Course Descriptions None 2021-2022

Course Title	Thesis Research Proposal
Course Code	SSP3011
ECTS Credits	3,0
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	10-1-2022	21-1-2022					X

Level	no level
Coordinator	Clarence Bluntz For more information:c.bluntz@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	After completion of the Thesis Research Proposal course, you have shown the ability: * to acquire knowledge and understanding of the logic and structure of research proposals * to choose a theory and/or analytical framework that will be central in your research * to translate a sustainable development issue into a scientific research question(s) * to choose a research design and methods that are suitable to answer the question(s) * to reflect upon one's own research proposal and the research proposal of other students
Description	The thesis trajectory of the Master SSP programme consists of two phases: first, the Thesis Research Proposal (SSP3011) and second, the Thesis Research, Writing, and Presenting period (SSP3021). Delivering a Master's thesis is a demanding task. It may be your first experience in developing crucial generic research skills. These skills concern, in particular, identifying a relevant research topic, studying the literature to identify knowledge gaps, formulating research questions, selecting a suitable research strategy and methods, planning your research and organizing time, collecting and analysing data, reporting your research in a thesis, and presenting it to your supervisors. From a students' perspective, the thesis trajectory is above all an individual process where you have to prove that you can organize and implement a piece of scientific research completely on your own. The experience at Maastricht University and elsewhere is that slow progress in the thesis process is a common cause for study delay. Preventing slow progress in the development and completion of the thesis is a top priority for the programme. Therefore, the course introduction and thesis market will already be held in December. In the Thesis Research Proposal (TRP) course, which will run for several months, you will work on your research proposal. The course aims to be a learning community of students under guidance of the course coordinators and supported by the thesis supervisors. In the course specific attention is given to formulating scientific research questions and selecting suitable research methods. During tutorials students present their research questions, research methods, and TRP outline, and provide feedback to others. At the end of the course each student should have a final TRP, which is the entry point for the Thesis Research, Writing and Presenting period (SSP3021).
Literature	In the TRP course we use Martyn Denscombe's book Research Proposals – A Practical Guide (2012), 178 pages, Open University Press.
Prerequisites	
Keywords	
Teaching methods	
Assessment methods	
Evaluation in previous academic year	For the complete evaluation of this course please click http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation

Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society	Thesis