

# Digital Educational Programme for PhD Researchers

by Erasmus Graduate School of Law



- **Research Design 1:**  
research proposal  
& research method seminars
- **Research Design 2:**  
the academic writing process
- **Communicate your Research**
- **Academic Integrity  
& Responsible Research**

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# Welcome

Welcome you to our digital training programme!

At Erasmus Graduate School of Law (EGSL) we believe in the importance of providing all our PhD researchers, either on or off campus, with a theoretical background and practical tools for writing a good research proposal, for choosing the right research methodology and for structuring your writing process in the best way possible. That is why we have developed this wonderful online, digital training programme for off-campus PhD researchers who for instance combine their PhD with a busy job as a lawyer or are writing their PhD in their spare time or after retirement.

EGSL is an excellent graduate school, and we are proud to say that we are the first law graduate school in the Netherlands to offer a complete digital training programme for off-campus PhD researchers. As of now, this programme is also available for PhD researchers from other law schools.

The digital programme will certainly occupy some of your precious time, but it is definitely worth it, because the programme will help you a great deal in making a good start and in keeping your research progressing at a steady pace, for instance by demanding, at some point, that you submit a research proposal, a first chapter thereof or an article.

There is ample time between the deadlines, and you have a great deal of freedom to decide when you want to work on this. Another big plus is that many of the assignments are peer reviewed, which means that you will learn to give as well as receive feedback and respond to peer reviews.

It only remains for us to wish you a great deal of success in following this course and conducting your PhD research. Enjoy!

The EGSL team:

## Content of the Programme

The programme consists of a combination of videos, made by lecturers from Erasmus School of Law, and additional materials, such as literature suggestions, instructions, examples and links to websites.

Within the digital programme, four courses are offered:

The first two courses have been developed for external/off-campus PhD researchers and form the basic courses for PhD researchers:

1. Research Design 1: Research Proposal & Research Method Seminars: attention is paid to the research question, the theoretical framework, the aim and relevance of the PhD research and different research methods.
2. Research Design 2: Academic Writing Process: how to progress through the different steps of the writing process for your PhD: drafting, reviewing, rewriting and receiving and incorporating feedback.

The third course has been developed for all EGSL PhD researchers:

3. Academic Integrity & Responsible Research: the university has the responsibility to educate the new generation of researchers in academic integrity and responsible research (Netherlands Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice), including Research Data Management.

The fourth course is an optional course for all EGSL PhD researchers:

4. Communicate your Research: about the different aspects and the tools to use for the communication of your research (summarize, presentation, publication strategy, your audience (societal background/societal actors), personal branding/social media). We advise you to take this course in the second or third year of your PhD project.

## Practical information

- In this programme, a distinction is made between 'activities' and 'assignments'. Activities are optional but helpful learning opportunities to put the lessons learned into practice and sometimes to discuss them with peers. Assignments (often peer reviewed) are mandatory exercises on the content of the module. You need to complete these assignments to complete the online course. After completion, you will receive a certificate for the course from EGSL.
- Learning with and from your peers is an important part of this programme. It can give you valuable insights into giving and receiving feedback to/from peers who are also working on their PhD! Therefore, you are frequently asked to share your work or ideas with your peers and to provide feedback on the work carried out by your peers. Please be aware that the teachers are not involved in the feedback procedure, you will only receive feedback from your peers. Participating in this course means that you automatically also participate in the peer-review process. In the programme, you will find some instructions on how to give and receive peer feedback.
- You will receive reminders regarding the deadlines by means of announcements.
- Underneath the videos that are displayed in the programme you will find the written dialogue, so you can read while listening to the videos if you prefer to do this.
- You can progress through the modules of the courses in any order, but please be aware of the deadlines for peer-review assignments for each module. If you would like to finish your assignments earlier, you can simply upload them whenever this suits you, in which case you will have to wait until the deadlines for providing and receiving peer feedback have expired.

