

COURSE SYLLABUS

Working Across Boundaries, 5 credits

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Course Code: J2WABJ	Education Cycle: Second-cycle level
Confirmed: Apr 29, 2026	Disciplinary domain: Social sciences
Valid From: Aug 31, 2026	Subject group: Business Administration
	Specialised in: A1N Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
	Main field of study: Business Administration

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course you will be able to:

Skills and Abilities

2.4 Critically assess the reliability of, and ethical implications arising from, the methods, tools, and techniques used to generate insights from data.

3.1 Produce well-structured, professional materials that demonstrate academic proficiency and adapt style and terminology to the target audience.

3.3 Lead and collaborate within diverse teams, showing intercultural competence, networking skills, and professionalism.

Judgement and Approach

4.1 Integrate ethical and sustainability considerations into the critical evaluation of organisational, market, and/or policy issues.

Content

This course prepares you to navigate the academic, interpersonal, and professional challenges of your master studies. As you begin your programme at JIBS, you will encounter new expectations, diverse perspectives, and complex organisational contexts.

This course provides a foundation for critical engagement, collaborative learning, and personal development, helping you build the mindset and habits needed to thrive throughout your program. You will work through three modules that teach you, respectively, how to navigate the boundaries between student and academic life, boundaries among team members, and within organisations.

In "Ethics," you will explore how values, norms, and social order shape interactions and work in the university setting through debate and reflection, you will strengthen your ethical reasoning and understanding of academic rigor. "Teams" introduces you to team structures, group dynamics, and the role of diversity. Through workshops, you will develop strategies to communicate, collaborate and negotiate effectively in teams. In "Individuals and Organisations," you will learn concepts like organisational structures and roles, psychological boundaries and work-life balance to better understand individuals' roles and boundaries within organisations.

By completing this course, you will be equipped to think critically, reflect purposefully, and question constructively. You will be able to organise your studies, engage meaningfully in class discussions, and approach coursework with confidence. You will also gain insight into your values, your role in diverse teams, and your ability to manage your professional development with awareness and responsibility.

Connection to Research

The course draws on contemporary research in organisational behavior, ethics and management. You will engage with scholarly literature and frameworks to analyse issues related to ethical reasoning, team dynamics, and the relationship between individuals and organisations.

Connection to Practice

Through discussions, workshops, and reflective exercises, you will critically engage with research findings and consider how theoretical insights relate them to practical situations in academic and organisational contexts. You will participate in case-based discussions, simulations, and roleplays built around organisational dilemmas. These activities develop your skills in critical thinking, professional communication, collaboration, and ethical judgement. Practice-oriented assessments, including team-based case analysis, group presentations of recommendations, and individual reflective essays, require you to apply theoretical concepts to real-world scenarios, supporting the transfer of knowledge to future academic and professional settings.

Connection to Ethics, Responsibility, Sustainability (ERS)

You will engage with ethical reasoning, responsible teamwork, and the role of individuals within organisations. In the Ethics module, you will analyse ethical dilemmas and academic integrity through debate and reflection. In the Teams module, ERS perspectives are addressed through discussions of responsible collaboration and inclusive communication. In the Individuals and Organisations module, you will reflect on boundary management, and professional responsibility towards broader societal implications of organisational practices. ERS perspectives are applied through discussions, reflection, and collaborative workshops.

Type of Instruction

The course is taught on campus, through lectures, seminars and workshops. It includes individual and group work.

Attendance is expected for scheduled on-campus sessions and may be compulsory for some sessions.

Language of instruction is English.

Entry Requirements

The applicant must hold at least a bachelor's degree (equivalent to 180 ECTS credits from an accredited university) with a major in Business Administration or Economics, or the equivalent. Proof of English proficiency is also required.

Examination and Grades

The course is graded Pass (G) or Fail (U).

Individual written exam (ILOs: 2.4, 3.1, 4.1), representing 3 credits, will be evaluated through an individual exam, consisting of two parts:

In the first part of the exam, you will answer questions on ethical responsibility in academic contexts. You are expected to demonstrate your ability to evaluate ethical implications, apply relevant concepts, and present your responses clearly and in an academically appropriate manner.

In the second part of the exam, you will write a reflective essay based on organisational cases that require you to analyse situations using course concepts and theories and propose appropriate resolutions. You will be assessed on your ability to apply structured reasoning, engage critically with the material, and communicate well-founded arguments in a professional manner.

Group assignment (ILO: 3.3), representing 2 credits, will be assessed through active seminar participation. You will demonstrate your ability to collaborate effectively, contribute to team processes, and communicate ideas professionally in diverse group settings.

All parts of the compulsory examination in the course must receive a passing grade before a final grade can be set. Grades are set in accordance with JIBS grading policy.

Registration of examination:

Name of the Test	Value	Grading
Individual written exam	3 credits	G/U
Group assignment	2 credits	G/U

Course Evaluation

The course evaluation is important for the continuous improvement of JIBS' courses and degree programmes. The examiner is responsible for ensuring that each course is evaluated, but as a student you are essential in this process. We rely on your input to understand how we can improve. At the outset of a course the student representatives are identified. In the middle of the course there should be an opportunity for the student representatives (or a larger group of students) to share reflections on how the course is progressing. At the end of the course, you will get a course evaluation survey to fill in. The examiner will then host a debrief meeting with the student representatives to discuss improvement opportunities, based on the course evaluation data and comments.

Other Information

As a JIBS student, you are expected to maintain strong academic integrity. You must act 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 use someone else's work without proper citation or transparency about where it came from, you are committing plagiarism. Cutting and pasting without clearly acknowledging the original source is a textbook example of plagiarism.

You must also act responsibly when using Generative AI tools. Acting responsibly includes staying informed about the school's AI-policy, understanding what rules apply in each course, and properly declaring or disclaiming any use of generative AI. You are accountable for all content you submit, including AI-assisted material. Using AI without disclosure or beyond what is allowed in a course is a violation of academic integrity and will be subject to the same academic consequences as other forms of misconduct, which may include failing the assignment, failing the course, or further disciplinary action according to school policy.

The Jönköping University library offers online and in-person support for assisting you in identifying relevant sources, using and referencing literature, and creating texts that meet academic standards and integrity.

Other forms of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) adding your name to a project you did not contribute to (or allowing someone to add their name), cheating during an examination, helping other

students to cheat or submitting other students' work as your own, and using non-allowed electronic equipment during an examination. All such actions may result in disciplinary measures.

Course Literature

Please note that the course literature may be revised up to eight weeks before the start of the course.

Will be announced at the beginning of the course.