Course Descriptions None 2026-2027

Course Title	Research Approaches and Methods
Course Code	SSP3031
ECTS Credits	2,0
Assessment	Pass / Fail

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	26-10-2026	11-12-2026					

Level	no level
Coordinator	Ron Cörvers For more information:r.corvers@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	Students: * Understand common research approaches and their differences. * Recognize how a different research approach may lead to different research results and a different way in which results are relevant for policy and society. * Explain why and how a thesis literature review can be performed. * Understand different methods for data collection (interviews, questionnaires, document analysis) and how to perform these. * Recognize and understand different methods for data analysis, (coding qualitative data and key quantitative analysis concepts for statistical analysis) and how these can be applied.
Description	Before conducting academic research in the field of sustainability science, it is important to understand the basics of research approaches and methods used within the field. Both the choice for an approach and the method(s), influence the way in which a topic is studied and the research results. This course aims to provide students with the basic knowledge and experience to perform a thesis-related literature review, understand the methodological underpinnings of a chosen research approach, undertake data collection and engage in data analysis in a scholarly way.
Literature	Reference list will be provided.
Prerequisites	
Keywords	
Transitional Regulations	<ul class="trcohorts"> - Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society - Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society - Business for Sustainability - Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society Policy for Sustainability - In 2025-2026 education and exam/resit opportunities are offered. - In 2026-2027 exam/resit opportunities are offered. - From 2027-2028 onwards, the course is cancelled. Note that from 2025-2026 onwards, SSP3041 "Academic Skills and Research Design" is offered as a replacement course. <table><col style="width: 200px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col><thead><tr><th>Academic Year</th><th>Education</th><th>Exam/Resit</th><th>Replacement(s)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2025-2026</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>SSP3041 "Academic Skills and Research Design"</td></tr><tr><td>2026-2027</td><td> </td><td>X</td><td>SSP3041 "Academic Skills and Research Design"</td></tr><tr><td>2027-2028 onwards</td><td> </td><td> </td><td>SSP3041 "Academic Skills and Research Design"</td></tr></tbody></table>
Teaching methods	PBL / Lecture
Assessment methods	Assignment
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 in Transforming Societies - Business for Sustainability	In transition - Compulsory Skills
Master Sustainability Science in Transforming Societies - Policy for Sustainability	In transition - Compulsory Skills
Master Sustainability Science, Policy and Society	In transition - Compulsory Skills