*'I liked the structure of the course, the fact that many modules were introduced by a video and that chapters from books were provided to illustrate each topic better. Next to that, it was very flexible. I could decide when to do the assignments and choose in which sections to make more efforts and which to gloss over.'*

## Online course Research Design - part 1



### Introduction to this course

Welcome! Watch our introduction video and introduce yourself (and your research) to your fellow students!

### Writing your research proposal

Think about the aim and relevance of your research. Learn how to formulate your research question and theoretical framework, and get valuable feedback from your peers in this process!



### Research Methods

In different modules, you will learn which methodology is the best to use for your specific research question and how you can use it.

#### Doctrinal Legal Research

#### Comparative law

#### Legal philosophy

#### Legal history

#### Law & Economics

#### Empirical legal research

#### Law & Ethnography

### Wrap up and evaluate



# Research Design 1:

## Research proposal and research methods (6 EC)

Research Design 1 aims to help you with choosing the right tools to write a good research proposal.

### 1. Description of the modules

#### Writing your research proposal (Prof. Sanne Taekema)

##### Part 1. Research question

You will learn what is necessary to move from a broad PhD topic to a researchable and relevant research question. After this module you can distinguish the academic relevance of your research from societal relevance.

##### Part 2. Theoretical framework and literature review

You will learn: what the importance of a good literature review is and what the building blocks for making it are. You will understand the role of a theoretical framework and the differences between different types of frameworks, most importantly theoretical (in an empirical setting) and normative (in a legal-doctrinal setting).

##### Part 3. Research method

You will understand the need to specify your overall methodology and the elements that determine the choice of specific methods (research question, approach, skills).

#### Research Method seminars

In this part of the course you will learn the basic principles of various research methods that are used in the research into legally relevant phenomena. During these seminars you will receive an explanation by several teachers about the specific method and how to apply it.

The following Research Method Seminars are offered in this course:

1. Doctrinal Legal research (Prof. Evert Stamhuis)
2. Comparative law (Dr. Andria Naudé-Fourie)
3. Legal philosophy (Prof. Wibren van der Burg)
4. Legal History (Prof. Tammo Wallinga)
5. Law & Economics (Prof. Klaus Heine)
6. Empirical legal research (a basic part and an in-depth part) (Prof. Peter Mascini)
7. Law & Ethnography (Prof. Richard Staring and Dr. Abdessamad Bouabid)

The aim of these modules is:

1. To **introduce** PhD students to the different methods of legal research.
2. To create **awareness** about the possibilities of these methods for their project.
3. To highlight the **risks** connected with each method.

It is important that you not only learn about the research methods that have already been preselected for your project, but that you also get a basic understanding of the methods used within ESL.

It becomes more and more important to work together, within and outside the faculty and/or university, and to combine or integrate disciplines in research projects. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you watch all the provided materials, but at least the introduction videos of all different seminars.

Although a selection of seminars might seem most interesting for your research at first sight, we often subsequently hear from participants that they were surprised by how they can use a method that they did not expect to use. Next to that, most participants become aware that they use more different methods than they had previously thought. And even if you stick to the methodical choices already made, the seminars assist in further developing the methodical section of the project, also by your increased awareness of the alternatives.

When you have followed the Research Proposal part and the Research Method Seminars, you will be ready to write and upload your own research proposal.

## Time indication

Going through the different modules (so viewing the videos, reading the literature etc.) will take a certain amount of time, which is indicated below. However, you are working on a final product in these modules: your research proposal and your first chapter, which are a part of your PhD research project. As every individual PhD researcher has a different starting point here and will have to spend different amounts of time in reflecting, drafting and finalizing these products, it is very difficult to give an indication of the time to be spent on these modules.

Writing your research proposal: it will take you about **16 hours** to go through the module. You will have to deliver 2 assignments in the first two parts, before you deliver, after the completion of the Research Method Seminars, your final research proposal.

