughout the academic year will be assessed, including the achievement of the established milestones, active participation in supervision meetings, planning ability, autonomy, initiative, and the incorporation of the feedback received. Assessment will consider the planning and management of the project, the degree of autonomy demonstrated by the student, initiative, continuous progress throughout the research process, the ability to address research problems, and the appropriate incorporation of the supervisor's guidance. Compliance with the principles of academic integrity and the responsible and transparent use of artificial intelligence tools will also be taken into account. A2. (20%) Assessment will consider the scientific quality of the dissertation, the formulation of the research problem, the literature review, the appropriateness of the research design, the analysis and interpretation of the results, the coherence of the conclusions, the quality of the writing, the correct use of bibliographic references, and compliance with the presentation guidelines.	70 %
Presentation and public defence of the Master's Dissertation before the assessment committee	The ability to communicate the work clearly and in a well-structured manner, justify the methodological decisions adopted, provide well-founded responses to the questions raised, demonstrate critical thinking, and defend the conclusions reached will be assessed.	30 %

WORK PLAN AND SCHEDULE

Activities	Date of realization	Delivery date
Assignment of the faculty supervisor and initial planning of the Master's Dissertation	First semester	
Development of the research project and ongoing supervision	Throughout the academic year	
Submission of the written dissertation	According to the Master's official academic calendar	
Oral defence of the Master's Dissertation	According to the Master's official academic calendar	



BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

Basic Bibliography

- Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J. M., Bizup, J., & Fitzgerald, W. T. (2016). *The Craft of Research* (4th ed.). University of Chicago Press.
- Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2018). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches* (5th ed.). Sage.
- Saunders, M., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2023). *Research Methods for Business Students* (9th ed.). Pearson.

Complementary Bibliography

- American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.).
- Bryman, A. (2016). *Social Research Methods* (5th ed.). Oxford University Press.
- Yin, R. K. (2018). *Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods* (6th ed.). Sage.