

Appendix 1: Topic list for interviews

1. Personal background characteristics
2. Reasons for interest in preferred HPE program
3. Opinion about selection procedures of HPE program
4. Expectations of what is necessary to be successful in the selection processes
5. Personal preparations for selection
6. What could help you to successfully apply for the preferred HPE program (personally, and what university, selection committee, government, others could do)
7. Expected chance of success in application
8. Possible barriers to be admitted for themselves and others
9. How student could gain access to things that may increase chances of getting admitted
10. Network drawing: which people in your life play a role in making a decision regarding your study choice?
11. Network drawing: which people in your life could help you to prepare for the selection procedure to gain admission to the HPE program of your choice?

Original study protocol

(attached as PDF)

Note to editors: The original study protocol is written in Dutch. We can provide an English translation if required.

Standards for Reporting Qualitative Research (SRQR)*

<http://www.equator-network.org/reporting-guidelines/srqr/>

	Page/line no(s).
Title and abstract	
Title - Concise description of the nature and topic of the study Identifying the study as qualitative or indicating the approach (e.g., ethnography, grounded theory) or data collection methods (e.g., interview, focus group) is recommended	p 1, l 1-2
Abstract - Summary of key elements of the study using the abstract format of the intended publication; typically includes background, purpose, methods, results, and conclusions	p 2-3
Introduction	
Problem formulation - Description and significance of the problem/phenomenon studied; review of relevant theory and empirical work; problem statement	p 5-7
Purpose or research question - Purpose of the study and specific objectives or questions	p 7, l 157-160
Methods	
Qualitative approach and research paradigm - Qualitative approach (e.g., ethnography, grounded theory, case study, phenomenology, narrative research) and guiding theory if appropriate; identifying the research paradigm (e.g., postpositivist, constructivist/ interpretivist) is also recommended; rationale**	p 10, l 214-222
Researcher characteristics and reflexivity - Researchers' characteristics that may influence the research, including personal attributes, qualifications/experience, relationship with participants, assumptions, and/or presuppositions; potential or actual interaction between researchers' characteristics and the research questions, approach, methods, results, and/or transferability	p 9, l 198-209
Context - Setting/site and salient contextual factors; rationale**	p 8, l 177-183
Sampling strategy - How and why research participants, documents, or events were selected; criteria for deciding when no further sampling was necessary (e.g., sampling saturation); rationale**	p 8, l 167-183
Ethical issues pertaining to human subjects - Documentation of approval by an appropriate ethics review board and participant consent, or explanation for lack thereof; other confidentiality and data security issues	p 30, l 574-580
Data collection methods - Types of data collected; details of data collection procedures including (as appropriate) start and stop dates of data collection and analysis, iterative process, triangulation of sources/methods, and modification of procedures in response to evolving study findings; rationale**	p 7-9, l 165-197, p 10, l 220-222, Figure 1

Data collection instruments and technologies - Description of instruments (e.g., interview guides, questionnaires) and devices (e.g., audio recorders) used for data collection; if/how the instrument(s) changed over the course of the study	p 30, l 577-580, p 9, l 188-197, Appendix 1
Units of study - Number and relevant characteristics of participants, documents, or events included in the study; level of participation (could be reported in results)	Table 1
Data processing - Methods for processing data prior to and during analysis, including transcription, data entry, data management and security, verification of data integrity, data coding, and anonymization/de-identification of excerpts	p 10, l 214-222 p 30, l 594-599 Figure 1
Data analysis - Process by which inferences, themes, etc., were identified and developed, including the researchers involved in data analysis; usually references a specific paradigm or approach; rationale**	p 10, l 214-222 Figure 1, p 30, l 594-599
Techniques to enhance trustworthiness - Techniques to enhance trustworthiness and credibility of data analysis (e.g., member checking, audit trail, triangulation); rationale**	p 9, l 199-209

Results/findings

Synthesis and interpretation - Main findings (e.g., interpretations, inferences, and themes); might include development of a theory or model, or integration with prior research or theory	p 11-23
Links to empirical data - Evidence (e.g., quotes, field notes, text excerpts, photographs) to substantiate analytic findings	p 11-23, incl. Tables 3-5

Discussion

Integration with prior work, implications, transferability, and contribution(s) to the field - Short summary of main findings; explanation of how findings and conclusions connect to, support, elaborate on, or challenge conclusions of earlier scholarship; discussion of scope of application/generalizability; identification of unique contribution(s) to scholarship in a discipline or field	p 24-29
Limitations - Trustworthiness and limitations of findings	p 28, l 532-549

Other

Conflicts of interest - Potential sources of influence or perceived influence on study conduct and conclusions; how these were managed	p 30, l 588
Funding - Sources of funding and other support; role of funders in data collection, interpretation, and reporting	p 30, l 590-591

*The authors created the SRQR by searching the literature to identify guidelines, reporting standards, and critical appraisal criteria for qualitative research; reviewing the reference lists of retrieved sources; and contacting experts to gain feedback. The SRQR aims to improve the transparency of all aspects of qualitative research by providing clear standards for reporting qualitative research.

****The rationale should briefly discuss the justification for choosing that theory, approach, method, or technique rather than other options available, the assumptions and limitations implicit in those choices, and how those choices influence study conclusions and transferability. As appropriate, the rationale for several items might be discussed together.**

Reference:

O'Brien BC, Harris IB, Beckman TJ, Reed DA, Cook DA. **Standards for reporting qualitative research: a synthesis of recommendations.** *Academic Medicine*, Vol. 89, No. 9 / Sept 2014
DOI: [10.1097/ACM.0000000000000388](https://doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0000000000000388)