Research method seminars: approximately **1-3 hours** per seminar. The course will be spread over a period of about **5 months**.

We aim to offer this course at least once a year, starting in September/October (finishing in January) and, with enough participants, a second group starting in January/February (finishing in early June).

*'I liked the methodology modules, the fact that I could enter all of them even if they were not directly relevant for my personal research project, and generally the way the course was set up. The videos were really nice and gave a good background to the assignments and the reading materials. I appreciated the peer reviewing! It's nice to read others' research and get feedback from others on my own!'*

## Online course Research Design - part 2



### Introduction to this course

Welcome! Watch our introduction video and introduce yourself (and your research) to your fellow students!

### Your academic writing process (Writing Clinic)

You will learn how to go through the different steps of the writing process: drafting, reviewing, rewriting, and receiving and incorporating feedback on your work.



Watch videos

**Starting with an Abstract**  
receive peer feedback

**Drafting your Chapter**  
receive peer feedback

**Reflect on the feedback you received**

**Revised version of your Chapter**  
receive peer feedback

**Reflect on the writing process as a whole**



Wrap up and evaluate

## Research Design 2: The Academic Writing Process (3 EC)

In Research Design 2, you learn how to go through the different steps of the writing process of your PhD: drafting, reviewing, rewriting and receiving and incorporating feedback.

### 1. Description of the module

The Academic Writing Process (Dr. Jos Hoevenaars)

In this course we will focus on one of the most important parts of academic life: the writing process. All experienced writers know that writing a paper, a chapter or even a book is never a straight march from the idea to a finished product. While writing you will likely go through many drafts, go into blind alleys, and even make new discoveries that may lead you to rethink your entire project. In the end, a lot of what is in your early drafts will not even make it into the final version. One of the most important skills you will learn during your PhD is working your way through this process of drafting, reviewing, rewriting, receiving and incorporating feedback and refining your work. In this course we will go through this process together. We will not only focus on writing itself, but also on giving and receiving feedback.

In this course we will focus on 3 general steps that will help all researchers in their struggle towards a well-written and convincing product:

1. Strategy, how do you get started with writing and what should be included in your text.
2. Inter-vision, how to read other peoples' work and how to provide as well as receive feedback.
3. Revising your work and incorporating any feedback.

First you will write an abstract in which you briefly introduce your research, second you will write a first version of your introductory chapter, and finally you will write the revised and final full version of your chapter.

## Time indication

Going through the different modules (so viewing the videos, reading the literature etc.) will take a certain amount of time, which is indicated below. However, you are working on a final product in these modules: your research proposal and your first chapter, which are a part of your PhD research project. As every individual PhD researcher has a different starting point here, and will have to spend different amounts of time in reflecting, drafting and finalizing these products, it is very difficult to give an indication of the time to be spent on these modules.

The course will be spread over a period of about **4 months**.

Writing clinic: academic writing process: It will take you about **1-2 hours** to go through the module: in this module your time will mostly be spent on, and not so much on videos and literature. You will have to deliver your first chapter or article at the end. During this course, you will have to deliver your abstract + table of contents and a draft of your chapter or article, on which you will give feedback to each other. You can follow Research Design 2 after the completion of Research Design 1.

We aim to offer this course at least once a year, starting in February (finishing in early June) and, with enough participants, a second group starting in September (finishing in early January).

*'The course delivers good information about the way in which a researcher can share his/her research and make sure it is received and perceived in the most fitting way. The course stimulated me to think about the different aspects of communicating my research and to articulate how I intend to achieve this in the future.'*

# Online course Academic Integrity and Responsible Research



## 2. Online Training EDELNET: Academic Integrity & Ethics

This online training consists of 4 modules,  
with exercises and reflections:

1. Introduction
2. Codes, principles and regulations
3. Misconduct and oversight
4. Specifics for field of research in Law



## 1. Introduction to this course

Welcome! Watch our introduction video  
and read all the practical information  
that you need.



