

## Guide to research methods training in the social sciences

This brief guide is designed to provide some pointers to the rapidly-growing availability of training provision in social science methods

ESRC National Centre for

More copies of  
this brochure  
can be  
downloaded  
from:

[www.ccsr.ac.uk/  
methods/  
courses/](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/courses/)

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### Statistical software packages

**Centre for Applied Statistics, University of Lancaster**

[www.cas.lancs.ac.uk/short\\_courses/courselist.html](http://www.cas.lancs.ac.uk/short_courses/courselist.html)

**ESRC Oxford Spring School**

[springschool.politics.ox.ac.uk/](http://springschool.politics.ox.ac.uk/)

**The Centre for Applied Social Surveys, University of Southampton**

[www.socstats.soton.ac.uk/cass/courses0405/index.html](http://www.socstats.soton.ac.uk/cass/courses0405/index.html)

**The Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research**

[www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/external/2004-2005/](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/external/2004-2005/)

**University of Surrey**

[www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/daycourses/dcindex.html](http://www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/daycourses/dcindex.html)

**Essex Summer School**

[www.essex.ac.uk/methods](http://www.essex.ac.uk/methods)

### Software for analysis of qualitative data

**CAQDAS (computer-aided qualitative data analysis), University of Surrey**

[caqdas.soc.surrey.ac.uk/events.htm](http://caqdas.soc.surrey.ac.uk/events.htm)

**Online Support for QDA and CAQDAS and Evaluation of Learning Needs**

[caqdas.soc.surrey.ac.uk/](http://caqdas.soc.surrey.ac.uk/)

**Social Research Association**

[www.the-sra.org.uk/](http://www.the-sra.org.uk/)

**Centre for Applied Statistics, University of Lancaster**

[www.cas.lancs.ac.uk/short\\_courses/courselist.html](http://www.cas.lancs.ac.uk/short_courses/courselist.html)

### Statistical analysis, including multilevel modelling, longitudinal analysis and econometrics

**Centre for Applied Statistics, University of Lancaster**

[www.cas.lancs.ac.uk/short\\_courses/courselist.html](http://www.cas.lancs.ac.uk/short_courses/courselist.html)

**Centre for Microdata Methods and Practice**

[cemmap.ifs.org.uk](http://cemmap.ifs.org.uk)

**Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis and Collection**

[www.essex.ac.uk/methods/](http://www.essex.ac.uk/methods/)

**Longitudinal Data Analysis in the Social Sciences**

[www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk/index.html](http://www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk/index.html)

**Statistical Services Centre, University of Reading**

[www.rdg.ac.uk/ssc/](http://www.rdg.ac.uk/ssc/)

**The Centre for Applied Social Surveys, University of Southampton**

[www.socstats.soton.ac.uk/cass/courses0405/index.html](http://www.socstats.soton.ac.uk/cass/courses0405/index.html)

**ESRC Oxford Spring School**

[springschool.politics.ox.ac.uk/](http://springschool.politics.ox.ac.uk/)

**The Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research**

[www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/external/2004-2005/](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/external/2004-2005/)

**Royal Economic Society Easter/Summer School**

[www.economics.bham.ac.uk/EasterSchool/2005/res.htm](http://www.economics.bham.ac.uk/EasterSchool/2005/res.htm)

**Centre for Longitudinal Studies, Institute of Education**

[www.cls.ioe.ac.uk](http://www.cls.ioe.ac.uk)

**UK Longitudinal Studies Centre, University of Essex**

[www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/](http://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/ulsc/)

## Support for quantitative social science

### Centre for Applied Statistics, University of Lancaster

[www.cas.lancs.ac.uk/short\\_courses/courselist.html](http://www.cas.lancs.ac.uk/short_courses/courselist.html)

The Centre for Applied Statistics runs an ESRC-funded statistical service which provides help and guidance on statistical matters, including questionnaire design, statistical analysis of data, use of statistical packages, design of experiments and data display.

### Economic and Social Data Service

[www.esds.ac.uk](http://www.esds.ac.uk)

The ESDS provides access and support for an extensive range of key economic and social data, both quantitative and qualitative, spanning many disciplines and themes.

