

Module description

Title	Guided Research Project in Europe					Module No.	0
Semester	Frequency	Duration and interval	ECTS credits	Student effort	Language(s)	Persons responsible	
3rd semester	Annually in winter semester	Weekly	30 or -	In-person attendance: 16 hrs. Self study / research / supervision: 664 hrs. Test preparation: 220 hrs.	English	Institute for European Urban Studies, all professors	

Module type/applicability	Prerequisites	Examinations
European Urban Studies (M.Sc.) Core module European Urban Studies	Accepted research proposal	Evaluation: Research project: research report (grade 70%) Presentation of the research report in the colloquium (grade 30%) Attendance certificate: Seminar "Project Supervision" (two short reports, research diary)

Qualification goals

The purpose of this semester is to carry out an independent, but temporally and technically limited research project through the student's own field research. - The preparation of the "Guided research project in Europe" begins in the first semester with the development of a research plan and a research proposal. The proposal will identify the subject of the research, its methodology, objectives and theoretical design, as well as access to the field and potential difficulties. – The "Guided research project" module provides students with the necessary research security and supervised research experience necessary for the development of research projects in general and doctorates in particular. The aim is to enable students to critically explain and reflect on the design and findings of research, take advantage of the flexibility in designing research and continue their development under the guidance of a mentor.

Further goals include the strengthening of key interdisciplinary competencies such as project management, self-organisation and, in particular, communicating research findings. Students will acquire the following integrated key competences: competence in scholarly communication, organisational competence, methodological competence, intercultural competence, language competence and project management.

Course content

In this semester, given a pre-determined thesis and methodology, all of the critical steps of a research project will be put into practice. This module focuses on the methodological content of qualitative social research and to a limited extent also on quantitative and mixed-method approaches. All topics and disciplines represented at the Institute for European Urban Studies may be covered. For research projects abroad, institutional collaboration, for example through the partner universities of the degree programme, will be recommended and arranged. Ultimately, however, the student is responsible for accessing the field of research and can independently organise additional contacts and connections. Thus, the students themselves independently develop their own special fields within urban planning.

Teaching and learning methods

The feasibility and quality of the research project is assessed in advance by a research plan and proposal. The feasibility assessment involves ensuring access and presenting an appropriate and realistic research question, including a work plan and timetable. These will be refined over the course of the 1st and 2nd semesters. The proposal is accepted by the review committee and assigned to a supervising professorship. In consultation with the supervising professorship, a (virtual) reporting and consultation meeting will be agreed on during the "Project Supervision" seminar in the 3rd semester to discuss any potential problems in the fieldwork and possibly to adapt the proposal. The Moodle learning platform provides both structure and an integrated tool for web conferences (blended learning) and ensures regular exchange between students, seminar leaders and supervisors, as well as between the students themselves. The seminar focuses on supporting and promoting the research process at various levels of exchange and encouraging critical self-reflection: web conferences in different constellations (e.g.: students in small groups, small groups with seminar leaders, students and supervisors, involvement of experts, online full sessions), organisation and moderation, as well as recording of conferences, and keeping a research diary. This seminar will be framed by a kick-off meeting in Weimar (presentation of research proposal, expectations) and a concluding workshop to present experiences in the research process and critical reflection on original research design based on the two short reports submitted during the seminar. The format of the presentation is open and can range anywhere from a short film to a poster. This will be followed by another colloquium in Weimar, in which to present and discuss the research findings on the basis of the final research report. As an alternative to the research report, a publication, e.g. an article for a scientific journal or in conference proceedings, can be written in consultation with and in collaboration with the supervising professorship.

Notes/additional information

Courses included in the module

Credit
hoursECTS
credits

Research Project: Research Project
Seminar: Project Supervision

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