## 3. Research Data Management: Online Training 'Privacy in Research'

- Online training 'Privacy in Research'
- Research data management plan

## Academic integrity & responsible research (1 EC)

Compliance with the general principles of a professional scientific approach is required at all times. The Netherlands Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice elaborates these principles, which are also recognized by the EUR and apply as guidelines for the university.

As the University has the responsibility to educate the new generation of researchers in this, EGSL has developed an online course in Academic Integrity & Responsible research. In the course on Academic Integrity & Responsible Research we aim to fulfil the requirements with regard to the Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and the GDPR. Another aim is that PhD researchers learn that integrity and responsible research is an issue that should be discussed regularly with their supervisors and other peers. The course is obligatory for all PhD researchers within EGSL. This includes external PhD researchers and other ESL employees who conduct PhD research, and have started their research within the past 2 years.

The course consists of 2 parts.

- Online Training EDELNET: Academic Integrity & Ethics. This online training consists of 4 modules, with exercises and reflections
  1. Introduction
  2. Codes, principles and regulations
  3. Misconduct and oversight
  4. Specifics for field of research in Law
  
- Research Data Management:
  - o Online Training in 'Privacy in Research'
  - o Training in Responsible Data Management (the EGSL PhD researchers who have delivered a statement that they do work with personal data will be invited to an (on-campus) workshop at Erasmus University in which they are supported in making their research data management plan). For the other participants information is available in Canvas.

In this course, there is no peer review. We ask you to upload one of the reflections in CANVAS, and to discuss this reflection with your own supervisor(s).

We aim to start a new group three times a year, in November, in February and in May. It will take you **4-6 hours** to go through this course.

# Online course

## Communicate Your Research



### Introduction to this course

Welcome! Watch our introduction video and read all the practical information that you need.

### 1. Summarize your research

Learn to summarize your research for your peers (an academic audience) as well as for society (a non-academic audience).



### 2. Presentation

How to give a presentation and how to make an infographic or poster.



### 3. Publication strategy

Learn which books and journals are the best choice for you to publish in and how you can develop a good publication strategy.



### 4. Your audience and how to reach it

Become aware of the societal background of your research and learn how to communicate to relevant societal actors.



### 5. Personal branding

Learn to advertise yourself and your research using your LinkedIn profile.



### Wrap up and evaluate

## Communicate your research (3 EC)

In this course you will learn more about the different aspects and the tools to use for the communication of your research. This course is optional for all (EGSL) PhD researchers (not limited to external PhD researchers). We advise you to take this course in the second or third year of your PhD project.

### Description of the modules

All participants are asked to have a look at all modules, but to choose 3 from the 5 modules to deliver the assignment.

#### 1. Summarize (Prof. Wouter Verheijen)

In this module, you will learn how to summarize your research (or research proposal), both for an academic and a non-academic audience.

This module is composed of:

- a section on how to write an abstract of your research (or research proposal);
- a section on how to find the perfect title for your research (or research proposal);
- interviews with experts who share their experiences with and valuable insights into writing a funding proposal, with a particular focus on the title and the summary; and
- a final assignment.

After this module, you will be able to:

- summarize your research (or research proposal) in the form of an abstract, both for an academic and a non-academic audience; and
- provide your research (or research proposal) with a good title.

#### 2. Presentation

In this module, you will learn how to give a presentation and how to make an infographic or poster to visualize your research (question).

Some of the learning benefits associated with presentations are:

- Criteria for giving excellent presentations in English
- Structure & useful phrases
- Using your voice
- How to involve the audience?

Some of the learning benefits associated with visuals are:

- Improved comprehension of information, ideas, and concepts
- Enhanced ability to think critically and develop and organize ideas
- Improved retention and recall of information

After this module, you are able to present your research in a visually attractive way.

