

Course Title: EXACT Seminar on Academic Research Skills

Lecturer: Dr. Geoffrey Edwards

University of Cambridge / Marie Curie Visiting Scientist (EXACT)

Course number	
Location/Room	Seminargebäude, Universitätsstr. 35, 2. OG, S 24/ S 26,
Time	Intensive seminar, 15.09.2012 – 21.09.2012
Credit Points	6 ECTS
Type of course	Doctoral (PhD-intensive) Seminar
Course Language	English

1. Objectives

The course aims to address the following issues:

- making progress in and improving PhD research
- deepening knowledge on methods and academic research skills
- ensuring the relevance and feasibility of research questions
- marrying approaches and methods
- organising materials and triangulation
- ensuring structure and purpose combine to create a successful argument
- discussing and working on PhD thesis in cooperation with fellow students

2. Prerequisites

The targeted audience are PhD students of the University of Cologne and beyond. The students should hold at least a Master degree (or equivalent).

3. Relevance for study programmes

The course is open for CGS-students, doctoral students of related studies of the Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Cologne as well as external participants.

4. Registration

Participation in the course must be registered in advance. The deadline for application is 30 April 2012. The course is recommended to be chosen in combination with “EXACT Seminar on Academic Qualification Skills”. The size of the course is limited to 20 students. The course will take place as an intensive seminar (Blockseminar) between September 15 and 21 from 9.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. in room S 24 and S 26.

5. Contents

- Design, relevance and feasibility of research questions
- Competing and complementary approaches to social science research

- Theories of Political Science and its sub-field, e.g. International Relations and European Integration
- Promise and limits of qualitative and quantitative data analysis
- Discussion of research and PhD projects of the participants incl. individual feedback sessions and cross-reading of chapters

6. Working requirements and assessment method

Students are requested to submit a draft chapter of their thesis prior to the seminar. Additionally, they will be requested to give an oral presentation. In the end of the seminar an oral and/or written examination will take place.

Grading scale:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>
Excellent (1,0)	≥ 95%
Excellent (1,3)	≥ 90%
Good (1,7)	≥ 85%
Good (2,0)	≥ 80%
Good (2,3)	≥ 75%
Satisfactory (2,7)	≥ 70%
Satisfactory (3,0)	≥ 65%
Satisfactory (3,3)	≥ 60%
Sufficient (3,7)	≥ 55%
Sufficient (4,0)	≥ 50%
Fail (5,0)	≤ 50%

7. Teaching staff

Dr. Geoffrey Edwards holds the Jean Monnet Chair in Political Science in the Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) at the University of Cambridge and is Reader in European Studies. He is a fellow of Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he is also a Graduate Tutor. His professional career includes research posts at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as well as a wide range of other institutions like the Federal Trust and Chatham House. His research focuses on the European Union, its institutions and its foreign and security policy. His recent publications have concentrated the EU's foreign policy with special emphasis on European security culture and the EU's Neighbourhood Policy.

8. Co-ordination/Contact

Wulf Reiners, Project and Financial Director, EXACT – Marie Curie Initial Training Network, c/o Jean Monnet Chair Prof. Wessels, Department of Political Science, wulf.reiners@uni-koeln.de, tel: +49-221-1688 1687