



COURSE SYLLABUS

Leading and Owning a Family Enterprise, 7.5 credits

Leading and Owning a Family Enterprise, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Course Code:	JLFN10	Education Cycle:	First-cycle level
Confirmed by:	Council for Undergraduate and Masters Education Apr 4, 2019	Disciplinary domain:	Social sciences
Revised by:	Director of Education Oct 31, 2024	Subject group:	FE1
Valid From:	Jan 19, 2026	Specialised in:	G2F
Version:	4	Main field of study:	Business Administration

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course the students will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

1. Describe common characteristics and challenges of leading and owning family enterprises.
2. Explain the main theories and concepts in family enterprise research and practice.

Skills and abilities

3. Analyze problems in leading and owning family enterprises by applying appropriate knowledge resources.
4. Design sustainable solutions for critical situations in leading and owning family enterprises.

Judgement and approach

5. Evaluate concepts and models used to understand family enterprises.
6. Reflect upon common challenges faced by family enterprises in practice.

Contents

Family enterprises is the most common type of private companies in most countries in the world. A clear majority of small and medium-sized businesses are family enterprises as well as important large listed companies. Leading and Owning a Family Enterprise is an introduction to family businesses. The course is structured in 5 modules. Each module is case based and offers a balanced combination of academic knowledge and a strong connection to practice.

The topic covered in the modules are:

1. Introduction to family enterprises. This module introduces the main characteristics of family enterprises and depict how and why they are different to other type of enterprises.
2. Succession. This module presents succession issues and describe the most common choices and decisions that family business owners and managers face?
3. Leadership. This module discusses the importance of leadership for how to deal with both the family ownership group and the enterprise development.
4. Emotions, relationships and conflicts. This module focuses on the importance of dealing with the emotional side of family business, how to deal with possible conflicts between key actors and

how to face multi-generational issues.

5. Sustainability. This module reflects on the relationship between ethics and behaviors of family enterprises, and a diverse set of business outcomes, such as growth orientation, economic and non-economic goal structure, CSR and philanthropy

Connection to Research and Practice

This is a theoretically as well as practically oriented course in Family business and ownership context. The course provides students with an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and abilities in working strategically in a specified contextual setting. This course opens students to the multiplicity of views on leading and owning family enterprises and its application in actual scenarios. It is based on real case studies and interaction with the industry (family owned businesses) is a vital part of the course.

Type of instruction

The course combines lectures, seminars and case discussions led by professors and researches with guest lectures by managers and/or consultants with long experience. Lectures and seminars require students' active participation. The course is on-campus.

The teaching is conducted in English.

Prerequisites

General entry requirements and 60 credits in Business Administration and/or Economics or the equivalent. Proof of English proficiency is required.

Examination and grades

The course is graded A, B, C, D, E, FX or F.

Group case study work and presentation (ILOs: 2, 3, 5, 6) representing 3 credits.

Individual Assignments (ILOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) representing 2.5 credits.

Individual examination (ILOs: 1, 3, 4, 5) representing 2 credits.

Registration of examination:

Name of the Test	Value	Grading
Group case study work and presentation [†]	3 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Individual assignments [†]	2.5 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F
Individual examination [†]	2 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F

[†] All parts of the compulsory examination in the course must be passed with a passing grade (A-E) before a final grade can be set. The final grade of the course is determined by the sum total of points for all parts of the examination in the course (0-100 points). Grade is set in accordance to JIBS grading policy.

Course evaluation

It is the responsibility of the examiner to ensure that each course is evaluated. At the outset of the course, the programme evaluators in the course must be contacted. In the middle of the course, the examiner should meet the programme evaluators to identify strengths/weaknesses in the first half of the course.

At the end of the course, the examiner should remind students to fill in the survey. The examiner should also call a meeting with the programme evaluators to debrief the course, based on course evaluation data and comments. The next time the course runs, students should be informed of any measures taken to improve the course based on the previous course evaluations.

At the end of each study period, JIBS' Director of Quality and Accreditation crafts a "Course Evaluation Quarter Report", presenting the quantitative results from course evaluation surveys. The Associate Dean of Education, The Associate Deans of Faculty, Programme Directors, and JSA President and Quality receive the report.

Other information

Academic integrity

JIBS students are expected to maintain a strong academic integrity. This implies to behave within the boundaries of academic rules and expectations relating to all types of teaching and examination.

Copying someone else's work is a particularly serious offence and can lead to disciplinary action. When you copy someone else's work, you are plagiarising. You must not copy sections of work (such as paragraphs, diagrams, tables and words) from any other person, including another student or any other author. Cutting and pasting is a clear example of plagiarism. There is a workshop and online resources to assist you in not plagiarising called the Interactive Anti-Plagiarism Guide.

Other forms of breaking academic integrity include (but are not limited to) adding your name to a project you did not work on (or allowing someone to add their name), cheating on an examination, helping other students to cheat and submitting other students work as your own, and using non-allowed electronic equipment during an examination. All of these make you liable to disciplinary action.

Course literature

Zellweger, T. (2017). *Managing the Family Business: Theory and Practice*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

A list of articles will be supplied at the course introduction.