

## ENDORSEMENTS

"Participating in the CERES course has been a great learning opportunity and it has been inspiring to be part of the PhD community and learn from their research."

**FENNA HOEFSLOOT** (UNIVERSITY OF AMSTERDAM)



"My expectations for the CERES course were to receive guidance on how to organize my ideas and develop a proper research proposal that will be ready for field work. I have not been disappointed: the CERES course was inspiring in every way!"

**MUSTIKA ANGGRAENI** (BRAWIJAYA  
UNIVERSITY, INDONESIA)



## SUMMER SCHOOL

CERES organizes a biennial Summer school at one of the member institutions with key note speakers and thematic panels. Its aim is to bring junior and senior researchers together to become acquainted with each other's work. For junior researchers (PhD's), the Summer school conference offers a positive non-threatening platform to present your work to peers and colleagues. The summer school is generally combined with a come-back day for earlier PhD candidates.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH MASTER STUDENTS

CERES also admits Research Master students from relevant programmes who are preparing for PhD studies or other employment positions.

## ALUMNI NETWORK

CERES maintains an active alumni network, thereby allowing candidates the possibility of connecting with senior and junior colleagues in the field.



## THE CERES PHD TRAINING PROGRAMME

## WHAT IS ON OFFER FOR YOU?

CERES Office  
Utrecht University  
Faculty of Law, Economics  
and Governance  
Janskerkhof 12 room A1.19  
3512 BL Utrecht  
The Netherlands



# WHAT IS CERES?

CERES is an accredited interuniversity research school for international development studies. It was established in 1994 and now possesses a membership of ten renowned university institutions in the Netherlands and Flanders. CERES offers a first-class, hands-on training programme for PhD candidates in preparation for social science fieldwork predominantly in the South. It undertakes platform activities for its members and also maintains a professional valuation system.

More information on CERES can be found at <http://ceres.sites.uu.nl/> or on Facebook and LinkedIn.

CERES offers a basic PhD training programme of 17.5 ECTS to an international group of PhD students who are doing their PhD studies (for the majority) in the Netherlands. Participants come from both the Global South and Europe, making it an extremely diverse group. This contributes to the uniqueness of the program. Despite the diversity of its participants - both geographic and disciplinary, the group shares an essential characteristic: the candidates are all social scientists working from a development perspective.

## THE CERES PHD TRAINING PROGRAMME: AIMS AND VISIONS

### CERES

preferably enrolls candidates at the inception of their PhD trajectories. Its programme aims to increase the skills and knowledge required for writing a viable, implementable and academic research proposal. The programme consists of a coherent set of theoretical and methodological modules, interspersed with hands-on interactive exercises aimed at applying the newly acquired knowledge to one's individual project. The modules, ranging from 1, 4, and 8 days are spaced at different intervals within a four month period. This provides the candidates time to continue to work on their proposal in between module sessions. Upon completion of the CERES programme, candidates will have developed confidence in their own abilities as a researcher as well as an understanding of PhD procedures and requirements. Moreover, they will have a workable research proposal in hand, and a network of fellow students with whom they have developed working relationships.

The CERES training course offers a unique learning experience. Candidates benefit from their exchanges within this heterogeneous group, becoming acquainted with diverse academic traditions, as well as gaining multidisciplinary insights into contemporary development issues, debates and methodologies.

CERES generally does not meet all of the candidates' schooling needs. Depending on the candidate's background or the specific nature of his/her research project, the candidate may need supplementary training. Such training may be sought at various university graduate schools in the Netherlands.

CERES does not assume the role of PhD supervisor, leaving this essential task to its member institutions. Instead, it provides training services that support the PhD candidate in his/her learning curve, and assist in making the PhD period a successful one.

# PROGRAMME

The CERES training programme is characterized by its "hands-on" "learning through practice" approach. It is a standardized programme that supports the different writing phases of the research proposal. It is finalized with PhD candidates presenting their proposal and receiving feedback from their peers, facilitators as well as invited senior members of the CERES Research School. Participants are expected to attend each of the modules and the comeback days.

The CERES course consists of five modules, preceded by an introduction day. The five modules are as follows:

## MODULE 1

Know where you stand. For this module a special approach has been developed for PhD's to recognize their epistemological and ontological positions and how they relate to the theoretical concepts which will be used in the research design.

## MODULE 2

Come-back day, for first presentation of research question and conceptual map.

## MODULE 3

Methodology in relation to research proposal. Emphasis is placed on the relationship between research strategy, research design, methodology and the theoretical framework. The candidates are given exercises to help formulate their strategies for their research proposal.

## MODULE 4

Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis Methods. This module touches on the consequences of methodological choices in relation to the research (proposal). Three short methodology courses are offered, aimed at providing deeper insight into qualitative and/or quantitative methodology. [This module is also open to other students]

## MODULE 5

Presentation tutorials. The presentation tutorials are the final part of the CERES course and offer candidates an important first opportunity to present and discuss their projects and receive comments and suggestions on their research design and focus. This module includes a full day of training on presentation techniques.

Interspersed during the programme CERES organizes evening meetings which highlight more practical issues such as supervisor-candidate relationships, ethics, publishing, publication ethics, research integrity and more.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

CREDITS: 17.5 ECTS

TIMING: March to June (on a part-time basis)

LOCATION: Conference Center De Glind, Utrecht University and ISS, the Hague

MORE INFORMATION: Anila Peri ([rebo.ceres@uu.nl](mailto:rebo.ceres@uu.nl))

CORE LECTURERS: Prof. Dr. Han van Dijk (Wageningen University) and Dr. Lorraine Nencel (VU Amsterdam) and others.