



Doctoral Programme in Governance Programme Description



■ Research Design

In their first year, the PhD candidates attend two semester-long colloquia that provide a forum for presenting their ideas to fellow students and the PhD Director. These modules support them in further developing their PhD proposals.

■ Methods

The PhD candidates also take courses familiarizing them with cutting-edge methods and concepts in the field of governance in the first year of the Doctoral Programme.

■ Skills

The programme is complemented by a set of skills workshops offering special training ranging from research methods to professional development. PhD candidates choose two workshops.

■ Research Colloquium

The Doctoral Programme is closely associated with the Hertie School's research activities. PhD candidates regularly attend research colloquia of the Hertie School. In the second and third year of their studies, they present their research in a colloquium and/or at a national or international conference.

■ Doctoral Research

At large, an increasing amount of time is allocated to independent work on the dissertation project. PhD candidates will find a unique support structure for their research. Each candidate works with a doctoral committee which eventually comprises three dissertation advisors who provide intellectual guidance and monitor the candidate's research progress.

Doctoral Research | Year 1

In the first year, PhD candidates spend about half of their time on independent **dissertation research**. Each PhD candidate works with a first advisor from the Hertie School's core faculty. Candidates begin to build their doctoral committee by determining a second advisor in time for the defence of their dissertation prospectus at the end of the first year. Continuation of the programme is dependent upon sufficient progress. During the first year, **skills workshops** must be attended. Also **Methods I and II** should be completed during the first year. The **Research Design Colloquium** is an important platform during the first year to discuss the dissertation plan and present first results.

Doctoral Research | Year 2

In the second year, PhD candidates spend most of their time working independently on the dissertation project. This may include field research to collect data and research stays at other universities. Candidates may present their research in progress at national or international conferences. Candidates continue building their doctoral committee by determining a third advisor. Continuation of the programme is dependent on a successful progress review at the end of the second year. The PhD candidate must present his or her work at least once, either at a colloquium at the Hertie School of Governance, at another university, a research institute, or at a conference or an academic workshop. The student decides together with the first and second advisor about the strategy to attend conferences and present his or her work to a wider academic audience.

Doctoral Research | Year 3

In the third year, PhD candidates spend most of their time working independently on the dissertation project. This may include data analysis and writing up the thesis. Candidates should continue to present their findings at conferences and academic workshops. PhD candidates are expected to submit their written thesis at the end of the third year, followed by a defence in the fourth year.

Research Design I and II

The purpose of this course is to discuss important concepts and issues of research design with a view to applying them to the dissertation projects. It aims at enabling students to choose the best research design for their PhD projects. PhD candidates present their dissertation proposals, discuss different steps in the research process, and are introduced to different research approaches. At the end of the course, students have specified their research question and the target audience of their dissertation. The course should also prepare the students for the submission of their dissertation prospectus (due 15 May).

Methods I and II

PhD candidates in the Doctoral Programme are expected to be familiar with the relevant quantitative and/or qualitative methods that are conducive to their research. All PhD students are required to take two methods courses during the first year. This may be a quantitative class (e.g., Statistics II or more advanced classes focusing on specific techniques). It may also be a qualitative class focusing on different qualitative research techniques such as interview techniques, content analysis, process tracing, or QCA. Alternatively, they can take concentration courses that are relevant for their dissertation projects. The first advisor should advise the student on the choice of suitable courses.

Skills

Over the course of the first year, PhD candidates attend two skills workshops. They can choose from a selection of workshops, covering both professional development and research methods. Past offers have included Academic Writing in English, Project Management, University Didactics, Conference Presentation and Career Planning as well as Process Tracing, Content Analysis, QCA, Social Network Analysis, and Interview Techniques.

Research Colloquium

PhD candidates are expected to attend at least one of the research colloquia of the Hertie School or equivalent colloquia. They are encouraged to present their work in one of the research colloquia and/or at national and international conferences.



Doctoral Programme in Governance: Structure

1st Year	PhD Courses and Supervision	ECTS
semester 1	Research Design I: "Research in Governance"	6
	Methods I: "Advanced Methods I" (or alternatively one concentration course that is relevant for the PhD candidate's research)	6
	Skills workshop I (e.g., project management for PhD candidates)	2
	Independent dissertation research	16
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD Board appoints first advisor 	
semester 2	Research Design II: "Research in Governance II"	6
	Methods II: "Advanced Methods II" (methods course or alternatively one concentration course that is relevant for the PhD candidate's research)	6
	Skills workshop II (e.g., special research methods or tools)	2
	Independent dissertation research	16
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD Board appoints 2nd advisor (towards end of first year) Candidate submits dissertation prospectus (6,000 – 8,000 words) Candidate defends prospectus (1 hour discussion with advisors) Advisors decide on continuation of doctoral programme 	
2nd Year		
semester 3	Research colloquium of the Hertie School or equivalent research colloquium (attend 4 events)	2
	Independent dissertation research	28
semester 4	Research colloquium of the Hertie School or equivalent research colloquium (attend 4 events, present once)	2
	Independent dissertation research	28
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PhD Board appoints 3rd advisor (towards end of 2nd year) Candidate submits completed sections of doctoral work Candidate discusses work progress with advisors Advisors decide on continuation of doctoral programme 	
3rd Year		
semester 5	Research colloquium of the Hertie School or equivalent research colloquium (attend 4 events)	2
	Independent dissertation research	28
semester 6	Research colloquium of the Hertie School or equivalent research colloquium (attend 4 events)	2
	Independent dissertation research	28
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidate finalises and submits doctoral work (dissertation or cumulative) by end of third year PhD Board appoints two reviewers (first advisor and second advisor) 	
4th Year		
Completion Phase		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of dissertation within 10 weeks PhD Board appoints doctoral committee which decides on acceptance of doctoral work Candidate defends dissertation with members of the doctoral committee (within four months after reception of last review) Candidate receives temporary PhD certificate after defence 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidate publishes dissertation (or cumulative doctoral work) within two years after defence 	
	Σ	180

These rules come into effect upon their publication on 28 February 2018.