# Evidence in Public Policy:
## Module Guide

BLAVATNIK
SCHOOL OF
GOVERNMENT

UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

In partnership with **P** Pearson

# What to expect

The contents of each module will be available weekly. We expect students to participate in the course for 3–5 hours per week. Tasks and content vary per week but that is the guideline.

The course is deliberately designed to be flexible around your schedule. There are no live elements to the course – videos are pre-recorded and tasks are pre–set so can be picked up whenever you want during the seven days each module is live. You will have the opportunity to interact with the course Facilitator via email and within the learning platform and there are discussion forums to engage with peers.

# Module 0:
## Getting started

Introduce yourself to your cohort and meet the Facilitator, who will be providing support to you throughout the duration of the course. Learn more about what the course offers and how to navigate through it. Tell us about yourself by answering the questions and posting to the discussion board.

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# Module 1:
## Introduction and key concepts

**Your first module will focus on the introduction of fundamental questions, such as:**

· What is evidence?

· What is policy?

· How is evidence used in public policy?

· Why is evidence important for effective policymaking?

**Take an intuition quiz and your first set of knowledge check questions, which you'll perform weekly throughout the course to ensure you're on track with your learning targets. Join discussions specific to your interests with peers and the Facilitator. Collaborate with your peers on a template exercise.**

# Module 2:
## Causality and randomised control trials

**This module will focus on causality and counterfactuals. You will:**

· Define counterfactuals;

· Discuss the fundamental problem of evaluation;

· Calculate a treatment effect in practice; and

· Establish countermeasures via group discussions

**Take your weekly knowledge check. You will also participate in two peer-to-peer discussions with Facilitator input.**

## Module 3:
### Causality without randomised control trials

**During discussion sessions and peer activities, you will explore:**

· Difference-in-differences (DiD): the basics;

· Difference-in-differences (DiD): checking the assumptions; and

· Regression discontinuity design (RDD): the basics.

**Submit your knowledge check responses. Continue in-depth discussions with your peers and the Facilitator.**

## Module 4:
### Wrapping up the methods

**Through an example scenario, you will discuss:**

· Average effects and subgroup analysis;

· How to determine sample sizes; and

· Measurement.

**Submit knowledge check responses. Respond to a relevant journal article, your response will be peer-reviewed.**

## Module 5:
### Aggregating and finding evidence

**Throughout this module, you will take part in group activities and exercises using an example scenario. You will discuss:**

· Research credibility;

· Systematic reviews;

· Meta-analysis; and

· Finding evidence.

**Submit your knowledge check responses. Use an online tool to conduct meta-analysis and find evidence online. The Facilitator will comment on your findings.**

## Module 6:
### External validity and applicability of evidence

**You will take part in discussion sessions and perform a template activity to learn:**

· External validity;

· Ways to deal with external validity: aggregation, sub-group analysis, and comparing contexts;

· Mechanism mapping; and

· Fidelity vs adaptation.

**Submit your knowledge check responses. This week you will be part of a template activity, receiving feedback from your peers and the Facilitator.**

## Module 7:
### Practicalities: designing monitoring systems and impact evaluations

**In this module, you will have faculty sessions and in-depth discussions with your cohort regarding:**

· Organising and running an impact evaluation; and

· Ethics.

**Continue in-depth discussions with your peers and the Facilitator.**

## Module 8:
### Submission of assignment

**This is your final session. Submission of your individual project is expected. Your project will be marked by peers and the Facilitator will agree on the rubric and timescales for assessment results.**

**You will submit your final project, collated from work you will submit between modules three and seven, to be reviewed by the Facilitator. In this last week, you will be part of a final peer and Facilitator discussion board. You will also be given the opportunity to share your thoughts on the course with faculty via a discussion board.**

# How to earn a certificate and succeed in this course
## To succeed in this course, you are expected to:

- Watch all videos;
- Respond to all activities;
- Reflect on what you're learning;
- Share your ideas with your peers in the discussion forum; and
- Apply what you learnt to complete the final assignment.

**In order to pass the course and qualify for a certificate of completion, you must receive an overall grade of 75% or higher. Your grade will be calculated as follows:**

**Multiple-choice knowledge check = 5%**

**Facilitator graded discussion forums = 15%**

**Discuss and reflect activities = 20%**

**Mid-course scaffolding assignment = 10%**

**Final assignment [summative assessment] = 50%**

Note that certificates do not indicate your score, only whether you have passed. Your certificate will be issued by the platform.

**Thank you again** for choosing to study with
the Blavatnik School of Government,
University of Oxford in partnership with Pearson.