



PhD Course

Developments in audit research and an approach to getting published

Block course:

24 February, 2026 – 26 February, 2026

Time: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: Moorweidenstraße 18, room: tba

Course instructor: Professor Nicole Ratzinger-Sakel, nicole.ratzinger-sakel@uni-hamburg.de; <https://www.bwl.uni-hamburg.de/wu/professur/team/nicole-ratzinger-sakel.html>

Course value: 2 SWS or 5 LP (category: specialization)

Course registration: Registration is mandatory; please register via STINE until January, 16th 2026; in case of questions/problems please contact: nicole.ratzinger-sakel@uni-hamburg.de; please remember that places will allocated be in order of received registration

Course language: English (maybe parts in German, if only German speakers participate)

Course overview:

The main objectives of this PhD course include:

Introduce students to (recent) developments in audit research; hereby students will get knowledge about a selection of audit research papers/working papers submitted to or published in highly ranked academic journals with the typical econometrical and other problems.

In addition, the course will enhance students' ability to critically review the quality of audit research papers which is a meaningful element of the double-blind review process and extremely important for the quality of their own work. To do so, students will get an idea on which issues reviewers usually focus on. Furthermore, they will get access to review reports of audit papers submitted to highly ranked academic journals giving them an idea what are comments made and how to respond to them.

Moreover, an approach to getting published is introduced to the students thereby tips, tricks and tools for early career researchers are provided.

Finally, students will learn which journals are potential target journals for their own audit research work thereby addressing the ranking of the journals, their main purposes and barriers that have to be considered.

Assignment: Short critical discussion of assigned (working) papers ((working) papers will be assigned to students after their application; each student is expected to critically discuss one (working) paper) and present his/her own research ideas. Grading for students of University of Hamburg Business School will be pass/fail.

Course Content:

Day 1:

Introduction

Overview of a selection of important topics in audit research and resulting papers

Wear the reviewer's hat

Student critical discussion of an audit research paper/working paper

Day 2:

(Con't) Student critical discussion of an audit research paper/working paper

Review reports of highly ranked journals and how to respond

Student presentation of their own research work

Day 3:

(Con't) Student presentation of their own research work

An approach to getting published

Journals to submit your paper to – the game begins