

# Module Description

## 30-M-Soz-M3c Sociological Methods c

Faculty of Sociology

*Version dated Feb 9, 2026*

This module guide reflects the current state and is subject to change. Up-to-date information and the latest version of this document can be found online via the page

<https://ekvv.uni-bielefeld.de/sinfo/publ/modul/31152445>

The current and valid provisions in the module guide are binding and further specify the subject-related regulations (German "FsB") published in the Official Announcements of Bielefeld University.

## **30-M-Soz-M3c Sociological Methods c**

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### **Faculty**

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Faculty of Sociology

### **Person responsible for module**

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Prof. Dr. Ruth Ayaß

Prof. Dr. Martin Kroh

### **Regular cycle (beginning)**

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Every semester

### **Credit points**

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14 Credit points

### **Competencies**

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**Non-official translation of the module descriptions. Only the German version is legally binding.**

As part of the General Competence Concept for the MA in Sociology (see [https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/soziologie/studium/master/pdf/Kompetenzkonzept\\_Masterstudiengaenge.pdf](https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/fakultaeten/soziologie/studium/master/pdf/Kompetenzkonzept_Masterstudiengaenge.pdf)), the module serves the profile-building study of sociological methods.

Students develop their methodological skills in this module. Based on a selected topic and orientated towards challenging methodological research problems, students are enabled to develop a research question independently and to answer it using advanced methodological procedures within the framework of an independent empirical analysis and to report on it appropriately.

### **Content of teaching**

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At the centre of the methods course is the development and application of relevant methods of empirical social research, considering both research-oriented and non-university practice in the use of methods.

In the context of methodology, a general distinction is made between qualitative and quantitative methodological approvals.

In qualitative approaches, the focus is on observation procedures, interview procedures as well as text- and image-orientated procedures, but also on dealing with the most important traditions of qualitative data analysis, such as ethnomethodology, discourse analysis, objective hermeneutics and grounded theory.

In addition to the most important qualitative research methods, the methodological prerequisites and implications of qualitative methods and their function for sociological theorising will also be discussed.

Quantitative approval includes the implementation of theory-oriented research hypotheses in a corresponding survey design, the development and testing of adequate survey instruments, the selection techniques for determining the units of investigation and the application of descriptive and multivariate evaluation methods. As part of the

quantitative approval process, differences between the methods used in academic social science research and those used in non-university market and opinion research are also addressed. Finally, current specialist discussions in international methodological journals are also considered.

Students are able to specialise in qualitative or quantitative methods by choosing the appropriate courses.

The module programme is always completed with a written assignment. This always takes the form of a seminar paper.

## Recommended previous knowledge

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The study of module 30-M-Soz-M3a should already be completed and the study of module 30-M-Soz-M3b started.

## Necessary requirements

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## Explanation regarding the elements of the module

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As an alternative to studying Seminar 1 and Seminar 2, a large seminar with double the scope can be taken.

Module structure: 1-2 SL, 1 bPr<sup>1</sup>

## Courses

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Title	Type	Regular cycle	Workload 5	LP <sup>2</sup>
Alternativ zu Seminar 1 und Seminar 2: großes Seminar	seminar	Unregelmäßig	240 h (60 + 180)	8 [SL]
Seminar 1	seminar	WiSe&SoSe	120 h (30 + 90)	4 [SL]
Seminar 2	seminar	WiSe&SoSe	120 h (30 + 90)	4 [SL]

## Study requirements

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Allocated examiner	Workload	LP <sup>2</sup>

<p>Teaching staff of the course <b>Alternativ zu Seminar 1 und Seminar 2: großes Seminar (seminar)</b></p> <p><i>Participation in group work (including working on exercises, development of research designs, data collection and evaluation), moderation or protocol activities and presentations as specified by the lecturer. The coursework is used for communicative (written and/or oral) practice and learning of the competences to be acquired with a focus on the interaction situation of the seminar. The coursework is part of the self-study and attendance time and corresponds to approximately 60 hours.</i></p>	<p>see above</p>	<p>see above</p>
<p>Teaching staff of the course <b>Seminar 1 (seminar)</b></p> <p><i>Participation in group work (including working on exercises, developing research designs, collecting and analyzing data), moderation or taking minutes and presentations as specified by the lecturer. The coursework is used for communicative (written and/or oral) practice and learning of the competences to be acquired with a focus on the interaction situation of the seminar. The coursework is part of the self-study and attendance time and corresponds to approximately 30 hours.</i></p>	<p>see above</p>	<p>see above</p>
<p>Teaching staff of the course <b>Seminar 2 (seminar)</b></p> <p><i>Participation in group work (including working on exercises, developing research designs, collecting and analyzing data), moderation or taking minutes and presentations as specified by the lecturer. The coursework is used for communicative (written and/or oral) practice and learning of the competences to be acquired with a focus on the interaction situation of the seminar. The coursework is part of the self-study and attendance time and corresponds to approximately 30 hours.</i></p>	<p>see above</p>	<p>see above</p>

## Examinations

Allocated examiner	Type	Weighting	Workload	LP <sup>2</sup>
<p>Person responsible for module examines or determines examiner</p> <p><i>term papers are approx. 20-30 pages in length.</i></p> <p><i>The examination is taken by a teaching staff, instructors, lecturers of one of the courses of the modules.</i></p>	<p>Hausarbeit</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>180h</p>	<p>6</p>

## Legend

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- 1 The module structure displays the required number of study requirements and examinations.
- 2 LP is the short form for credit points.
- 3 The figures in this column are the specialist semesters in which it is recommended to start the module. Depending on the individual study schedule, entirely different courses of study are possible and advisable.
- 4 Explanations on mandatory option: "Obligation" means: This module is mandatory for the course of the studies; "Optional obligation" means: This module belongs to a number of modules available for selection under certain circumstances. This is more precisely regulated by the "Subject-related regulations" (see navigation).
- 5 Workload (contact time + self-study)

**SoSe** Summer semester  
**WiSe** Winter semester  
**SL** study requirement  
**Pr** Examination  
**bPr** Number of examinations with grades  
**uPr** Number of examinations without grades