

September 2026



**Training course in research
methodology, research protocol
development and scientific writing 2026**

Course overview

**Geneva Foundation for Medical Education & Research
in partnership with Oxford Maternal & Perinatal Health
Institute (OMPHI) and the Department of Sexual,
Reproductive, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health
and Ageing, World Health Organization (WHO)**

Dr Raqibat Idris, MBBS, DO, MPH

Collaborating partners



- **Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research (GFMER),**
- **Oxford Maternal & Perinatal Health Institute (OMPHI) and**
- **The Department of Sexual, Reproductive, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing, World Health Organization (WHO)**

Course coordinators



Dr Moazzam Ali
Department of Sexual,
Reproductive, Maternal, Child
and Adolescent Health and
Ageing, and HRP, the UN's
Special Programme in Human
Reproduction, World Health
Organization



Prof Jane Hirst
Chair of Global Women's
Health, the George Institute
for Global Health, Imperial
College London



Dr Karim Abawi
Geneva Foundation for Medical
Education and Research

Course objectives



To provide knowledge and skills in research methodology, research protocol development and scientific writing to health professionals in sexual and reproductive health field.

The course will enhance participants' understanding of research methodology and how to develop research protocols and improve their scientific writing.

Thematic areas



**Literature search and referral to biomedical documents:
Conducting a literature search and referencing**



**Epidemiologic studies: Provides basic knowledge on
different epidemiological studies used to conduct research
projects**



**Research protocol development: Provides practical
instructions on how to develop a research protocol
according to the WHO recommended format**

