UNIVERSITÄT BERN

PhD Course: An Introduction to Research Data Management in international law, economics & political science

11 and 13 March, 2025 World Trade Institute, Anna Nussbaum, Hallerstr. 12, 2013 Bern (ONSITE ONLY)

Lecturers: Ursula Loosli M.A., Jennifer Morger M.Sc., Dr. Gero Schreier (Data Stewards, Open Science Team, University of Bern)

KSL Root Number: 494727
2 ECTS

Background and Relevance

Research Data Management (RDM) is a critical skill for any researcher in international law, economics and political science. Effective RDM enhances research efficiency through planning and implementation of best practices; it strengthens result robustness through good documentation of data and data sharing; and it facilitates data re-use, ultimately increasing the impact of scholarly work. For international trade and law studies, proper RDM is particularly crucial as it allows for the preservation and sharing of complex datasets, enabling comparative analyses and longitudinal studies. In addition, RDM is an important contribution to overall Data Literacy and is thus a valuable asset even beyond academia. Throughout the course, students will engage in interactive exercises, group discussions, and hands-on activities to reinforce learning and apply RDM concepts and strategies to their specific research areas.

Learning goals

After this course, participants will be able to

- apply good practices of Research Data Management (organizing, documenting, storing, and publishing) to their own work
- use a Data Management Plan (DMP) to enhance efficiency of their own project work
- explain basic terms/concepts of Research Data Management such as Open Research Data (ORD) and FAIR Data Principles

Course content

Basic concepts

- Key concepts and Data Management Plans (DMPs)
- Interactive exploration of the data lifecycle

Data Organization and Documentation

- Best practices
- How to optimize the structure of your tabular data

- Maximising (re-)usability through data documentation

Storage and Backup
- Options at University of Bern and best practices for secure data storage

Repositories and Data Publishing
- Step-by-step guide to data publishing
- Hands-on experience with Zenodo

Data Management Plan Workshop
- Creating and revising DMPs

Assessment and Grading

Participants will be asked to submit a Data Management Plan (DMP) for their research project based on input during the course.
Preparatory work and active participation are required. Course grades will be based on the take-home assignment (DMP).

Organization

Lectures, total number of hours:
16 (not including homework and assignment)

Lecturers

Ursula Loosli M.A. (Orcid 0000-0002-1480-315X) has been a Data Steward for Law and Humanities at the University of Bern since 2023. She joined the Research Data Support Unit at the University of Bern in 2021. Her background is in German Studies (MA) and Archival-, Library- and Information Science (MAS).
Jennifer Morger M.Sc. (Orcid 0000-0002-5730-1408) has been a Data Steward for Business, Economics, Politics & Social Sciences at the University of Bern since 2023. She joined the Research Data Support Unit at the University of Bern in 2017. Her background is in Biology (MSc).
Dr. Gero Schreier (Orcid 0000-0003-3293-9621) has been a Data Steward for Law and Humanities at the University of Bern since 2023. He joined the Research Data Support Unit at the University of Bern in 2019. He holds a PhD in Medieval History as well as a MAS in Library in Information Sciences.

Bibliography

Broman, K. W., & Woo, K. H. (2018). Data Organization in Spreadsheets. *The American Statistician*, *72*(1), 2–10. https://doi.org/10.1080/00031305.2017.1375989

Corti, L. & et al. (2019). *Managing and sharing research data: A guide to good practice* (2nd edition). SAGE Publications. [A roughly equivalent online version is accessible at https://dmeg.cessda.eu/Data-Management-Expert-Guide]

Toro, F. G. (2024). DMPs as Management Tool for Intellectual Assets by SMART-metrics. *International Journal of Digital Curation*, *18*(1), Article 1. https://doi.org/10.2218/ijdc.v18i1.919

Wilkinson, M. D., et al. (2016). The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship. *Scientific Data*, *3* (1), 160018. https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18