

First and second year of the Executive Master in EU Studies

Module Methodology of Research Work (two academic years)

This module empowers the participants to develop and improve their ability to become part of any given academic community and to write a Master thesis according to all standards of research work. It is dedicated to develop all necessary elements and good practices for the preparation and completion of an original research work such as a Master thesis.

The first year introduction part deals with the basics of research work. General skills of scientific work in Social Sciences will be repeated (BA – grade as precondition), acquired and exercised. A major revision of basics of scientific work take place.

The second year course deals in more depth with the methodology of research work. Advanced methodological classes take place in parallel in order to prepare the participants to write their Master thesis in one field of specialization.

During the first year participants acquire all skills and competences to choose in the second year a relevant subject from the fields they have already studied, define a own research question and set up the title and an outline of their thesis.

In working groups and via intensive contact with their supervisor participants learn to develop hypothesis and defining methods of their research work. The methodological classes prepare and accompany the academic writing on one research question (Master Thesis).

1. Basics (first academic year : October – June)

Theme/Topic:	Methodology of Research Work (general introduction)
Experts:	Dr. Oliver Höing, University of Cologne
Character:	Compulsory (introduction, first part of the module)
ECTS Credits:	6 ECTS Credits in total (for two years)
Teaching methods:	Lecture (introduction), course material and videos online, webinars, active self-studying,
Assessment methods:	no grading during first year (evaluation of outlines, exposés, research papers and presentations during the second year)

European and International Studies

- Skills and competences: General introduction into research work: e.g.
- Research for literature, links and official data sources
 - How to write an assignment/essay?
 - How does a literature review look like?
 - How to develop a research question?
 - How to select cases?
 - How to structure a scientific work?
 - How to develop a theoretical frame ?
 - What is a hypothesis?
 - Scientific standards of quoting and making references

2. Methodology of research work (second academic year: June to April)

- Theme/Topic: Methodology of Research Work (advanced methodological classes in the chosen field of specialization)
- Experts: **Prof. Ingolf Pernice**, Walter Hallstein-Institut, Berlin
Mr. Edgar Lenski, Federal Chancellery
Mr. Ralf Kanitz, Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy,
Dr. Mattias Wendel, Walter Hallstein-Institut, Berlin
Prof. Wolfgang Wessels,/Mr. Thomas Traguth University of Cologne,
Jean Monnet Chair/ CETEUS
Prof. András Inotai/ Dr. Tamas Szigtvári, Institute for World
Economics (Budapest)
- Character: Compulsory (advanced part of module),
- ECTS Credits: 6 ECTS Credits in total (for two years)
- Teaching methods: take place in either the whole class groups, or in parallel for specialisation groups, additional: individual consultations with supervisors
- Lectures, material and videos online, discussions during all presence workshops of the second year and via guided forum
 - methodological sessions introducing the participants into the particularities of research work, discussions of drafts (hypothesis, outlines, exposés, material of the Master thesis)
 - Webinars
 - interdisciplinary approach is strengthened/supported
- Assessment methods: active participation in workshop and forum discussions, evaluation of outlines, exposés, research papers and presentations (preparation for Master Thesis)

Skills and competences:

- developing, presenting and discussing an own research design based on a theoretical frame
- learning more about methodological issues such as comparative analysis, multicultural and –language dialogue, as well as interdisciplinary work;
- advanced exercises in scientific arguing e.g. “debating society exercises”, legal reasoning and arguing,
- advanced exercises in legal reasoning and arguing /practicing the procedure at the ECJ, reading judgments and understanding of proceedings at ECJ (
- advanced exercises in how to write a legal writ, a legal opinion or a policy brief
- advanced exercises in how to write abstracts and conclusions

Literature and links

Will be uploaded on the e-learning platform.