

# Course Outline

## MOVING FORWARD

### PhD Course, 3ECTS, Period III-IV

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**Teachers:** Prof. Ewald Kibler ([ewald.kibler@aalto.fi](mailto:ewald.kibler@aalto.fi)), Prof. Nina Granqvist ([nina.granqvist@aalto.fi](mailto:nina.granqvist@aalto.fi))

**Target group:** 1<sup>st</sup> (and 2<sup>nd</sup>) year doctoral students at the Department of management Studies

**Schedule:** 10 February, 15 March, 12 April, 17 May (each 9-12); locations see in MyCourses

**MyCourses:** [Course: MNGT3-L0002 - Moving Forward, Lectures, 19.1.2022-31.5.2022 \(aalto.fi\)](#)

#### Learning Goals

This introductory course is designed to support 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> year doctoral students in understanding how to build an early-career academic research profile and how to connect to and network with the international academic community. Students will also learn about the main academic conferences, academic journals, and publishing processes in their research field. They also gain practical insights into how to craft of a convincing doctoral research plan and how to apply for research funding from different funding bodies. After the course the students will better understand the different ways a PhD journey can serve as promising foundation for an academic career in their field of interest. In specific, we address questions such as:

- How to build your academic profile and CV from early on?
- How to join and connect with the international academic community
- How to form your own research network?
- How to write a research plan?
- How to frame research focus (during very early stages)?
- How to apply for funding?
- How to author and co-author academic papers?
- How to choose academic conferences and journals for your early-career papers?

#### Learning Content

Following the learning goals, the course is divided into four sessions providing students with understandings and 'tips & tricks' for applying for funding, building an academic profile, connecting to the international academic community, crafting a doctoral research plan, and writing and revising papers to be considered for publication. Class discussions will support this learning and sharing of experiences, ideas, and questions. Teachers in charge will also provide introductions to the key themes and issues, provide the necessary reading materials, and assignments. Please note that the teachers will always implement continuous feedback from students during the course. Hence, some themes and assignments might be adjusted from session to session depending on emerging needs.

**1<sup>st</sup> session (reflections of first semester and funding applications):** In this session, students will be able to share and discuss their experiences of the first two periods of their doctoral studies and give a brief status update of their doctoral research project (planning). The

teachers will also provide some practical insights on writing funding applications for different institutions in Finland and on framing a relevant research focus for a grant application. Here, Prof. Ingmar Björkman will also join as guest speaker to share his vast experience with funding applications, from the perspective of a researcher and a board member of funding bodies.

**2<sup>nd</sup> session (academic profiling and networking):** In this session, students will be able to share insights from their interviews with an early-stage academic on academic profiling and career building. Following this, the teachers and students will discuss more in detail on how to build an academic profile (+CV), communicate research in social media, and connect to the international community already early in the PhD process. The teachers will also share some practical insights on writing a first conference paper, as well as on pitching research and first paper presentations at conferences or workshops.

**3<sup>rd</sup> session (writing a doctoral research plan):** In this session, students will be able to share and discuss their research plan to be used for upcoming funding applications. Teachers and advanced doctoral students will walk through some practical examples of successful funding applications. We will also discuss more in detail the key sections of a doctoral research plan, such as framing research focus, data collection strategy, choice of methods, theoretical implications, publication strategies, budgeting, and research ethics. Using some previous examples of thesis examination processes, the session will also touch upon the main criteria used for the evaluation of a successful doctoral thesis.

**4<sup>th</sup> session (writing, revising, and publishing papers):** In this session, the teachers will share some practical insights on “how to publish” (or better said, on “how to best convince reviewers and the editor about the rigour and relevance of your paper”) by walking through some of their experienced publication processes, both in their early and later-career stage. The teachers will also provide some “tips&tricks” for selecting academic journals for the first thesis papers and for (co-)authoring research paper projects as early-career researcher.

## **Assignments**

All assignments need to be submitted before the respective session in [MyCourses](#).

**Pre-assignment for Session 1:** Write a **free-style reflection essay** (500-800 words) about your personal experiences of the first two periods of the PhD journey **by 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022**. Also, share these **reflections in-class** (max. 5min, max. 3 ppt-slides) in the first session as base for a lively discussion. For instance, let us know what were your main activities and tasks so far related to your PhD journey? What did you enjoy most and found most interesting and useful? What were your main challenges so far and where you think you need more support?

**Pre-assignment for session 2: Interview with an early-stage academic** (post-doctoral researcher, Assistant Professor) of interest. Also, write and submit a short summary (500-800 words) of your key insights from the interview **by 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022**. Exemplary themes informing the interview could be around *how they developed their academic profile and CV from early on, how they formed their own research network, how their first paper publication processes went, how they authored and co-*

*authored papers, or how they chose academic conferences and journals for their early-career papers?*  
That said, these are just examples and you can freely choose the themes that interest you most.

**Pre-assignment 3:** Write a first draft of your **research plan (+CV)** to be used for a grant application targeted at the *Jenna and Antti Wihuri foundation* **by 4 April 2022**. Also, write a short review (300-400 words) of a **research plan of two of your peers** (assigned by the teacher), which includes some of your general ideas and suggestions for how the research plan could be further improved.

**Pre-assignment 4:** Submit a **revised draft of your research plan (+CV)** to be used for the *Jenna and Antti Wihuri foundation* **by 13th May**. Also, submit a PowerPoint presentation (max. 5 slides) that serves as base for a **3-min pitch** in the final session on what is your PhD about or on what is your first research paper about. There will be some practical exercises supporting your “pitch” and more instructions will follow.