

## Qualitative Methods and Field Work

Code: 104248  
ECTS Credits: 6

**2024/2025**

Degree	Type	Year
2503710 Geography, Environmental Management and Spatial Planning	OB	2

### Contact

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### Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

### Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites established for this course.

### Objectives and Contextualisation

The objectives of the course are two:

- a) The knowledge of the process of organization and development of field work in social sciences and, specifically, its application to the research in territorial and urban planning processes.
- b) The knowledge and adequate use of the main qualitative methods of social research: conversation / narration techniques, observation techniques, mixed conversation and observation techniques, visual techniques, cartographic representation techniques and documentary techniques.

### Learning Outcomes

1. CM25 (Competence) Carry out a basic research project introducing qualitative methodologies: defining the problem, selecting the method, collecting information, and analysing the material using coding systems and internal analysis.
2. KM40 (Knowledge) Introduce the main sources of scientific information and documentation related to territorial and environmental processes in a study.
3. SM33 (Skill) Apply the methods and techniques of qualitative analysis and fieldwork in the interpretation of spatial and environmental processes.

### Content

1. The research process

- a) Fases of the research.
- b) Objectives/Hypothesis/Research questions
- c) Methodological design of the research
- d) Field work
- e) Analysis of the information
- f) Dissemination of results
- 2. Basic epistemological elements of the social sciences
  - a) Positivism/postpositivism
  - b) Hermeneutics
  - c) Positionality/reflexivity
  - d) Reliability and validity of the investigation
- 3. Ethical aspects in social science research.
- 4. Quantitative-qualitative methodology. Methodological triangulation and combination of methods.
- 5. Qualitative methodology.
  - a) Conversation techniques
    - Individual interview
    - Life stories
    - Group interview/Focus group
    - Interview with key informants
  - b) Observation techniques
    - Observation
    - Participant observation
  - c) Conversation and observation techniques (Walking interviews)
  - d) Visual techniques
    - Photovoice
    - Photo-stimulation, photodocumentation and reflexive photography
  - e) Cartographic representation techniques
    - Mental maps
    - Participatory cartography and collective mapping
    - *Relief maps*
  - f) Documentary techniques
- 6. Practical aspects of the development of field work

7. CAQDAS (Computer Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software)
8. Analysis of information, preparation of documents and dissemination of results.

## Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Field work	16	0.64	CM25, KM40, SM33, CM25
Lessons (theory, concepts and methods)	15	0.6	KM40, SM33, KM40
Workshops	16	0.64	CM25, SM33, CM25
Type: Supervised			
Exercises and research project	20	0.8	CM25, SM33, CM25
Tutorials	5	0.2	SM33, SM33
Type: Autonomous			
Personal study, elaboration of reviews and design of a qualitative fieldwork project	75	3	CM25, SM33, CM25

Lessons on concepts, theories and methods will be complemented with the design of a qualitative fieldwork applied to a case of territorial/urban planning, which will be coordinated with the *Territorial and Environmental Laboratory*. This project will allow the students to work professionally on the problems the investigation and the fieldwork. The study and practise of the qualitative methods requires fieldwork on the geographical areas previously selected for the development of the *Territorial and Environmental Laboratory*.

Reading of basic texts about epistemological reflection, research design and methods will be compulsory.

Process of learning and acquisition of competences will be supervised by the lecturer through individual and/or group tutorials. Lecturers of the courses will be available to the students to solve the doubts and follow the evolution of the mentioned process of learning and acquisition of competences of the students.

All the information used by the lecturer in the theoretical classes and the seminars as well as the different materials elaborated by the students will be available in the Virtual Campus.

The activities that could not be done onsite will be adapted to an online format made available through the UAB's virtual tools. Exercises, projects and lectures will be carried out using virtual tools such as tutorials, videos, Teams sessions, etc. Lecturers will ensure that students are able to access these virtual tools, or will offer them feasible alternatives.

At the beginning of the course, the teacher will explain the protocol of measures and good practices for field trips.

Note: 15 minutes of a class will be reserved, within the calendar established by the center/degree, for the completion by the students of the surveys to evaluate the performance of the teaching staff and the evaluation of the subject.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Assessment

### Continuous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Complementary exercises, workshops and fieldwork	30%	0	0	CM25
Exam	40%	3	0.12	KM40, SM33
Research project on a territorial/urban planning case	30%	0	0	CM25, SM33

The evaluation of the subject will be based on the continuous evaluation of the process of acquisition of knowledge and skills by the student and will consist of:

- 1 exam (40% grade)
- Research project with qualitative methods on a territorial/urban planning case. The part corresponding to methodology and field work developed within the diagnosis - case of territorial/urban planning - will be evaluated and coordinated with the Territorial and Environmental Laboratory (30%)
- Complementary exercises, workshops and fieldwork (30%)

The classroom practices (workshops) associated with the completion of the complementary exercises and the research work project are of mandatory attendance. Only students who have completed the corresponding practice in the classroom will be evaluated.

To pass the course, each of the different parts that are part of the assessment process (exam, research project and complementary exercise) must be passed (minimum of 5). The student will receive the grade of "Not assessable" as long as he/she has not passed the exam or more than 2/3 of the assessment activities.

There is a final recovery call for those students who have followed the course and have taken the final exam. To participate in the student's recovery, the weight of those equivalent to a minimum of 2/3 of the total evaluation must have been previously evaluated in a set of activities.

All recovered activities (including the exam) will have a maximum grade of 5.

In the event that the student makes any irregularity (copying, plagiarism, unauthorized use of AI, etc.) that may lead to a significant variation of the grade in an act of evaluation, this act of evaluation will be rated 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that may be instructed. In the event that several irregularities occur in the acts of evaluation of the same subject, the final grade for this subject will be 0. These activities will not be recoverable.

At the time of each evaluation activity, the teacher will inform the students (moodle) of the procedure and date of revision of the grades.

In case the evaluation activities cannot be done in person, it will adapt its format (keeping the weight) to the possibilities offered by the virtual tools of the UAB and the internet. Homework, activities, class participation and the exam will be done through tutorials, forums, wikis and/or discussions of exercises through Teams, etc. The teacher will ensure that the student can access or offer alternative means that are within their reach.

This subject/module does not incorporate single assessment.

## Bibliography

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Valles, Miguel (2002), *Entrevistas cualitativas*, Madrid: CIS.

- How to cite and elaborate the bibliography: <https://www.uab.cat/web/estudia-i-investiga/com-citar-i-elaborar-la-bibliografia-1345708785665.html>.

## Software

Qualitative analysis software (CAQDAS): Atlas.Ti (available in the computer rooms of the Faculty of Arts)

## Language list



Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	11	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	12	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(PCAM) Field practices	11	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(PCAM) Field practices	12	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	second semester	morning-mixed