

Research Methods Applied in Public Administration and Management (F000817)

Due to Covid 19, the education and assessment methods may vary from the information displayed in the schedules and course details. Any changes will be communicated on Ufora.

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

Credits 3.0

Study time 90 h

Contact hrs

24.0h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2021-2022

A (Year)

Dutch

Gent

seminar

10.0h

self-reliant study activities

7.5h

lecture

10.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2021-2022

Danneels, Lieselot

EB25

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2021-2022

crdts

offering

Master of Science in Teaching in Economics (main subject Public Administration and Management)

3

A

Master of Science in Public Administration and Management

3

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

research methods, research techniques, methodology

Position of the course

The aim of this course is to enable students to critically analyse and evaluate scientific research and to set up and do scientific research of good quality. In previous courses, students focused on the different research methods (qualitative and quantitative) and the different research phases (problem definition and research design, data collection and analysis, and reporting results). The aim of this course is to give students the opportunity to further develop their research competences, on the one hand for conducting scientific research for their master's dissertation, and on the other hand for developing a general critical attitude towards scientific research.

Contents

The course is organised in clusters linked to the different research phases (see above). In each phase, the course provides theoretical frameworks which students will actively apply themselves. The aim is to activate the competences obtained in previous methodology courses, supplementing and strengthening these where necessary. More specifically, we deal with the following aspects:

- 1 Research design: writing problem statement, choosing right design and developing a research plan
- 2 Doing research: selecting and using data collection methods and analytical methods (incl. data management) in function of the research questions
- 3 Reporting and presenting research

Initial competences

Basic knowledge of research methods and techniques in the social sciences and certain competences acquired in earlier bachelor programmes that allow access to this master. This course builds further on certain competences acquired in the research method courses in the bachelor and the linking courses.

Final competences

- 1 Reporting critical reflections on qualitative and quantitative research (conducted by the student, or existing research), in particular regarding the problem definition, research design, data collection and analysis and reporting, and the coherence between these elements

- 2 Formulating a relevant problem definition for conducting own research in the public administration and/or public management domain
- 3 Setting up own qualitative and/or quantitative empirical research in a self-developed research design focusing on a public administration and/or public management theme
- 4 Planning data collection and analysis for an own research project in a way that is coherent with the research design
- 5 Reporting research results in a scientific, ethically responsible and legible way
- 6 Suggesting points for improvement for the different phases of the research of fellow students (problem definition, research design, data collection and analysis and reporting)

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, Self-reliant study activities

Extra information on the teaching methods

During the lectures, which follow the different research phases, important research components, methods and techniques are refreshed in an interactive way. During working sessions, students make a critical reflection of their own (planned) master's thesis by applying frameworks from the lectures. They give feedback to fellow students and receive feedback on their own work. In preparation of the working sessions, students autonomously use methodological sources and prepare critical reflection notes of their own and fellow students' work.

Learning materials and price

Presentations (freely available on Ufora, to be printed yourself)
 Texts and course materials (freely available on Ufora, to be printed yourself)

References

McNabb, David. 2008. Research Methods in Public Administration and Nonprofit Management: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches. M.E. Sharpe
 Mortelmans, D. 2013. Handboek Kwalitatieve Onderzoeksmethoden. Leuven: Acco
 van Thiel, S. 2010. Bestuurskundig Onderzoek - een methodologische inleiding. Bussum: Coutinho

Course content-related study coaching

Interactive sessions with guidance of different groups of students. Possibility for questions before, during and after sessions.

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

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

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

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Individual assignments during the academic year
 Participation = preparation for and active participation during interactive working sessions

Calculation of the examination mark

50 % on assignments
 50 % on participation & active involvement in the sessions
 students need to score at least half of the points on both components in order to pass for this course.
 students that have not participated actively in the sessions cannot pass for this course.
 students that only failed the individual assignments can get a second chance - their partial

score on the sessions then remains valid.