

## **Design, management, conduct and reporting of empirical research studies: Attendance**

### **Course description**

#### **Language of instruction**

English.

#### **Course content**

This generic methods course will be relevant to a diverse range of disciplines, research questions and specific research projects. It will focus on key aspects of the design, management, conduct and reporting of research studies and will be relevant to observational and experimental research, using qualitative and/or quantitative research methods. Key topics covered will include: how to define a research question; experimental and quasi-experimental research design; sampling strategies; integrating mixed methods; protocols, analysis plans and study registration; ethics and governance; research integrity; managing research teams; interdisciplinary research; involving public and professional stakeholders; reporting guidelines.

The main aims of this course are (i) to understand the key stages in the design, management, conduct and reporting of a research study; (ii) learn key skills in the management and conduct of research studies and (iii) be aware of key factors determining the success and failure of research studies. Examples of successful and failed projects will be examined in detail.

#### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course the candidate should have the following learning outcomes defined in terms of knowledge, skills and general competence:

##### *Knowledge*

Participants will gain knowledge of:

- How to specify a research question
- Strengths and weaknesses of alternative research designs and methods
- Open science platforms and key issues in research integrity
- Study registers and reporting guidelines
- Successful strategies for the conduct of complex research projects
- The importance of project planning, management and documentation

##### *Skills*

After completion of the course, the candidate can:

- Specify a research question

- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of alternative research designs and methods
- Access guidance on registering, documenting and reporting research

### *General competence*

After completion of the course, the candidate can:

- understand the importance of the transparent and documented conduct and reporting of research studies
- improve the quality of research projects in which they are involved through a broad understanding of fundamental issues in research design and conduct and knowledge of key resources to support research management and reporting

### **Study period**

Spring, 10-16 March 2016.

### **Credits (ECTS)**

1.5 or 3 ECTS.

### **Specific terms**

#### **Course registration and deadlines**

On [Studentweb](#). The candidates must sign up for the course at least 14 days in advance. The maximum number of participants is 20.

#### **Recommended previous knowledge**

Master Degree or equivalent in disciplines relevant to educational sciences, psychology and public health.

#### **Compulsory Requirements**

Pass with 80 % attendance of the lectures, seminars and group work and demonstrations/practical activities, submission of essay and approval of course paper.

#### **Form of assessment**

The evaluation procedures of the Faculty of Psychology will be applied.

Pass or Fail.

Pass with 80 % attendance of the lectures, seminars and group work (1.5 ECTS). Candidates may also complete a paper (10-15 pages) applying the concepts to a specific project. The paper is to be evaluated (pass/fail) by the course coordinator or the appropriate course instructor (further 1.5 ECTS, optional).

## Who may participate

Academic staff and PhD students at the Faculty of Psychology, University of Bergen, and Uni Health can attend.

## Additional information

### Supplementary course information

#### Teaching Methods and Extent of Organized Teaching

Lectures, discussion groups, seminars.

Own activity:

Candidates will apply the learnings of the course as it progresses to develop an outline protocol and study management plan for a research project, with review through discussion with the course co-ordinator and group members.

**Contact** Administrative staff Maria Luttges Mathieu: maria.luttges@uib.no

### Academic responsibility

Laurence Moore, Professor II GHIG; Director, MRC/CSO Social and Public Health Sciences Unit, University of Glasgow.

### Reading list

Bryman, A. *Social Research Methods*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition 2012)

De Vaus, D. *Research Design in Social Research*. (London: Sage Publications, 2001).

Munafò M., Noble S., Browne W. J., Brunner D., Button K., Ferreira J., et al. Scientific rigor and the art of motorcycle maintenance. *Nat Biotechnol* 2014; 32:871–3.

Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research <http://www.equator-network.org/>

Giacomini M Interdisciplinarity in health services research: dreams and nightmares, maladies and remedies. *J Health Serv Res Policy*. 2004 Jul;9(3):177-83.

Edwards P, Roberts I, Clarke M, DiGuseppi C, Pratap S, Wentz R, Kwan I: Increasing response rates to postal questionnaires: systematic review. *BMJ* 2002, **324**:1-9.

### Course location

University of Bergen, Christiesgt. 13, Bergen.