

# Master's thesis in Accounting

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# Important dates

<b>Activity/Milestone</b>	<b>Deadline/date spring semester</b>	<b>Deadline/date Autumn semester</b>
Registration for the course as for other courses	Standard deadline for course registration	Standard deadline for course registration
Information meeting	Around the time for course registration	Around the time for course registration
Register for allocation of supervisor before	1 November	1 May
Supervisors allocated at the latest	1 December	1 June
Supervisor agreement approved	15 January	15 August
Thesis report submitted	1 June <b>or</b> the first weekday thereafter.	2 January <b>or</b> the first weekday thereafter.
Defence at the latest	30 June	31 January

# cand.merc.

**Example** of a programme structure:

Management Accounting			
4. semester	Kandidatspeciale (30 ECTS)		
3. semester	Valgfag (30 ECTS)		
2. semester	Corporate Strategy and Organization Design	Financial Accounting	Advanced Management Accounting
1. semester	Foundations of Strategy	Management Accounting	Foundations of Organization

# Overall Topics

- Management Accounting / Financial Accounting / Auditing
- The construction and use of the financial information of an organization
  - Decision facilitating perspective
  - Decision influencing perspective (performance evaluation)
  - Regulatory perspective
  - Control/audit
- Methodology
  - Economics of Information
  - Theoretical or empirical

# Idea generation

- i. Think of a subject that really interests you (you may also create a short-list).
- ii. Think of what you know and don't know about the subject.
  - can one or more approaches/methods you have learned during your coursework be helpful
- iii. Search in
  - Google/Google Scholar
  - Accounting journals (JAR/TAR/JAE/AOS/JMAR/MAR/...)
  - Practitioner journals (Journal of Accountancy/Revision og Regnskabsvæsen/...)
  - Econ/Fin journals
  - ssrn.com
  - Other resources: e.g., maaw.info (Management Accounting subjects)

When you've found a few papers which are related to a topic in a coherent manner, you can write your draft of a problem statement

# Theoretical thesis

- You need a motivating question
  - How does accounting information affect firms' cost of capital?
    - More specific questions:
      - What are the results when viewed ex-post?
      - What are the results when viewed ex-ante?
      - Do results depend on production?
- Look at the literature – choose one or more models and describe them
- Perhaps try to implement one of the models (numerically)
- Literature review
- What can you say based on the analysis / literature review
- Reflect on your findings and conclude

# Empirical thesis

- You need a motivating question
  - How does option based remuneration affect firm risk taking?
    - More specific questions:
      - Are there differences between firm types/technologies?
      - Do other compensation structures affect results?
- Look at the literature – what are the predictions/results
- Form hypothesis
- Design your empirical tests
- Data?
  - Various databases: <https://libguides.sdu.dk/economics> (especially the company and financial data can be relevant for accounting thesis)
  - Manually collected data, e.g., financial reports, CSR reports or audit reports
- Reflect on your findings and conclude.

# Examples

- Some general topics:
  - Firms' financial reporting in association with regulatory changes or institutional environment
  - The usefulness of financial reporting for specific users (e.g., investor, lender etc.)
  - How accounting information influences supply chain efficiency
  - Compensation structure and sustainability
  - Non-financial reporting (e.g., sustainability reporting, CSR reporting)
  - Incentive systems
  - Strategic Costing
  - Product Costing
  - Audit market competition and policy implications
  
- Can relate to some hot-button issues
  - Accounting for complex financial instruments
  - Equity and stock based compensation
  - Audit market reforms
  - Acquisition – Business Combination



# More Specific Examples

- Performance Evaluation as a tool for Reducing Kompan A/S NWC (MA)
- Project Portfolio Management at Sydbank (MA)
- Cost Allocation and Application as a Management Tool in a Danish Production Company (MA)
- The Theory of Constraints and Activity Based Costing (MA)
- Business Combinations under Common Control: an evaluation of different accounting approaches (FA)
- The Value Relevance of Financial reporting in the time of Crisis (FA)
- Earnings Management and Auditor Independence (FA/A)
- Tax avoidance and its effect on audit fees in light of Panama Papers and EU audit reform (FA/A)
- Computer-mediated Communication and its effect on Audit-client-management (A)
- Mandatory Audit Firm Rotation from the Perspective of the UK Audit Firms' Transparency Reports (A)

# Potential supervisors

## Internal

- Hans Frimor – Financial Accounting, Managerial Accounting and Finance
- Qiang Guo – Financial Accounting and Auditing
- Jakob Infuehr – Managerial Accounting
- Seung Lee – Managerial Accounting
- Andreas Ostermaier – Behavioral Accounting and Corporate Governance
- David Pecha – Financial Accounting
- Christian Rix-Nielsen: Accounting & Finance

## External

- Mogens Nielsen - Financial Accounting and Managerial Accounting
- Doris T. Jørgensen - Financial Accounting and Managerial Accounting

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# Questions?