## Survey design and conduct

### The Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research

[www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/external/2004-2005/](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/external/2004-2005/)

### The Centre for Applied Social Surveys, University of Southampton

[www.socstats.soton.ac.uk/cass/courses0405/index.html](http://www.socstats.soton.ac.uk/cass/courses0405/index.html)

### The Question Bank

[qb.soc.surrey.ac.uk/](http://qb.soc.surrey.ac.uk/)

**Survey Link Scheme** - provides a short placement with a major survey agency

[www.esrc.ac.uk/esrccontent/postgradfunding/survey\\_link\\_scheme.asp](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/esrccontent/postgradfunding/survey_link_scheme.asp)

## Qualitative methods, including field work, focus groups and data analysis

### CAQDAS (computer-aided qualitative data analysis), University of Surrey

[caqdas.soc.surrey.ac.uk/events.htm](http://caqdas.soc.surrey.ac.uk/events.htm)

### ESDS Qualidata, University of Essex

[www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata](http://www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata)

### National Centre for Social Research

[www.natcen.ac.uk/natcen/pages/nm\\_events.htm](http://www.natcen.ac.uk/natcen/pages/nm_events.htm)

### Social Research Association

[www.the-sra.org.uk/](http://www.the-sra.org.uk/)

### The Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research

[www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/external/2004-2005/](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/external/2004-2005/)

### University of Durham

[www.dur.ac.uk/case.2004/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/case.2004/)

### University of Essex Summer School in Social Science

[www.essex.ac.uk/methods/](http://www.essex.ac.uk/methods/)

### University of Surrey

[www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/daycourses/dcindex.html](http://www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/daycourses/dcindex.html)

## Other topics

### Courses in writing proposals, managing research, reviewing and communication

[www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/](http://www.soc.surrey.ac.uk/)

### Demographic methods

[www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/external/2004-2005/](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/courses/external/2004-2005/)

### SOSIG Free online tutorial for research methods

[www.vts.rdn.ac.uk/tutorial/social-research-methods](http://www.vts.rdn.ac.uk/tutorial/social-research-methods)

### Quantitative methods in the social sciences

European Science Foundation-funded workshops for young researchers in Europe

[www.esf.org/esf\\_article.php?language=0&article=311&domain=5&activity=1](http://www.esf.org/esf_article.php?language=0&article=311&domain=5&activity=1)

## Workshops being run under the Research Methods Programme

In addition to those listed above, many other projects funded under the Research Methods Programme are now running workshops or other training events. Topics include social network analysis, analysis of media content and dealing with missing data. All workshops and courses run under the Research Methods Programme are listed in the Research Methods Programme diary at [www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/diary](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/diary).

## Workshops being run under the National Centre for Research Methods

All workshops and courses run by the National Centre for Research Methods are listed on the training page of the NCRM website at [www.ncrm.ac.uk](http://www.ncrm.ac.uk).

## Other resources being developed under the Research Methods Programme

### Exploring online research methods in a virtual training environment

[www.le.ac.uk/gg/research/OnlineResearch/index.html](http://www.le.ac.uk/gg/research/OnlineResearch/index.html)

### Focusing on the Case in Quantitative and Qualitative Research

[www.dur.ac.uk/case.2004/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/case.2004/)

### Masterclasses in Research Methods

[cemmap.ifs.org.uk/events.php](http://cemmap.ifs.org.uk/events.php)

### Longitudinal Data Analysis in the Social Sciences

[www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk/](http://www.longitudinal.stir.ac.uk/)

### Online Support for QDA and CAQDAS and Evaluation of Learning Needs

[caqdas.soc.surrey.ac.uk/onlineqda/qdahome.htm](http://caqdas.soc.surrey.ac.uk/onlineqda/qdahome.htm)

### Partnership Research: negotiating user involvement in research design

[www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/projects/posters/frankham.shtml](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/projects/posters/frankham.shtml)

### Practical Examples of the Analyses of Surveys (PEAS)

[www.dcs.napier.ac.uk/%7Epeas/index.htm](http://www.dcs.napier.ac.uk/%7Epeas/index.htm)

### Qualitative Management Research

[www.shef.ac.uk/bgpinqmr/](http://www.shef.ac.uk/bgpinqmr/)

### Training in Research With and About Children

[www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/projects/posters/tisdall.shtml](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/projects/posters/tisdall.shtml)

## Government Social Research Professional Development Courses

A number of Government Social Research Professional Development Courses in policy evaluation and analysis are run by the Cabinet Office. As well as increasing their knowledge of various research methodologies, the courses also offer participants the opportunity to make contacts within various Government Departments. The Cabinet Office would like to encourage take-up among ESRC. Further details are available at:

[www.policyhub.gov.uk/evalpolicy/training\\_on\\_evaluation\\_methods.asp](http://www.policyhub.gov.uk/evalpolicy/training_on_evaluation_methods.asp)

## Further information

A new courses database has been set up by the National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) which is designed to hold information on a wide range of training opportunities within the social sciences across the UK. This will become the key location for information about training opportunities. The database can be searched according to keywords and will provide information about training from introductory to advanced courses. The database will become available shortly from the training page of the NCRM website at [www.ncrm.ac.uk](http://www.ncrm.ac.uk). In the meantime, information on training courses is still available from the Research Methods Programme website at [www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/courses](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods/courses).