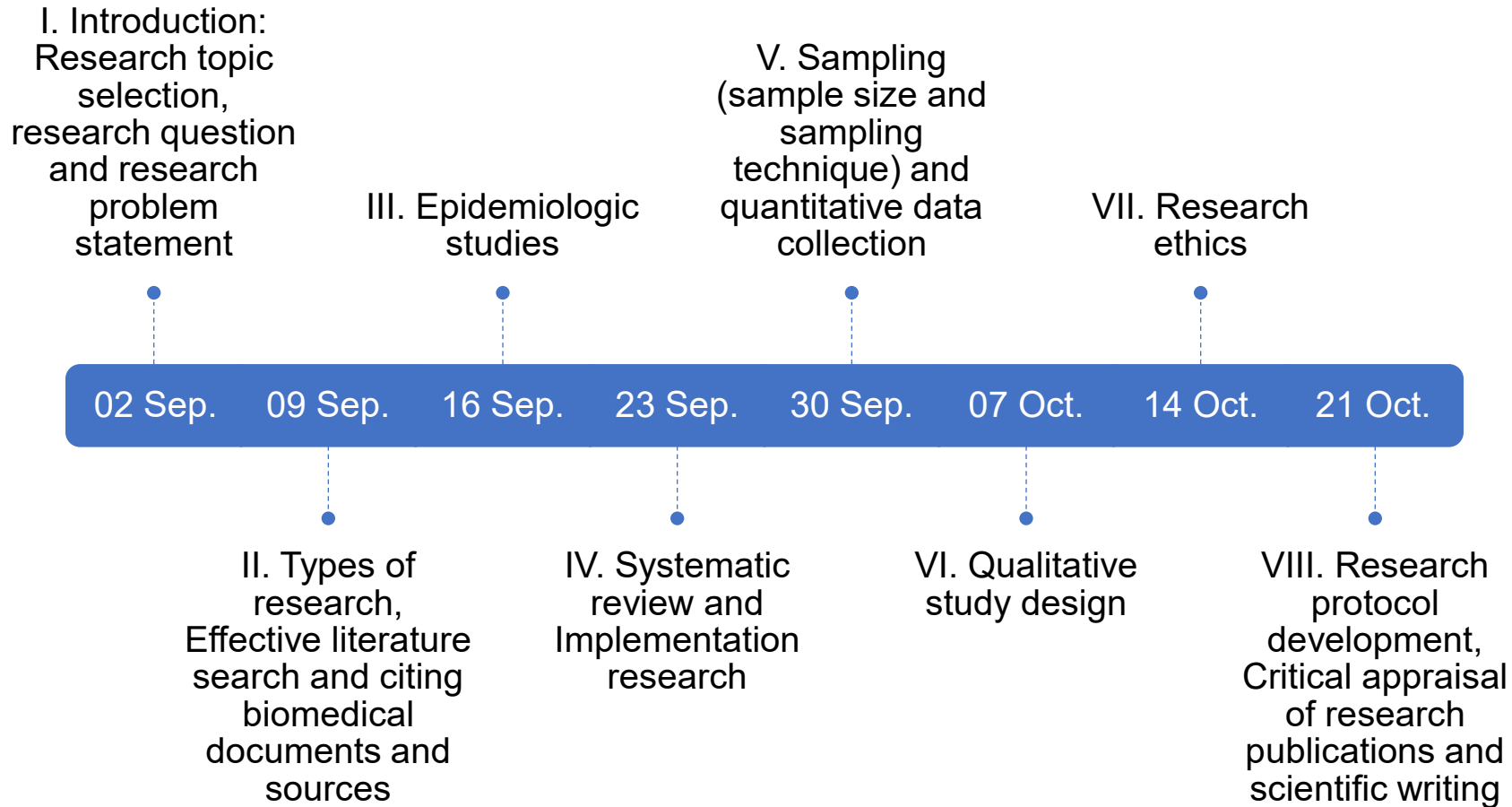


**Scientific writing: Provides instruction on scientific writing,
such as articles or reports, based on academic criteria**

Course topics & dates



02 September 2026 - 27 October 2026 (8 modules)



Research protocol development

Research protocol submission
deadline: 08 December 2026

What each course module will contain



Each module contains:

- Slide sets
- Reference documents/ resources
- Links to useful videos
- Assignments
 - Written assignments (weekly)
 - Multiple-choice questions (end of course)
- Research protocol development



Teaching-learning methods

What the course organizers will do to support the participants:

- A GFMER mentor will be assigned to you at the start of the course, to serve as your coach and guide.
- Your mentor will review your paperwork assignments & research protocols and provide you with feedback promptly.
- You can reach out to your mentor by email whenever required or if needed by phone.
- You can always contact the GFMER secretariat with questions or concerns.



Teaching-learning methods

cont'd



What is required of you (the course participants):

- To connect with your mentors at the start of the course & to reach out to them when needed
- To develop and submit a research protocol under the guidance of your mentor
- To complete & submit the end of course evaluation

For each module:

- Study the slide sets
- Read all accompanying documents
- Complete the short assignments and the end of course MCQs
- Attend the live webinars and/ or watch the recordings
- Participate in the course Google Groups forum
- Participate in the end-of-course ZOOM meeting



Each module will take about 6 hours of work/week (total 60 hours of work including research protocol development)

Teaching-learning methods

cont'd



Google Groups:

- You will receive an invitation to join the group.
- You will need a Google account to join and post in the group.
- You can create a Google account without changing your email address. Alternatively, you can create a new Gmail address. Learn how at:
<https://accounts.google.com/SignUpWithoutGmail>
- Once you become a group member, you can create a new topic for discussion or response to any topic through email or direct access to the group website.
- Google has clear online instructions on how to access and participate in the group at:
<https://support.google.com/groups/answer/1067205#join>



Online meeting schedules

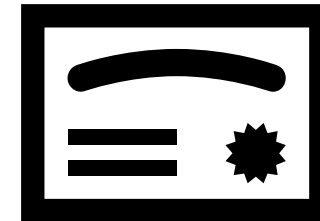


Activity	Description	Date and time
Webinar 1	To respond to questions from participants and coaches on Weeks 1 to 3 topics Panelist: Dr Moazzam Ali (WHO)	Tuesday 22 September 2026 Time: 3 PM CET (Geneva time)
Webinar 2	To respond to questions from participants and coaches on Weeks 4 to 6 topics Panelist: Dr Khalifa Elmusharaf (University of Birmingham)	Thursday 15 October 2026 Time: 1 PM CET (Geneva time)
Webinar 3	Online teaching session on: • Scientific writing • Critical appraisal of research publication Panelist: Prof Jane Hirst (University of Oxford)	Tuesday 27 October 2026 Time: 3 PM CET (Geneva time)
End of course meeting	For participants, coaches, course organizers, course resource persons to reflect on the course	Thursday 29 October 2026 (tentative) Time: 3 PM CET (Geneva time)



Certificates

In order to validate the course and obtain the certificate, the participants are required to develop a research protocol relevant to their professional practice and under the guidance of their personal coach.





GFMER organizing team: Names and designations

- Prof Aldo Campana, GFMER Director
- Dr Raqibat Idris, Technical Officer, GFMER Course Manager
raqibat.idris@gfmer.org
- Ms. Fionna Poon, GFMER Course Administrator
fionna.poon@gfmer.org
- Dr Aseel Mugahed, Technical Officer
- Dr Fariza Rahman, Technical Officer

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**Welcome to the
course!**