

Introduction Research Methods (F710362)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

lecture

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Baert, Stijn

EB21

lecturer-in-charge

Vanderhoudelingen, Véronique

EB25

co-lecturer

Verlet, Dries

EB25

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management](#)

crdts

offering

5

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Research motivation, research question, theory formation, data gathering, qualitative analysis, quantitative analysis, research report, statistics, information skills, writing skills

Position of the course

This course unit offers students an overview of the key concepts and essential lines of reasoning and techniques in public administration research

Contents

1. Characteristics and types of public administration research
2. Research ethics
3. Societal and scientific relevance of a research topic
4. Problem definition
5. Theoretical framework, operationalisation and research design
6. Information skills
7. Writing skills
8. Introduction to data gathering via existing sources, surveys, experiments and case studies
9. Introduction to qualitative data gathering
10. Introduction to quantitative data gathering
11. Introduction to statistics: descriptive statistics, univariate analysis and bivariate analysis
12. Research report

Initial competences

Final competences

- 1 Knowledge and an understanding of essential concepts and lines of reasoning in public management research
- 2 Formulating relevant and clear research questions
- 3 Consulting and selecting relevant scientific sources
- 4 Basic understanding of data gathering
- 5 Basic understanding of data analytics

- 6 Reporting on a research project
- 7 Writing a research proposal
- 8 Judging the quality of relevant scientific research
- 9 Knowledge and an understanding of (the application of) essential concepts and lines of reasoning in statistics (ordering, compiling and graphical representation of data; types of variables; frequency distributions; position and dispersion; correlation and causality; contingency table; correlation, analysis of variance)
- 10 Comprehensive reading and summarising a Dutch or English scientific text
- 11 Academic writing in Dutch; focus on structure, style, language and APA-references.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Bestuurskundig onderzoek

Indicative price: € 33

Optional: yes

Language : Dutch

Author : Sandra Van Thiel

ISBN : 978-9-04690-803-7

Number of Pages : 240

Oldest Usable Edition : 3e (2015)

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

References

The learning material lists further references

Course content-related study coaching

Students can contact the lecturers regarding any content-related questions; they are available before, during and after the lectures, and can be contacted by e-mail

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

End-of-term evaluation: written examination (open book)

Permanent evaluation: thematic assignments (written reports and analyses)

Calculation of the examination mark

End-of-term evaluation 50% and continuous assessment 50%

