INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH MODULE
IES Abroad

DESCRIPTION:
This online seminar will introduce students to qualitative and quantitative research methods, as well as the design, development and writing of research and scholarly projects. The seminar will help students develop the tools and skills required to carry out a research project and deliver a high-quality research paper in a partner course during their semester at an IES Abroad Center. The seminar will cover the most important research and presentation techniques used in different academic disciplines. Since study abroad is a unique opportunity for experiential learning and cultural interaction, special emphasis will be given to those methods and techniques that imply contact and relationship with local people and/or institutions.

The seminar will be divided into 8 online classes. These will be delivered using a variety of methods, and students will be expected to engage in the online learning activities, completing a range of required feedback to ensure their understanding of the topics discussed. The seminar will start before students’ arrival, but in some cases may overlap with the first weeks of their program.

CREDITS: 1 credit will be added to the selected partner course, once the research paper has been submitted and graded.

CONTACT HOURS: 5 online contact hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
This seminar will be presented online in Moodle using e-lectures, guided PowerPoint presentations and online meetups.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- Research paper: 100%
- Attendance is compulsory. Students who do not complete the seminar including all required exercises will not be eligible for the research program, unless they have documentation that they have already received credit for a similar course at their home colleges.

Course Participation
In addition to the online presentations, there will be a range of required activities, including forum discussions, quizzes, summaries of readings and critiques of scholarly articles. Students are expected to participate in all online activities as directed.

Research Paper
A 25-page research paper will be completed as part of one of the selected partner courses to this seminar. The topic for the research paper will be proposed by the student, and approved by the instructor of this seminar and the instructor for the selected partner course. The paper must be based on original research carried out by the student during the seminar. The precise criteria for the paper will vary depending on the subject matter and the type of research undertaken. These criteria will be discussed and approved during the seminar.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
- set a research question or topic in an appropriate scholarly manner;
- place a working hypothesis, thesis statement, or research question into a real context;
- use accurate tools for data collection and analysis;
- test a research hypothesis, demonstrate the validity of a thesis statement, or effectively answer a research question;
- write up a research project using scholarly norms;
ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Students are expected to complete all of the online sessions and associated activities by the deadlines set out in the syllabus. Students who fail to complete any part of the online course by the deadline set by the instructor will not be permitted to present a research paper for a companion course.

CONTENT:

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<th>Session</th>
<th>Content</th>
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| Session 1 | Introduction and an overview of research  
• What is research?  
• Overview of different types of research  
| Session 2 | The research question  
| Session 3 | The structure of research papers/organizing your research  
• Overview of different ways of structuring different sorts of research papers  
| Session 4 | Introduction and literature review  
• The introduction and the literature review  
• Demonstrating the relevance of your topic  
• The Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Literature Reviews. Available online at http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/ |
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<th>Session 6</th>
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<td>• Choosing the best method to carry out the research project (qualitative; quantitative; systematic review; conceptual)</td>
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<td>• Key components of different research approaches</td>
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<td>• How to ensure that your research is “trustworthy”</td>
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<td>• Bringing it all together in the discussion and conclusions section of the paper</td>
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<td>• Writing and editing a research paper</td>
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<td>• Responding to reviewers’ critiques and suggestions</td>
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**REQUIRED READINGS:**


The Writing Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Literature Reviews. Available online at http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/literature-reviews/


RECOMMENDED READINGS: