RIYAADA INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

RIYAADA Academy · School of Research, Evaluation & Knowledge

EXECUTIVE COURSE · RA-RES-401

Applied Research Design & Methods

Turn a question from your own institution into a study that is ethical, feasible and ready for ethics review.

RIYAADA Professional Certificate · Executive Course, RL2

7 days	30 hours	6 RCP	1 protocol
One block, or two modules of 4 + 3 days	Contact teaching	RIYAADA credit	For your own institution's question



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Why this course

Hospitals, ministries, programmes and universities need answers to practical questions: did a service reach the people who needed it, why is a programme falling short, what did a reform cost, how do patients experience care? A badly designed study wastes money and misleads decisions, and weak safeguards can harm the people who take part.

This course takes you from a problem in your own institution to a complete research protocol that an ethics committee could review, built step by step over seven days with expert coaching.

What you will be able to do

1. **Turn a problem into a question:** frame a focused research question and objectives from a real institutional problem, justified by a structured review of the evidence.
2. **Choose the right design** by comparing options for validity, feasibility and cost.
3. **Plan who and what to measure:** a sampling strategy, sample size, variables and clear definitions.
4. **Build and pre-test** a questionnaire or interview guide, and revise it from what the pre-test shows.
5. **Protect participants:** identify ethical risks and set safeguards for consent, confidentiality, vulnerable people and data protection.
6. **Fix the analysis in advance:** an analysis plan and a data-management plan for every objective.

How you are assessed

You are assessed on the work you produce for your own question:

- Written research protocol and analysis plan
- Pre-tested instrument with a pre-test log
- Observed ethics-committee simulation
- Panel defence of your protocol
- Evidence summary and appraisal
- Participation and reflection

To earn the certificate you need at least 60/100 overall, the pass mark in each component, at least 80% attendance, and a protocol with a complete ethics section.

How the course works

Seven days, as one block or in two modules. You bring a real question from your institution and build one protocol, a section each day, reviewed by your peers and coached by faculty.

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Module 1

Days 1–4 · in person

- From problem to question; searching and appraising the evidence
- Choosing a study design; validity, feasibility and cost
- Sampling, sample size and measurement
- Building and pre-testing your instrument

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Between modules

Your workplace

- Finish your evidence summary
- Refine your instrument and protocol sections

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Module 2

Days 5–7 · in person

- Research ethics, integrity and an ethics-committee simulation
- Analysis plan, data management and reporting
- Assemble your protocol and defend it before a panel

What you take back

Research protocol

Question, design, sample, measures, ethics, analysis, timeline and budget: ready for ethics review.

Pre-tested instrument

A questionnaire or interview guide, translated where needed, with a pre-test log.

Analysis and data plan

How each objective will be answered, and how data will be stored and protected.

Who should attend

- Programme and project managers
- Clinicians in management roles
- University faculty and research staff
- Quality, monitoring and evaluation officers
- Policy analysts
- Officers who commission or use studies

No advanced statistics are needed; familiarity with basic descriptive statistics helps. You need a real or proposed question from your institution.

How you learn

Your own question
Every session moves your protocol forward.

Short inputs, long labs
Most of the time is hands-on practice.

Daily peer clinic
Structured feedback on each section.

Ethics simulation
Sit on both sides of a review committee.

Key facts

Award	RIYAADA Professional Certificate in Applied Research Design & Methods
Credit	6 RCP · 60 notional hours · Executive Course, RL2
Format	30 contact hours over seven days: one block, or two modules of 4 + 3 days
Venue	Mogadishu campus, your organisation's premises, or an in-house cohort
Language	English, Somali or bilingual; Arabic where required
Entry	Admission documents and a research or evaluation question from your institution
You will need	A laptop; permission from your institution to use any workplace documents
Personal data	None collected: no patient or participant data are gathered during the course
Dates and fees	To be announced once the course is approved

Register your interest

Registration of interest is open. In-house cohorts for ministries, hospitals, universities and programmes are available on request.

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Course RA-RES-401 is subject to approval by the RIYAADA Academic Board. Content draws on published international guidance, including the WMA Declaration of Helsinki, the CIOMS international ethical guidelines and the EQUATOR Network reporting guidelines; this implies no endorsement by those bodies.