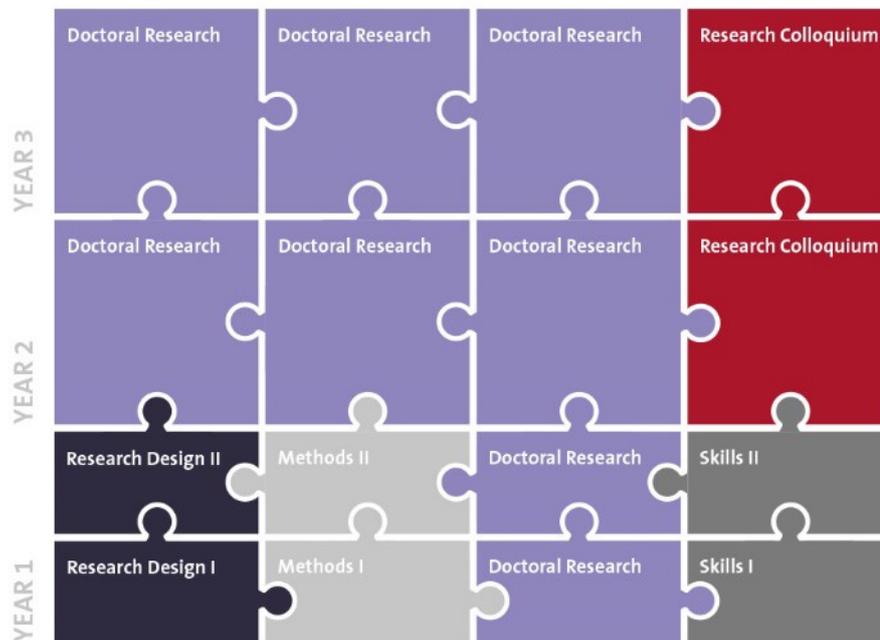# Doctoral Programme in Governance
Programme Description

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 clusters. PhD candidates are linked to one of the clusters and regularly attend their cluster's colloquia. In the second and third year of their studies, students present their research in the colloquium.

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.

Research Design I

The purpose of this first-semester course is to discuss important concepts and issues of research design with a view to applying them to the dissertation projects. It aims to enable 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 first semester, students have specified their research question and the target audience of their dissertation.

Research Design II

The purpose of this second-semester course is to prepare students for the submission of their dissertation prospectus on 15 May. The first part of the course focusses on recurring challenges to the development of any research design. Discussion of practical steps in research design complements the presentation of the dissertation projects in the second part of the course.

Methods I and II

PhD candidates in the Doctoral Programme are expected to be acquainted with quantitative methods conducive to empirical policy research and the ability to understand and critique the techniques employed by others. PhD candidates who have acquired these skills prior to their PhD studies will receive a waiver for the Methods I requirement. All other PhD candidates will be required to take the course "Statistics" during the first semester.

In the second semester, PhD candidates take a further methods class geared towards their specific needs with regard to methodological training. This may be an advanced quantitative class (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. The qualitative class is usually offered as a series of workshops.

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 main advisor from the Hertie School's core faculty. Candidates begin to build their doctoral committee by determining a second external advisor in time for the defence of their dissertation prospectus at the end of the first year. Contin-

uation of the programme is dependent upon sufficient progress. Depending on their topics, students are associated with one of the Hertie School's Research Clusters. PhD candidates are expected to attend the cluster colloquium on a regular basis during their first year.

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 academic 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.

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 may present their findings at academic conferences. 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 Colloquium

Depending on their topics, students are associated with one of the Hertie School's Research Clusters which bring together faculty, visiting scholars, postdocs, and candidates to discuss their projects and research progress in the stimulating context of the cluster colloquium. PhD candidates are expected to attend the cluster colloquium on a regular basis during the three-year programme. They present their research twice: once during their second year and once during their third year.

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.