

## Introduction Research Methods (F710362)

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

|                    |  |                    |        |
|--------------------|--|--------------------|--------|
| <b>Course size</b> | <i>(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)</i> |                    |        |
| <b>Credits</b> 5.0 | <b>Study time</b> 150 h  | <b>Contact hrs</b> | 45.0 h |

### Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2020-2021

|                |       |      |                   |        |
|----------------|-------|------|-------------------|--------|
| A (semester 2) | Dutch | Gent | lecture           | 22.5 h |
|                |       |      | seminar           | 17.5 h |
|                |       |      | guided self-study | 5.0 h  |
|                |       |      | online lecture    | 0.0 h  |

### Lecturers in academic year 2020-2021

|                              |      |                    |
|------------------------------|------|--------------------|
| Beelaerts, Michiel           | EB25 | staff member       |
| Baert, Stijn                 | EB21 | lecturer-in-charge |
| Vanderhoudelingen, Véronique | EB58 | co-lecturer        |

### Offered in the following programmes in 2020-2021

|   | crdts | offering |
|---|-------|----------|
| <a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Management</a> | 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**

Guided self-study, lecture, seminar, online lecture

#### **Learning materials and price**

Van Thiel, S. (2015): Bestuurskundig onderzoek - Een methodologische inleiding (third edition). Bossum: Coutinho

The lecturers provide students with a reader

The lecturers make the powerpoint presentations, used in the lectures available on Ufora

Estimated total price: 44 euro

#### **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

#### **Evaluation methods**

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period**

Written examination

#### **Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period**

Written examination

#### **Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation**

Report

#### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation**

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%