

Welcome to the PhD Preparation Program of Open University the Netherlands (OU). The program consists of different modules and will be taught during a number of sessions

By the end of the program, the participants have written a research proposal under supervision of a supervisor from RU or OU. The program goals are:

- Learning to formulate a scientifically relevant research proposal related to one of the research topics of MST (OU)
- Developing academic skills and an academic attitude, necessary for conducting PhD research

The seminars consist of the following five modules.

- 1) Academic writing; This module is dedicated to the academic writing skills, necessary for successfully composing a research proposal. This module will consist of online sessions, as well as face-to-face peer review sessions. The Online PhD Writing course focuses on paragraphing, conciseness, verb matters, sentence structure, readability and hedging. It also briefly looks at the structure of IMRAD papers (limitations and generalizations). Further, it explores corpus linguistics which is an online linguistics tool and can aid you in self-reflecting on your writing. Each session includes theory, samples and a short quiz. Students are encouraged to submit weekly writing samples which will be analyzed in the weekly sessions. Further, each student will receive individual linguistic feedback on submissions. Participating students are also encouraged to actively engage in the sessions and students will be asked to contribute either verbally or by typing thoughts and answers into the webinar text box. As the course is heavily structured around your actual writing, common linguistic issues will be explored.
- 2) Research design; This module is dedicated to some basics regarding academic research. Contents include:
 - a) Project management. What to expect when you start a PhD? And how to finish successfully? Getting a PhD degree is a heavy job. In this workshop we show how to plan the different phases of the PhD project. We also pay attention to time management, both from day to day and on the long term. It is important to work efficiently, to manage your promotors but also your colleagues (/bosses) and last but not least your family and friends. Last but not least, your business network may provide you with valuable ideas and data.
 - b) Research ethics and data management. New developments in privacy regulations and integrity pose new dilemmas. On the one hand researchers must be transparent and data sources must be traceable. On the other hand, privacy of individuals in experiments and interviews must be guaranteed. This balancing act must be carefully considered from day 1 and be addressed in the research proposal.
 - c) Research paradigms. Management is a very diverse field and research takes many shapes and forms. When writing a PhD thesis you must position yourself in the field. A paradigm in this context is theory that guides the way we do things, or more formally establishes a set of practices. In other words, the choice of paradigms has a major impact on your research. Paradigms include research epistemology, scientific paradigms, positivism, constructivism). Introduction into method on a meta level overview/pros and cons of various approaches (research design, experiments, surveys, simulation studies, design science).

- d) Research proposal (template) and Procedures and protocols. As mentioned, the ultimate aim of this pre-PhD is to write a good research proposal. The proposal needs to be complemented with a teaching and conference plan, and a number of documents such as form 1 of the Board of Promotions and a certified copy of your Master Diploma.
 - e) Paper based thesis or monograph. Paper-based PhD dissertations are becoming the norm. Ideally, articles are published in journals or conference proceedings or at least have been submitted to the review process. In this workshop, we will discuss the advantages and disadvantages of an article-based thesis. In this workshop we will discuss the process of writing a dissertation and focus on the similarities / differences of writing paper-based versus traditional dissertations and zoom in on specific issues such as the description of the research gap, methodology, findings and discussion.
- 3) Systematic literature review; In this module, participants learn to systematically conduct a literature search in a systematic fashion. The aim is to determine the knowledge gaps that their research proposal will address. Participants learn how to conduct a literature research by inspecting digital sources and libraries we deal with keeping your literature up-to date. Topics in this module include: Library skills (how to search for literature using keywords), developing a search strategy, searching, finding and (pre) selecting articles, reading a scientific article, synthesizing literature, developing a scientifically relevant research question based on the literature review, gap seeking and articulating theoretical contribution and the use of tools. "Setting the hook" is the first step in properly writing down your contribution to science. Building a chain of reasoning helps to synthesize findings and support gap seeking.
- 4) Research techniques; In this module, the participants will get acquainted with different kinds of research methods and techniques, both qualitative and quantitative. We start a meta level overview, discussing types of qualitative research; outcomes of qualitative research ; situational factors, relation to research question and research domain. In the qualitative research we discuss case study research, types of case studies, case study design, validity of case studies, tri-angulation, case study protocol and case sampling. We do a hands-on case study set-up & planning, and data analysis (dataset provided by teacher). Typical issues include interview techniques, transcription and coding. Also helpful tools are introduced. Quantitative methods workshops discuss constructs, items, survey design, sampling, Basic descriptive statistics and significance. Also we discuss Multivariate Techniques; Mediators, moderators (regression, mediation, Structural Equation Modeling, bootstrapping) and Multi-level. Finally we address mixed methods and the use of (existing or externally purchased) databases.
- 5) Publishing; The publishing field is changing. There are more and more opportunities for publishing in open access. Research communities have popped up, such as Research Gate and Academia.edu. Is it wise to engage in these? This workshop is aimed at helping PhD students to make the right choices to maximize chances of successfully getting published. Topics include: Impact factors, H-index, I-index (and how to increase these indexes), research gate (what to do and what not to do), Google Scholar, web of science, and targeting the right journal. We discuss pros and cons of open access, such as low barriers to publish and read

