

Valid from 2026.FS

Module description: Learning from Disasters		
Module Code	w.BA.XX.2LFD.XX	
ECTS Credits	3	
Language of Instruction/Examination	English	
Module Description	<p>How could global financial companies have found themselves embroiled by scandals and in need of a government bailout despite sophisticated risk management systems? How could NASA have decided to launch Challenger in hazardous weather conditions, and how was it possible for two U.S. Black Hawks to be shot down by their own troops? These seemingly very different situations are, in fact, similar in many ways. Managing organizational risk posed by low-frequency, high-severity events (catastrophes) requires awareness and an approach that is rarely the subject of traditional business administration courses. This module provides an introduction to organizational risk and the prevailing risk management techniques. The interplay of formal and informal elements is discussed. The focus is on what companies can learn from catastrophes and from researching high-reliability organizations (HRO), as well as on safety/risk culture research. Case studies provide students with the opportunity to analyze and discuss courses of action in well-known and well-documented catastrophes.</p>	
Organizational Unit	Institut für Risk & Insurance	
Module Coordinator	Thomas Gebert	
Program and Specialization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective module (see module table) 	
Legal Framework	Academic Regulations BSc dated 29.01.2009, for the degree programs in Business Administration, International Management, Business Information Technology, Business Law, Business Law and Applied Law, first adopted on 12.05.2009	
Module Category	Module Type Compulsory Elective	Program Phase Main Study Period
Prerequisite Knowledge	Basic knowledge of probability and statistics	
Contribution to Program Learning Objectives (by the concerned Module)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Competence • Methodological Competence • Social Competence • Self-Competence 	

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Contribution to Program Learning Objectives	Professional Competence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowing and Understanding Content of Theoretical and Practical Relevance• Apply, Analyze, and Synthesize Content of Theoretical and Practical Relevance• Evaluate Content of Theoretical and Practical Relevance Methodological Competence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem-Solving & Critical Thinking• Scientific Methodology• Work Methods, Techniques, and Procedures• Information Literacy• Creativity & Innovation Social Competence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written Communication• Oral Communication• Teamwork & Conflict Management• Intercultural Insight & Ability to Change Perspective Self-Competence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-Management & Self-Reflection• Ethical & Social Responsibility• Learning & Change																															
Module Learning Objectives	Students... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand the dynamics of disasters• Understand personal and organizational drivers to disasters• Understand the frameworks developed to manage organizational risk																															
Module Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to decision-making under uncertainty (BA Flight 256)• Anatomy of disaster (Piper Alpha)• Prevention, cognitive narrowing, ambiguous threats, and resident pathogens (Challenger)• Organizational factors and culture (CS)• Enterprise risk management - COSO																															
Links to other modules	This module is linked to the following modules:																															
Digital Learning Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reader• Teaching Videos• Teaching Materials• Case Studies (with Key)																															
Methods of Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interactive Instruction• Exercises• Case Studies• Project Work• Lecture		Social Settings Used: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual Work• Group Work																													
Type of Instruction	<table><tr><th></th><th>Classroom Instruction</th><th>Guided Self-Study</th><th>Autonomous Self-Study</th></tr><tr><td>Large Class</td><td>28 h</td><td>28 h</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Small Class</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Group Instruction</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Practical Work</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Seminar</td><td>-</td><td>-</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>28 h</td><td>28 h</td><td>34 h</td></tr></table>					Classroom Instruction	Guided Self-Study	Autonomous Self-Study	Large Class	28 h	28 h		Small Class	-	-		Group Instruction	-	-		Practical Work	-	-		Seminar	-	-		Total	28 h	28 h	34 h
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Performance Assessment	End-of-module exam		Form	Length (min.)	Weighting
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	Permitted Resources				
	Others	Assessment	Format	Length (min.)	Weighting
	Written Assignment	Grade	Einzelarbeit	0	30.00
	Talk/oral presentation	Grade	Gruppenarbeit	20	40.00
	Written Assignment	Grade	Einzelarbeit	0	30.00
Classroom Attendance Requirement	Other				
	Mandatory for team project presentations; strongly recommended for all sessions. Mandatory if module is conducted online: online attendance during team project presentations.				
Compulsory Reading					
Recommended Reading					
Comments					