- For more information on the Research Methods Programme go to [www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods](http://www.ccsr.ac.uk/methods)
- For more information on the National Centre for Research Methods go to [www.ncrm.ac.uk](http://www.ncrm.ac.uk)
- To receive mailings of training opportunities and other information from the SRA, go to [www.the-sra.org.uk](http://www.the-sra.org.uk)
- SOSIG provides information on resources, training and conferences and a general gateway to social science resources [www.sosig.ac.uk](http://www.sosig.ac.uk)

## Funding Opportunities

The following course providers offer bursaries. Contact them individually for details of conditions and how to apply:

### Centre for Applied Statistics, University of Lancaster

### The Centre for Applied Social Surveys, University of Southampton

### The Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research

### ESRC Research Training Support Grant

The ESRC currently pays a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) of £750 a year for each fulltime Research Studentship holder. In the case of the joint ESRC/NERC studentships, NERC's higher rate for RTSG of £1000 is awarded. These grants are to cover support costs, for example, for buying equipment and materials, survey costs, UK fieldwork expenses, essential visits, conferences and summer schools. Payments are made direct to the student's institution. See: [www.esrc.ac.uk/esrccontent/downloaddocs/guidancenotes04.pdf](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/esrccontent/downloaddocs/guidancenotes04.pdf)

### ESRC Bursaries for Training

The ESRC Research Methods Programme offers 50 bursaries a year of up to £1,000 each to enable HEFC-funded staff in the UK engaged in teaching methods or supervising research, and contract researchers working in HEIs to update their skills.

## Contact Details

The easiest way to obtain more information about the training listed in this leaflet is to search the web, using the urls provided. However, we appreciate that there are times and situations where this is not possible, and give below a list of email addresses and telephone numbers which may be useful.

	<b>Tel:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
Benchmarking good practice in qualitative management research	0114 222 3367	C.Cassell@sheffield.ac.uk
CAQDAS, University of Surrey	01483 689455	caqdas@soc.surrey.ac.uk
Centre for Applied Statistics	01524 593064	statistics@lancaster.ac.uk
Centre for Longitudinal Studies, IoE	020 7612 6900	cls@cls.ioe.ac.uk
Centre for Microdata Methods and Practice	020 7291 4800	cemmap@ifs.org.uk
Department of Sociology, University of Surrey	01483 689458	day.courses@soc.surrey.ac.uk
Economic and Social Data Service	01206 872143	help@esds.ac.uk
ESRC Oxford Spring School	01865 278707	-
Essex Summer School	01206-872502	sumsch@essex.ac.uk
Exploring online research methods in a virtual training environment	0116 252 3643	cm12@le.ac.uk
Focusing on the case in quantitative and qualitative research	0191 3346838	Linda.campbell@durham.ac.uk
Internet access to research methods training materials	0207 291 4800	f.windmeijer@ifs.org.uk
Longitudinal data analysis in the social sciences	01786 467708	vg1@stir.ac.uk
Online support for QDA and CAQDAS and evaluation of learning needs	01484 472275	G.R.Gibbs@hud.ac.uk
Partnership research: negotiating user involvement in research design	0161 275 3338	jo.frankham@man.ac.uk
Practical examples of the analyses of surveys (PEAS)	0131 455 5357	g.raab@napier.ac.uk
Question Bank	01483 686968	qb@soc.surrey.ac.uk
Statistical Services Centre, University of Reading	0118 378 8689	statistics-courses@lists.rdg.ac.uk
Survey Link Scheme	01483 689457 (Tues to Thurs)	a.eastell-bleakley@soc.surrey.ac.uk
The Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research	0161 255 4736	kathryn.clements@manchester.ac.uk
The Centre for Applied Social Surveys	023 8059 5376	cass@socsci.soton.ac.uk
Training in Research with and about Children	0131 650 3930	K.Tisdall@ed.ac.uk
Social Network Analysis	0161 275 2497	gindo.tampubolon@man.ac.uk
Social Research Association	020 8880 5684	admin@the-sra.org.uk
UK Longitudinal Studies Centre	01206 872957	ulsc@essex.ac.uk
University of Durham	0191 3346838	Linda.campbell@durham.ac.uk
University of Surrey	01483 689458	day.courses@soc.surrey.ac.uk

**ESRC Research Methods Programme**  
**Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research**  
**School of Social Sciences**  
**Crawford House,**  
**University of Manchester,**  
**Manchester, M13 9PL**  
**Tel: 0161 275 4891, Email: r.durrell@man.ac.uk**

**ESRC National Centre for Research Methods**  
**School of Social Sciences**  
**University of Southampton**  
**Southampton**  
**SO17 1BJ**  
**Tel: 023 8059 4539**  
**Email: info@ncrm.ac.uk**