

Master Thesis at Volvo Group Purchasing – Volatility in the Raw Material Markets

Please note:

- *This assignment is a student thesis. In order for your application to be considered you should currently be a university student eligible to complete a Master thesis as part of your university program.*
- *Students can apply by themselves or in an already formed group.*
- *Below presented topics are to be defined based on existing information and suggestions by all involved parties*

About us:

General GTP text will be added by the recruitment team!

The raw material team

If you're looking for an exposure to geopolitics, environmental challenges, human rights, international trade and finance and new technologies, then raw material and commodity markets are for you!

Raw materials are critical to ensure the Volvo group performance and sustainability targets. As part of business controlling at Volvo Group Trucks Purchasing, the Raw Material Team develops and deploys raw material market analysis, tools, methods, and governance guidelines. Our expertise covers a wide scope of raw materials involved in the production of Volvo Groups current and future products. Going from traditional steel, base metals or plastic to the emerging rare earths and cobalt for batteries, we support the purchasing team with insights on prices, market structure, regulation, and sustainability.

You'll be supporting a team of passionate raw material markets specialists with a foothold in Asia, Europe, and Americas. It is the perfect opportunity for you to evolve in a multi-cultural environment and get exposure to various functions within Volvo Group Truck Purchasing organization.

Description of thesis work

The master thesis will be performed in close collaboration with commodity market specialists within the raw material team, but also with other stakeholders within the Volvo Group.

Topic: For the past three years the prices of raw materials have been on a roller coaster. In a global world ruled by uncertainty, volatility is queen. Those prices fluctuations have been directly impacting the Volvo group financial performance. For the raw material team to refine its guideline to Volvo Group Truck Purchase organization, we would like you to dig deeper into the topic of volatility in raw material prices.

Here is an idea of our expectations on this project:

I. Definition & characterization of volatility

You are expected to make a full analysis of historical price movement for the scope of raw material covered by the team. That implies looking at the factors affecting the volatility, identifying regional impacts and evaluate the influence of financial markets. Define a methodology to measure future volatility intensity.

II. Impact analysis

In a second phase, we would like you to look at the impact of raw materials 'volatility to Volvo Truck purchasing performance. Would there be a threshold, a metric that would trigger a change in raw material strategy?

We would happy to engage in a dialog and potential redefine the scope of the research with you.

Suitable background

The ideal student(-s) will possess good communications skills in English, shows a high level of initiative, is self-driven, has excellent analytical capabilities.

Knowledge within the commodity markets and financial modelling is not mandatory but will be considered as an advantage.

A background in the fields of supply chain and purchasing will also be seen as an advantage.

Thesis Level

Master thesis

Number of students

1 or 2 students.

The thesis can start January 2022 and with expected completion in end of June 2022.

Language

English

Tutor:

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