

Interdisciplinary Programmes

Academic year 2019-2020

Applied Research Projects (ARP) Power, Conflict and Development

CAP_2DE – Spring and Autumn - 9 ECTS

Course Description

Applied Research Projects (ARP) are conducted in small groups of two to four students with collaboration from partners across International Geneva and beyond. Projects provide an opportunity for students to draw on their academic knowledge, theory and method whilst gaining direct research experience working on real-world research questions and global challenges. ARPs are specific research assignments that aim to provide students with skills and knowledge specialization that prove relevant and useful to future career choices.

Students are required to:

- (i) familiarize themselves with the partner organization and the major theoretical and conceptual debates around the project topic;
- (ii) formulate relevant research questions that help them deep dive into the issue;
- (iii) identify, assemble and analyze relevant

academic literature, documentation, other media and relevant data sources;

(iv) develop and design a full methodology appropriate to the research questions, knowledge gaps and topic;

(v) implement and conduct research;

(vi) analyze data and generate findings that respond to the research question(s); and

(vii) prepare a professionally-oriented written report and a final communication in the form of an oral presentation on the partner's premises.

> PROFESSOR

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Objectives

1. To gain *practical experience and expertise* in the processes required to conduct academically thorough applied research
2. To *strengthen capacities in using different research methods and analyses*, formulating research based policy recommendations and effective communication strategies
3. To *develop key competencies in transferable skills*: teamwork and peer dynamics; project management and planning; and internal and external communications.

Process

Research project proposals are prepared by ARP partners outlining background, project objectives, research questions and suggested methods and/or approach. Project proposals are made available to students who apply indicating 4 preferences and providing a statement of motivation. Where possible, students are allocated to their preferred choices. Mid-March to Mid-April students meet with their partner, teaching assistant and supervisor to kick off the projects and discuss, elaborate and plan how the research should move forward. Students are required to prepare an **Inception Report** defining the research questions, tools and methods, conceptual approach, full literature review and project plan with task owners. The Inception Report must be submitted by **7 June**.

Students are encouraged to continue their ARP during the summer months and use this time to conduct (if required) fieldwork. The **first draft** of the ARP Report should be submitted by **28 October** for feedback from the Supervisor, the Teaching Assistants and the partner organization. **Final submissions** are made by **2 December**. Students present their findings in an oral presentation on the partner's premises in the first two weeks of December.

Evaluation

ARPs are graded as follows:

- The **Final Report** amounts to 60% of the final grade
- The **Inception Report** represents 20% of the final grade
- The **Final Presentation** accounts for 20% of the final grade

Timeline

February 17th – March 20th	Meeting and planning with supervisor; allocation of projects
March 25th – April 8th	Meeting with partner organization and onset of work
June 7th	Submission of Inception Reports outlining the research framework
October 28th	Submission of Preliminary Reports
December 2nd	Submission of Final Reports
December	Final presentations on partner's premises (exact dates to be defined)

Seminars

February 19th	Introduction session of the Power, Conflict and Development specialization track
March 11th 14:15 - 16:00	Project planning
April 8th 14:15 - 16:00	Group work
May 6th 14:15 – 16:00	Methods in context
Date to be determined	Professional project writing