academic papers but also possible quality loss and so called predator journals. Next to journals, there is an important role for conferences, networking events, defending research proposal and last but not least the public PhD thesis defense. It is increasingly important for scientists to get the message across in a relatively short period of time. In the context of finalizing your PhD thesis, getting formal but also informal feedback can help you to improve your work. But only if people understand what you mean in say 5 minutes. Apart from being clear and to the point, enthusiasm and presenting yourself with subtle self-esteem (yet not arrogance) are essential. In one workshop we teach you how to structure a pitch. Last but not least will we actively train PhD students in the peer review process, both for conferences and journals. Depending on the conference this may be a single blinded or double blinded review. What are the criteria, how to process feedback, how to deal with rejections?

Schedule (tentative)

Session I	Day 1 10.30 – 12.00	Welkom en pitch	
Jan24 Heerlen	Day 1 13.00 -16.30	Project Management Templates research proposal, manage your supervisor, planning.	Harold Krikke
	Evening Program	Procedures and regulations	Han Roffelsen
Jan 25 Utrecht	Day 2 9.30-12.30	Systematic Literature Review 1	Montserrat Prats López
	Day 2 13.30-16.30	Systematic Literature Review 2	Montserrat Prats López
Session II	Day 1 9.30-12.30	Research Paradigms	Petru Curseu
Feb 14 Heerlen	Day 1 13.30-16.30	Introduction into research methods	Petru Curseu
	Evening program	Publishing 2.0	Marjolein Caniels
Feb 15	Day 2 9.30-12.30	Qualitative Research I, intro	Rachelle Bosua
Heerlen	Day 2 13.30 -16.30	Qualitative Research II, Case studies	Rachelle Bosua
Session III	Day 1 9.30-12.30	Qualitative methods III	Johan Versendaal
March 14 Utrecht	Day 1 13.30-16.30	Qualitative methods IV	Johan Versendaal
	Evening Program	Chain of reasoning/evidence	Willem Buijink
March 15 Urecht	Day 2 9.30-12.30	Systematic Literature Review 3	Montserrat Prats López.
	Day 2 13.30-16.30	Systematic Literature Review 4	Montserrat Prats López.

Session IV	Day 1 9.30-12.30	Databases	Jeroen Derwall
Heerlen	Day 1 13.30-16.30	Open access vs traditional journals	Wim Lambrechts
May23	Evening program	Research Ethics/Integrity	Tom Melai
Heerlen	Day 2 9.30-12.30	Quantitative research I Descriptive and inferential	Petru Curseu
May 24	Day 2 13.30-16.30	Quantitative research II Multilevel	Petru Curseu
Session V	Day-1	Quantitative methods III Moderation	Petru Curseu
Heerlen		Quantitative methods IV Mediation	Petru Curseu
	Evening program	Setting the hook	JJ Semeijn
Heerlen	Day 2 9.30-12.30	SEM	Ellen Peeters/ Dave Stijnen
	Day 2 13.30-16.30	Econometrics model	Dennis Bams
Session VI	Day 1 9.30-12.30	Interviewing	Raphael Smals
Utrecht	Day 1 13.30-16.30	How does it work at a conference? Writer vs reviewer perspective	Ward Ooms
	Evening program	Pitching your research	Ward Ooms
Utrecht	Day 2 9.30-12.30	Qualitative methods 5	Remko Helms
	Day 2 13.30-16.30	Qualitative methods 6	Remko Helms
Session VII	Day 1 9.30-12.30	Design Science	Kim?
Heerlen	Day 1 13.30-16.30	System Dynamics	Kim?
	Evening program	Paper based vs monograph	Jelle Mampaey
Heerlen	Day 2 9.30-12.30	Grant workshop & funding	tba
	Day 2 13.30-16.30	Alumni speaker	tba

Course is academic writing, an introduction. Language center Maastricht, fully online.

Evening program 17.00 – 19.00