



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME(S) / STUDY TRACK(S)

Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies
Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies (Study Track: European Security and Strategy)
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies)
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies - European Security and Strategy)

YEAR

2026-2027

COURSE TITLE

Research Strategies and Tools

SEMESTER

1, 2

PROFESSOR(S)

STEINGASS Sebastian (coord.), BOBROWICZ Barbara, EXADAKTYLOS Theofanis, LONGHURST Kerry, MINK Georges, ROZUMALSKI Jason, SZOSTAK Rick, VAN ELSUWEGE Peter, VANNONI Matia, CHABAN Natalia

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

STEINGASS Sebastian

COURSE TYPE

Master's Thesis and Research Strategies and Tools

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS CREDITS

16

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

400

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

2

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Research Strategies and Tools offers a multifaceted research training programme which is principally designed to support students in successfully completing their Master's Thesis at the EIS Department. The knowledge and skills provided are tailored to the interdisciplinary and international nature of the EIS programme and its students. Through a combination of e-learning modules, on-site lectures, tutorials and workshops, students have the chance to engage with a range of strategies and tools to improve their understanding and skills in the areas of research design, methodological approaches, and methods across different disciplines, as well as academic integrity and research ethics, and academic thinking and writing.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and formulate relevant research questions and to design and pursue an autonomous research project, making use of appropriate methodologies and theories (B5, MATA2.3);
- 2) Gather, sift, assess and interpret information from multiple sources autonomously, including secondary literature as well as primary sources such as official documents, statistics, surveys, and expert interviews (B6, MATA2.4);

- 3) Formulate and develop a coherent and reasoned stance, justifiable conclusions, specific policy recommendations and/or historical arguments on the basis of referenced evidence, and sufficient and relevant data (B6, MATA2.4);
- 4) An ability to construct, present and defend a case clearly and coherently in writing as well as orally, and engage constructively with question and critique the cases made by others (B4, MATA2.2);
- 5) Use e-learning tools and develop the research and communication skills needed to reach diverse goals, individually and in groups, in hybrid and electronic environments (B7).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Research Strategies and Tools include a combination of e-learning modules, on-site lectures and tutorials.

ASSESSMENT METHOD(S)

Students complete a Master's Thesis according to rules outlined in the Study Regulations and Specific Provisions. The thesis must be between 12,000-18,000 words in length. Students must defend their thesis at an oral thesis defence. For more specific information please consult the Study Regulations and the Specific Provisions.

COURSE CONTENTS

The Course covers the following topics:

- Fundamentals of writing a Master's Thesis
- Research design and methodological approaches across different disciplines
- Academic integrity and research ethics
- Academic thinking and writing
- Research methods

A detailed description of available e-learning modules and on-site sessions offered during the academic year will be available.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Course materials consist of videos, readings (journal articles, book chapters), glossaries, presentation slides, quizzes, and other materials.