### 3. Publication strategy (Prof. Elena Kantorowicz-Reznichenko and Prof. Liesbeth Enneking)

This module will discuss how to choose journals or book publishers, how to assess their quality and how to make a good strategy for successful publication. After this module, you will be able to create your own publication plan.

Following a good publication strategy early on in your PhD can increase your professional opportunities. Whether you want to become a practitioner or an academic, the output of your research matters. You should know where you want to publish even before you write your chapters.

In the first part of this module, an explanation will be given as to how your future plans matter for your publication strategy. In the second part you will learn about the different types of international journals and where to search for them; how to choose the right journal for you; and how to maximize your chances of publishing in that journal. For those who prefer to publish their PhD as a book or in national journals, you will also get an explanation as to how to choose a book publisher, and where to find suitable national journals.

### 4. Your audience and how to reach it

At the end of this module you will be aware of your different audiences, you will know more about societal relevance and impact, and you will have learned how to make your research visible for your audience by using several tools. You will get some general information about societal impact, next to information (tips & tricks and examples) about different tools to use to create more visibility and to reach your audience, such as a research blog, an opinion article, a podcast or a (PhD in the spotlight) video.

## 5. Personal branding

In today's world of social media, it is more important than ever to ensure that you have an online presence, a 'personal brand', that looks professional and can be used for networking purposes. LinkedIn is, by far, the most popular social media platform used by professionals in the workforce, as well as recruiters looking to fill open positions. It hosts millions of personal and company profiles and features a robust job board with sophisticated search filters. It is also increasingly being used by academics and/or in academia. These days, having an updated LinkedIn profile might just be as important as having an updated academic CV. As a PhD student, it might just lead you to the right type of exposure that you need in order to promote your research and receive interesting networking, presenting and teaching opportunities.

This module will give you insights into how to navigate effectively through the complex world of LinkedIn and provide you with tips on updating your profile, joining groups, following relevant institutions and organizations and other strategies that might help you as a PhD student to professionalize your online presence.

After completing this module, you will know how to 'brand' yourself through LinkedIn, what the most important elements of an optimized LinkedIn profile of an academic are, and how to promote your research to a specific audience.

### Time indication

Going through the different modules (so watching the videos, reading the literature etc.) will take a certain amount of time, which is indicated below. However, you are working on a few products which are very relevant in your PhD research project (summary, poster/visual, publication strategy, blog/podcast/video/opinion piece, LinkedIn profile). As every individual PhD researcher has a different starting point here and will have to spend different amounts of time in reflecting, drafting and finalizing these products, it is very difficult to give an indication of the time to be spent on these modules.

It will take you about **2 hours** to go through the separate modules, so 10 hours in total.

The course starts with a questionnaire, which you answer right at the beginning and in which you indicate for which modules you want to deliver the assignment. We expect you to go through the whole course, view the videos and all the materials. As it is not required - but it is allowed! - to deliver the assignment for all 5 modules, in this questionnaire we ask you to make a choice for which 3 modules you will deliver the assignment. Only in this way can the graduate school request the necessary peer reviews and check whether you have fulfilled the obligations of the course.

We offer this course once a year, period: March-June.

## More information or subscribe to participate

Participation is free for all EGSL PhD researchers and Erasmus School of Law scholars.

PhD researchers from the Dutch Law Schools and from the ATLAS (Association of Transnational Law Schools) partners can subscribe for the separate courses in the digital programme. The fee is:

1. Research Design 1 (6 EC): € 240
2. Research Design 2 (3 EC): € 120
3. Academic Integrity & Responsible Research (1 EC): € 40
4. Communicate your Research (3 EC): € 120

You can subscribe to the courses, check EGSL's website: <https://www.eur.nl/esl/research/phdesl/graduate-school-law>.

You will be directed to a payment portal. After payment, you will get access to the course in Canvas.

Deadline for subscription is 3 weeks prior to the start of the course. Please check EGSL's website for the dates.

## Contact

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