



## FICHA TÉCNICA DE LA ASIGNATURA

Datos de la asignatura	
Nombre completo	Research Methods
Código	E000012237
Cuatrimestre	Semestral
Créditos	6,0 ECTS
Carácter	Optativa
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Psicología
Horario de tutorías	Mon: 10:40-12:30 and Thu: 12:40 -14:30
Descriptor	In the professional profile of Humanities and Social Sciences graduates, this course has an instrumental character. It aims to introduce the student to the different phases of the research process in the context of social and health sciences, therefore, in the research methodology, in its different designs, in the data collection process, and in the organization and analysis of these data. The objectives of this subject are fundamentally focused on the understanding of concepts, decision making, the choice of procedures and the analysis of information.

Datos del profesorado	
Profesor	
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## DATOS ESPECÍFICOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

Contextualización de la asignatura
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Competencias - Objetivos
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## BLOQUES TEMÁTICOS Y CONTENIDOS

Contenidos – Bloques Temáticos
<b>Theme 1: Knowledge and research</b>
<b>Topic 1: Knowledge and research</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Scientific knowledge vs. common knowledge.</li><li>– Propositional logic (modus ponens/tollens, formal fallacies).</li><li>– Logical reasoning methods (inductive, deductive, and abductive).</li><li>– Falsifiability vs. verifiability.</li></ul>



## Theme 2: The scientific method

### Topic 1: Scientific method

- Research aims and objectives.
- Research participants.
- Ethics in research.

### Topic 2: Scientific report

- How to find a paper: Literature search.
- How to read a paper: The structure of the report.

## Theme 2: Types of research

### Topic 1: Quantitative research

- Types of variables (nominal, ordinal, continuous, dependent, independent, extraneous...).
- Measurement of variables (operational definition of variables, interviews, questionnaires, observation, tests, reliability, validity).
- Descriptive research (with observation or surveys).
- Experimental research (experimental designs, internal vs. external validity).
- Quasi-experiments and ex post facto designs.
- Introduction to data analysis: Descriptive and inferential statistics.

### Topic 2: Qualitative research

- Characteristics and validity of qualitative research.
- Types of qualitative research.
- Qualitative data collection and analysis.

## METODOLOGÍA DOCENTE

### Aspectos metodológicos generales de la asignatura

#### In Class Learning Techniques: Activities

Theoretical sessions will be delivered using Power Point presentations and focus on discussing the basic concepts underlying statistical theories along with various examples.

In these sessions, students will also work in small groups to solve exercises and quizzes to consolidate the acquired knowledge. There will be also two review sessions, that will be used to go over material delivered during the theoretical sessions.

#### Independent Learning Techniques: Activities

- Realization of practices and resolution of exercises.
- Reading and understanding notes and manuals.
- Search and analysis of information



## RESUMEN HORAS DE TRABAJO DEL ALUMNO

HORAS PRESENCIALES			
Theory Classes	Practical Classes	Academically Guided Activities	Assessments
48	18	10	4
HORAS NO PRESENCIALES			
Self-study of Theoretical Content	Self-study of Practical Content	Group Work Exercises	Revision
40	30	20	10
ECTS CREDITS			6.0 (180 Hours)

## EVALUACIÓN Y CRITERIOS DE CALIFICACIÓN

Assessment Activities	Criterion	Weighting
<p><b>Midterm exam:</b> Theoretical test covering the topics seen in class up to the day of the exam. A minimum grade of 5 (out of 10) is required to pass the exam.</p> <p><b>Final exam:</b> Theoretical test covering all the topics seen during the course. A minimum grade of 5 (out of 10) is required to pass the exam and the subject.</p> <p>- It is necessary to have a minimum overall grade of 5 in the evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Understanding of concepts.</li><li>- Application of concepts and techniques.</li><li>- Interpretation of information.</li></ul>	60



<p>criterion "exams" to be able to calculate the global mark of the subject. With Less than 5 in this rating criterion the student will appear as failed in the note end of subject.</p>		
<p><b>Group work:</b> In groups, students will read scientific papers, interpret it, make their own proposals and finish with an oral presentation discussing the results of their proposals, as well as their opinion about the quality of the research.</p> <p><b>Class assignments:</b> Individually, students will complete class assignments (e.g., essays, mini tests, paper reviews) related to the topics covered in the course.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understanding of concepts.</li> <li>- Application of concepts and techniques.</li> <li>- Interpretation of information.</li> </ul>	<p>40</p>

## Calificaciones

- Para poder presentarse a la convocatoria ordinaria es requisito no haber faltado injustificadamente a más de un tercio de las clases. De no cumplir este requisito, el alumno podrá perder las convocatorias ordinaria y extraordinaria (art. 93.1 del Reglamento General)
- Para la segunda convocatoria, se mantendrán las calificaciones obtenidas en las prácticas, trabajos o proyectos de convocatorias anteriores, y a estas se añadirá la nota del examen correspondiente. Sin embargo, para las convocatorias siguientes, la evaluación se basará únicamente en la nota del examen.

## BIBLIOGRAFÍA Y RECURSOS

### Bibliografía Básica

Kumar, R (2019). Research Methodology. 5th Edition. Sage Publications.

Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2022). Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches. 6th Edition. Sage publications.

### Bibliografía Complementaria

Rosenstein, L. D. (2019). Research design and analysis: A primer for the non-statistician. John Wiley & Sons.

Montero, I. & León, O. (2007). A guide for naming research studies in Psychology. International Journal of Clinical and Health Psychology, 7(3), 847-862.

Fink, A. (2014). Conducting research literature reviews: from the internet to the paper. Sage Publications.

Meyer, D. K., & Schutz, P. A. (2020). Why talk about qualitative and mixed methods in educational psychology? Introduction to special issue. Educational Psychologist, 55(4), 193-196. <https://10.1080/00461520.2020.1796671>

León, O. & Montero, I. (2015). Métodos de investigación en psicología y educación: las



# COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

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CIHS

**GUÍA DOCENTE**  
**2024 - 2025**

tradiciones cuantitativa y cualitativa (4ª Ed). McGrawHill

Privitera, G (2015). Statistics for the Behavioral Sciences. Sage Publications.

Tolmie, A (2011). Quantitative methods in educational and social research using SPSS  
[electronic resource. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Davis, C (2013). SPSS step by step: essentials for social and political science. Policy Press,  
2013.

Field, A. (2013). Discovering statistics using IBM SPSS statistics. Sage Publications.