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Course Unit	Research Methodologies			Field of study	Social Science		
Master in	Local Government			School	School of Public Management, Communication and Tourism		
Academic Year	2023/2024	Year of study	1	Level	2-1	ECTS credits	6.0
Type	Semestral	Semester	1	Code	5047-585-1104-00-23		

Workload (hours)	162	Contact hours	T	-	TP	45	PL	-	TC	-	S	-	E	-	OT	6	O	-

T - Lectures; TP - Lectures and problem-solving; PL - Problem-solving, project or laboratory; TC - Fieldwork; S - Seminar; E - Placement; OT - Tutorial; O - Other

Name(s) of lecturer(s)	Ana Sofia Montenegro Goncalves Coelho

Learning outcomes and competences

At the end of the course unit the learner is expected to be able to:
1. Know the characteristics and properties of research methodology;
2. Develop research knowledge, abilities and aptitudes that allow the definition and development of scientific assignments;
3. Develop a research project, openly identifying the purpose and justifying the hypothesis to test;
4. Collect, organize and statistically manipulate the research data;
5. Know and apply different techniques of qualitative data analysis;
6. Validate qualitative studies;
7. Know and use a statistic software;
8. Analysis and discussion of the results to obtain the main conclusions;

Prerequisites

Not applicable

Course contents

1. Introduction to scientific research; 2. Research design ; 3. Qualitative research; 4. Quantitative research.

Course contents (extended version)

1. Introduction to scientific research
   - Scientific research process and phases;
   - Proposal of the research problem;
   - Definition of objectives, research question and hypothesis;
   - Bibliographic sources and references;
   - Ethical aspects.
2. Research design
   - Research design components;
   - Paradigms: post positivism, constructivism, participatory and pragmatism;
   - Research methodologies: qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods;
   - Research strategies.
3. Qualitative research
   - Qualitative research approaches;
   - Data collection techniques: interviews, focus groups, observation methods and document study;
   - Content analysis;
   - Qualitative studies validation;
   - Results presentation and interpretation.
4. Quantitative research
   - Sampling procedures and data collection;
   - Questionnaire analysis and variable definition;
   - Prepare, transcript and transform the data in order to create a database.
   - Data analysis with statistical software;
   - Results presentation and interpretation.

Recommended reading

1. Creswell, J. (2013). Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches (4th ed.). Sage Publications.
2. Fortin, M. (2009). Fundamentos e etapas do processo de investigação (ed. traduzida). Lusodidacta.
3. Gonçalves, S. , Gonçalves, J. , & Marques, C. (2021). Manual de investigação qualitativa - conceção, análise e aplicações. Edições Lidel.
4. Vilelas, J. (2017). Investigação. O processo de construção do conhecimento (2ª ed. revista e aumentada). Edições Sílabo.
5. Pestana, M. , & Gageiro, J. (2014). Análise de Dados para Ciências Sociais. A Complementaridade do SPSS (6ª Edição). Edições Sílabo.

Teaching and learning methods

The course unit will be taught through the theoretical contents exhibition (expository method), followed by the analysis and resolution of case studies (demonstrative method). To promote greater students involvement in the acquisition of knowledge and skills case studies will be distributed in order to proceed to its resolution and analysis. Statistical software will be used.

Assessment methods

1. Continuous Evaluation - (Regular, Student Worker) (Final)
   - Practical Work - 20% (Scientific Article Reading Sheet)
   - Practical Work - 60% (Develop an Individual Research Project)
   - Practical Work - 20% (Other practical work developed in class)
2. Avaliação Final - (Regular, Student Worker) (Final, Supplementary, Special)
   - Final Written Exam - 100%
3. Erasmus students (incoming) - (Regular, Student Worker) (Final, Supplementary, Special)
   - Practical Work - 100%

Language of instruction

Portuguese, with additional English support for foreign students.

Electronic validation

Ana Sofia Montenegro Goncalves Coelho	Claudia Cristina Silva Costa	Catarina Alexandra Alves Fernandes	Luisa Margarida Barata Lopes
09-10-2023	09-10-2023	09-10-2023	10-10-2023