Master in Life Sciences

A cooperation between BFH, FHNW, HES-SO, ZHAW

Module title	Business Administration for Life Sciences		
Code	B1		
Degree Programme	Master of Science in Life Sciences		
Workload	3 ECTS (90 student working hours)		
	- Asynchronous and synchronous distance learning, decentralized teaching: 32 h		
	- Self-study: 58 h (10 h self-study before module starts)		
Module Coordinator	Name: Wendy Karli		
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Lecturers	Gisela Murer, BFH		
	Wendy Karli, BFH		
Entry requirements	No specific entry requirements. B1 contains the basic understanding and application of		
	Business Administration.		
	Note: the content of B1 is the entry requirement of B2.		
Learning outcomes	After completing the module, students will be able to:		
and competences	define the role of enterprises and forms of organization		
	 define SMART objectives to manage / control a (business) entity 		
	understand the functions in enterprises and its organisation		
	• evaluate the enterprise's environment and its impact on the enterprise		
	• describe the basics of financial and cost accounting, "read" and interpret the three		
	financial statements presented in a regular annual report, differentiate overhead		
	from direct costs and take basic decisions based on break-even analyses		
	• understand the concept of Business Modell Canvas to shape an own basic business		
	model		
	compare and evaluate possible financing instruments		
Module contents	The enterprise and the meaning of business models		
	- The St. Gallen Management Model:		
	- Three levels of management		
	- Founding an enterprise and legal structures in Switzerland		
	• The enterprise's environment (outside view): e.g. impact of trends, methodology for		
	analysis (e.g. SWOT-Analysis)		
	• Analysis of an enterprise's strengths and weaknesses (inside view) incl. respective		
	methodologies		
	Markets		
	 What is a market? Basics on demand and supply 		
	- The role, position and possible influence of an enterprise within defined markets		
	(Porters 5 Forces Analysis / Competitors analysis)		
	- Value chains		
	The enterprise 's objectives and strategy		
	- Introduction to strategy		

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	Marketing		
	- Defin	tion of the relevant market(s) / segment(s)	
		P model (product, price, place, promotion) according to McCarthy	
	Productio	n process, outsourcing and quality	
	- Make	or buy vs. outsourcing	
	- Quali	ty as a concept of thinking	
		ent concepts of quality assurance / continuous improvement process,	
		ss optimization	
	Organizat	ion	
	- Proce	ss organization vs. structural organization	
	- Differ	ent processes: management vs. core vs. support processes	
	Sourcing		
	- Suppl	y Chain Management	
	Basics in f	inancial accounting	
	- Reading and understanding a corporate balance sheet / income statement		
		cost accounting	
	- Differ	entiation of direct vs. overhead cost	
	- Break	-even analysis	
Teaching / learning	Central teaching: Online, taught content is grouped along the St. Gallen Business Model.		
methods	Methods employed: Pre-reading assignments, didactic teaching, group assignments, case		
	studies, discussion, family tables. Existing companies serve as transfer models.		
	Local teaching: On site/on campus, single or group assignments: Case studies: application		
		earned analysis and decision-making tools (e.g. PESTEL-Analysis, SWOT etc.)	
	for a specific	company – teaching of application of content / methodology	
Assessment of	100% Online Final Exam with Safe Exam Browser, written (English).		
learning outcome	Closed book with a self-written summary of 1 A4 page printed on both sides or 2 A4 pages		
	printed on on	e side, calculator (without module-relevant information in memory).	
Format	7 weeks		
Timing of the	For ZHAW and FHNW: Spring semester, CW 8 – 14		
module	For BFH and HES-SO: Autumn semester, CW 38 – 44		
Venue	Central Teaching: Online		
		g: at respective school	
Bibliography	Mandatory:	Steingruber P, Capaul R, 2013. Business Studies - An introduction to the	
		St. Gallen ManagementModel (2 nd edition). Cornelsen Verlag, Berlin.	
		Chapters are the same for ebook (4 th edition) and hard copy (2 nd edition)	
		version. There are no significant differences between the 2 nd and 4 th	
		edition.	
	Advised:	Dyson J, 2017. Accounting for Non-Accounting Students 9 th edition).	
Language	English		

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Links to other modules	The contents of the introductory lectures of B1 will be required in B2.
Comments	Pre-reading assignments / preparation is mandatory and required for class.
	Contents treated during local teaching will be included in the exam.
Last Update	16.02.2024