



Course Guide

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1. Introduction

This training course is designed to provide knowledge and skills in research methodology, research protocol development and scientific writing to health professionals in sexual and reproductive health field and related fields. It advances participants' knowledge of research methodology and how to develop research protocols and improve their scientific writing.

Participants can make contact with WHO Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health & Research and the WHO Library. This enhances their professional network and offers new opportunities for their career.

2. Organizers

- Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research
- Oxford Maternal & Perinatal Health Institute
- World Health Organisation's Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health & Research

3. Course period

The study time required for the course is 8 weeks. The total 60 study hours includes the time for research protocol development.

4. Course structure

Course	Schedule
Training course in research methodology, research protocol development and scientific writing 2025	8 weeks (3 September – 28 October 2025)

Presentations and study materials will be published in the course website on a weekly basis, every Monday morning. Participants will be informed via email named "GFMER RM 2025 – course weekly schedule". However, participants are advised to visit the course website regularly. All materials are provided in electronic format. You can access the course with this link: <https://www.gfmer.ch/2025-courses/research-methodology/index.htm>

5. Teaching language

The teaching language of the course is English. Participants can however develop their research protocols in English or French.

6. Study materials

To compensate for live meetings and instructions, the reading and writing requirements in online courses are typically more substantive than in traditional courses. The advantage is that you not

only acquire knowledge through course materials, through your personal time management, but also learn how to communicate in an online learning environment. In order to complete the courses, you need self-discipline and time management skills.

7. Presentations

Each module contains a set of slides which may have accompanying talking points. They are available on the related sites and can be accessed whenever the participant wishes. Presentation files can be downloaded in PDF format.

The presentations and audio-visual materials can also be accessed by smartphone and tablets.

8. Integrated key readings

We have selected reference documents from a wide range of sources. You can find these required readings by following the links in each module. We also provide suggestions for further reading.

9. Study support

The course coordinators have specific research interests and actively collaborate in the management of the courses. They are responsible for the academic quality of the course materials and they are involved in course development, teaching, and assessment. A personal coach is assigned to each participant. The role of personal coach is to facilitate the learning process to the participants, and to review her /his assignments and research protocol and provide feedback. Personal coach is the primary contact of the participant.

10. Assignments

Below are the assignment requirements for the course:

This course is comprised principally of 8 modules. For each module, participants should:

- Study the slide sets and talking points.
- Read all accompanying documents.
- Complete the short assignment, after going through the slide set and documents.
- Review the feedback provided by the coach

The short paperwork assignments are to enable participants get acquainted with presentations and accompanying documents and apply their knowledge. They also provide a stepwise guide to participants towards the development of their research protocol.

At the end of the 8th module, participants should:

- Complete the end of course multiple-choice questions
- Develop and submit a research protocol under the guidance of their coach
- Complete & submit the end of course evaluation

We will provide specific guide and instructions for paperwork assignment. Participants are expected to have basic computer skills in word processing programs, for example the Microsoft Word application.

Note:

Timely completion of assignment is taken into consideration for the final evaluation and certification of participants.

11. Final evaluation and certification

In order to validate the course and obtain the certificate, the participants are required to develop a research protocol relevant to their professional practice and under the guidance of their personal coach.

The successful participants will receive a certificate signed by the World Health Organization's Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research/Human Reproduction Programme, Oxford Maternal & Perinatal Health Institute and the Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research.

12. Participant's ID

Each participant will be assigned a unique number as a participant's ID. Participants are asked to use this ID in all communications with GFMER.

13. Assignment's code

Each assignment will get a unique number as an assignment's code. When participants submit their assignments, both their participant's and the assignment's code should be used as part of the file name and in the content. An assignment template will be provided during the course.

14. The online learning environment

Below are the information about the learning mode:

14.1 List of participants

A list of names of all participants and their affiliations will be published on the course web page on GFMER website. Clicking the name of each participant will link to his/her personal profile (if provided).

14.2 Online communication

Online communication not only gives you administrative and technical support, but also offers the opportunity to broaden your education. You will find electronic documentation to download, links to other relevant resources, and information about important events. Course-specific

discussion rooms offer you the chance to bring both academic and relevant non-academic issues under the attention of course coordinators, coaches as well as other participants. The diversity within the community of participants and the network facilitated by the program provides a wonderful opportunity to learn from and share experiences with people from different countries.

14.3 Google Groups

Google Groups is a Google product allowing internet users to create online and email groups about a specific subject as a discussion and sharing platform. Through the group for the course as listed below course coordinators will post their information.

Link: <https://groups.google.com>

Group name: RM2025

Your Gmail provided in your application form will be added to the Group directly. After login with your Gmail account, you can create new topic for discussion or response to any topics through email or direct access to the group website. Google has clear online instructions on how to access the group. Only participants can view the group content and its member list, upload files, and post topics.

How to use Google Group: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XEliJboxef-w3o0pxWbRquAeSk9WJg0t/view>

14.4 Social media

Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube are social utilities that connect people with friends and others. You can easily find instructions to sign up and create your personal profile. You can then become friends of GFMER and get updated about upcoming events.



14.5 WhatsApp and Zoom

These applications (computer and mobile) allow you to make free calls to people (Internet charges may however apply). The applications can be downloaded for free. Once an account has been created, you can add contacts, chat, call and send files. WhatsApp even allows you to make conference calls and you can hold a meeting on Zoom. During the course, coaches will be encouraged to create a WhatsApp group with their participants to facilitate communication and interaction for the course.

15. Contact

Course email:

Training course in research methodology, research protocol development and scientific writing
(researchmethodology@gfmer.org)

For any question and instruction please contact:

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