

Quantitative Methods

Institution:	School of Public Policy, Central European University
Year/Term:	Year 1, Term 1
Course type:	Core course
ECTS:	4

Brief description:

For both academic scholars and practitioners of public policy skillful processing of information is a key qualification. Methodological and analytical knowledge is of paramount importance to evaluate policies on basis of available data: reports, expert opinions, descriptive or inferential statistics etc.

This course introduces students to the basics of research design, and to the quantitative methods that can be used in addressing policy - relevant research questions.

The class will give an overview of issues related to measurement, causal inference, quasi-experimental research, sampling and survey research, as well as practical skills in applying statistics.

Learning outcomes

The course has one major goal: To enhance students' 'passive' literacy of quantitative research methods. In this respect students will learn how to evaluate the adequacy of a given research method for a given research question. They will learn how to judge the quality of reports and academic studies on basis of typical flaws different research techniques may have.

A second goal is to give students some active skills and to show them how to apply techniques to original policy studies of their own.