

OPM 741 Applied Seminar Supply Chain Management (FSS 2025)

“Current Issues in Supply Chain Management”

General Information:

1. The goal of this seminar is to introduce the participants to the conducting of problem-solving scientific research in the field of supply chain management. It thereby prepares them for the writing of an application-oriented Master thesis in this field.
2. Participants will work in teams of (at least) two students on a real-life supply chain management issue, defined in collaboration with a company. The specific topics are listed below. The task of the seminar participants is to propose a solution to this issue, based on scientific literature and their own research. Each team presents its recommendations in the corresponding company as well as in class. In addition, each team explains its analysis in a written report (about 25-30 pages).
3. For the in-class presentations (20 min + 20 min discussion), each team also acts as a discussant for one of the other teams. The discussants are responsible for critically assessing the work presented and for opening the ensuing discussion.
4. A **kick-off meeting** for all participants will be held on **Monday, 2 December, 10:15 CET** (room O 129). During this meeting, general guidelines for conducting a scientific literature review as well as for practice-oriented research will be discussed. The time until the in-company kick-off meeting is available for theoretical preparation of the assigned topic.
5. A **kick-off meeting** at the respective **company** will be held around the **beginning of February**. The exact date will be fixed once the respective team has been selected. During the kick-off meeting, the team will meet the responsible company contact person.
6. Teams will work on their assigned topics offsite. The company contact person is available for scheduled online or on-site meetings and will provide access to relevant data. It is the team's responsibility to manage communication with the company contact person.
7. The written reports must be **submitted** electronically and as a hard copy in twofold by **Tuesday, 6 May**.
8. The **presentation** at the respective **company** will be held **between 12 – 21 May**.
9. The **in-class presentations** at the university will be held in block format on **Friday, 23 May** (room and exact times to be announced). Attendance at all presentations is obligatory.
10. The final grade for the seminar is composed of the following components: Written report (60%), presentation (30%), contribution to discussion (10%).

11. The report and the presentations should be delivered in the language stated in the project description (English/German).
12. There is a **joint application process** for all seminars offered by the chairs of the Area Operations Management. In FSS 2025, this includes the following seminars:
- OPM 741: Applied Seminar Supply Chain Management (Chair of Supply Chain Management), **topics labeled with 'L'**
 - OPM 760: Project Seminar Operations Analytics (Chair of Production Management), **labeled with 'P'**
 - OPM 761: Research Seminar Production Management (Chair of Production Management), **labeled with 'P'**
 - OPM 781: Research Seminar Service Operations (Chair of Service Operations Management), **topics labeled with 'S'**
 - OPM 792: Applied Seminar Procurement (Endowed Chair of Procurement), **topics labeled with 'B'**

Detailed information on the seminar topics is available on the home pages of the respective chairs. In their application, students can indicate three to five preferred topics from all seminars.

13. Applications are open within the period **8 – 22 November**. Students must join the ILIAS group [Seminar Application Area Operations](#) and complete the **application form** there.
14. Additionally, students applying for a topic of OPM 741 must send an e-mail to scm@uni-mannheim.de, titled "Seminar Application Documents", including a **current CV and a grades overview**. If you are applying for topics of the other chairs, please check if you must send documents to them as well.
15. For any questions concerning the seminar, feel free to contact Katrin Waßmuth at katrin.wassmuth@uni-mannheim.de.

Seminar topics:

Participants will be assigned in teams of (at least) two to one of the in-company topics listed below. Join the above ILIAS group for detailed project descriptions and company backgrounds.

Topic L01:

From Waste to Worth: Strategies for Reducing Waste in Online Grocery Delivery

Topic L02:

Inventory Optimization with Safety Stock Recommendations

Topic L03:

The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Theoretical Supply Chains

Topic L04:

Generative Artificial Intelligence in Logistics