

		Empirical-Analytical			Interpretative			Mixed Methods						
Year 1, Semester 1: <i>From generic to thematic specialisation</i>	Block 1	Epistemology, Quality and Ethics in Social Science Research (12 EC)												
	Block 2	Thematic Elective (9EC)	Thematic Elective (9EC)	Thematic Elective (9EC)	Thematic Elective (9EC)	Thematic Elective (9EC)	Thematic Elective (9EC)	Thematic Elective (9EC)						
	Block 3													
Year 1, Semester 2: <i>Methodological training</i>	Block 4	Design in Quantitative Research (6EC)	Data and Measurement (6EC)		Methods Elective ¹ (6EC)		Interpreting Qualitative Data (6EC)		Data and Measurement (6EC)		Methods Elective ² (6EC)			
	Block 5	Statistical Models in the Social Sciences (9EC)	Methods Elective (6EC)	Team Work Research Seminar (3EC)	Qualitative Research Design and Fieldwork Proposal (9EC)	Methods Elective (6EC)	Team Work Research Seminar (3EC)	Mixed Methods Design and Analysis (9EC)	Methods Elective (6EC)	Team Work Research Seminar (3EC)				
	Block 6													
Year 2 Semester 3: <i>Practical research, and/or further methodological training</i>	Block 1	Methods Electives (12EC) + Internship (12EC)			Fieldwork (24EC)		Fieldwork (12EC) + Internship (12EC)		Methods Electives (12EC) + Internship		Internship (12EC) + Fieldwork (12EC)		Methods Electives (12EC) + Fieldwork (12EC)	
	Block 2													
	Block 3	Research Proposal Workshop (6EC)			Working with Fieldwork Data (6EC)				Mixed Methods in Practice (6EC)					
Year 2 Semester 4: <i>Thesis and Workshops</i>	Block 4	Thesis Seminar (3EC) Workshops Academic & Professional skills (3EC) Thesis (24EC)												
	Block 5													
	Block 6													

¹ Students in the “Interpretative” methods specialisation choose between “Experimenting with Ethnography” (6 EC) and “Practice of Ethnographic Research” (6 EC)

² Students in the “Mixed Methods” specialisation either take “Interpreting Qualitative Data” (6EC), or choose between “Experimenting with Ethnography” (6 EC) and “Practice of Ethnographic Research” (6 EC)

RMSS Curriculum Overview Cohort 2025-2027 standard options – June 2025. Please consult the [Course Catalogue](#) for detailed information on individual courses (subject to change)

Empirical-Analytical	Interpretative	Mixed Methods
Thematic Electives (9 EC) – Semester 1 block 2+3 S1³		
Culture, Markets, Power Race, Sex, and Postcolonial STS The Politics of Sustainability: Environments, Cultures, Materials Immigration, Precarious Labor and Segregation A Crisis of democracy? Challenge(r)s in the 21st century		
Methods Electives (6 EC) – Semester 2 block 4		
Not applicable	Experimenting with Ethnography Practice of Ethnographic Research	Interpreting Qualitative Data Experimenting with Ethnography Practice of Ethnographic Research
Methods Electives (6 EC) – Semester 2 block 5		
Policy Oriented Research Computational Social Science Analysis Content Analysis * Experimentation in the Social Sciences *	Policy Oriented Research Analysing talk and text	Policy Oriented Research Analysing talk and text Computational Social Science Analysis Content Analysis * Experimentation in the Social Sciences *
Methods Electives (12 EC) - Semester 3 block 1+2 ⁴		
Measuring Meaning (6 EC, B1) Structural Equation Modelling (6 EC, B1) * Individual Reading Course (6 EC, B1)	Not applicable	Measuring Meaning (6 EC, B1) Structural Equation Modelling (6 EC, B1) * Individual Reading Course (6 EC, B1)
Big Data I (6 EC, B2) * <i>(not available to students who previously completed "Computational Social Science Analysis")</i> Social Network Analysis (6 EC, B2) Analysis of Longitudinal Data (6 EC, B2) * Individual Reading Course (6 EC, B2)	Not applicable	Big Data I (6 EC, B2) * <i>(not available to students who previously completed "Computational Social Science Analysis")</i> Social Network Analysis (6 EC, B2) Analysis of Longitudinal Data (6 EC, B2) * Individual Reading Course (6 EC, B2)
Structural Equation Modelling in educational research (12 EC, B1 & B2)**	Not applicable	Structural Equation Modelling in educational research (12 EC, B1 & B2)**

* Course is offered by the Research Master Communication Science. Three/Five spots are reserved for RMSS students. Further places may be offered after the initial course registration period, depending on course capacity.

** Course is offered by the Research Master Child Development & Education. Three spots are reserved for RMSS students. Further places may be offered after the initial course registration period, depending on course capacity.

³ One Thematic Elective (TE) may be replaced by a TE of [the Master's in Political Science](#) or [Master's in Sociology](#), provided that the schedules do not conflict, places are available, the Examinations Board grants approval, and the elective takes place in Block 2 and 3 of Semester 1. For more information and questions, e-mail studyadviser-rmss@uva.nl.

⁴ One methods elective in Semester 3 can be replaced by an "Individual Reading Course" (6 EC) *Only available for students that follow methods electives in Semester 3.*