



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

ES2611, Environmental Management Systems, 15,0 higher education credits

Miljöledningssystem, 15.0 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

1. Confirmation

The course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences on 2013-05-29 and was last revised by Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences to be valid from 2013-06-30.

Field of education: Science 100 %

Department: Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences

2. Position in the educational system

The course is included in the Master program in Environmental Sciences, but can also be included in other Master and Bachelor programs. The course could be chosen as a freestanding course.

The course is at Second cycle level in Environmental science.

Main field of studies

Environmental Science

Specialization

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

3. Entry requirements

45 HEC in environmental science. Students with equivalent education can be allowed to enter the course. English B level or English proficiency equivalent to IELTS 6.0 no part under 5.0 or TOEFL 550 p, TWE score 4 is also required. Selection is based upon the number of credit points from previous university studies, maximum 225 HEC.

4. Course content

The course aims to enable students to assimilate the theory of Environmental Management Systems, and learn the skills of introducing such a system in different types of organizations. The students should be made aware of how environmental management systems are used in Sweden and internationally, and be able to critically discuss the benefits and drawbacks of these systems, and how they can be further developed. The course consists of three main parts: i) lectures by external experts; ii) theory, and iii) a group project, working

with

5. Learning outcomes

The students should acquire knowledge about Environmental management systems, and competence about how they can be implemented in practice. Furthermore, both strategies and measures for organizations to improve its environmental performance, in the framework of environmental management systems, are addressed mainly from an applied perspective. The students should also have good knowledge about methods for communicating, like the Global reporting initiatives (GRI) and so called Environmental statements, and be familiar with closely related systems, like e.g. Quality Management systems.

The students deliver a project report, consisting mainly of an environmental review for a real company or some other organization, together with a number of other subtasks of environmental management systems. The project is in most cases performed group wise.

5.1 Knowledge and understanding

To pass the course the participants should have a far reaching knowledge about:

relevant documents and regulations in the field of environmental management systems, including ISO14001 and EMAS

how environmental management systems are implemented in practice by different types of organizations

measures for organizations to improve their environmental performance

the internationally most accepted possibilities for organizations to communicate its environmental performance in written form

the weaknesses and strengths of the present environmental management systems, in theory and in practice.

To pass the course the participants should be familiar with:

other closely related management systems, and how these systems can be implemented parallel to environmental managements systems

other standards in the ISO14000-series how all parts of an audit is conducted

how an interview best is performed in the frames of environmental audits

the international aspects of these management systems

the main supporting tools for small and medium sized enterprises in this field

5.2 Skills and abilities

The students should have the competence to implement an environmental managements system, specifically to be able to:

make an environmental review

to formulate an environmental policy

to formulate environmental objectives, targets and programs for an organization

to design adequate procedures for operation control or for running parts of the system

to formulate an environmental policy

to plan an internal environmental audit

to formulate an adequate environmental strategy for an organization
to be able to discuss advantages and disadvantages for a certain organization to implement an environmental management system

5.3 Judgement and approach

The students should be able to discuss the weaknesses and strengths of the present environmental management systems, in theory and in practice. Furthermore, they should be able to articulate the drawbacks and benefits for a certain organization to implement such a system. The student should also be able to analyze the deliverance of substantial environmental benefits by an environmental management system from a cost-efficiency point of view.

6. Literature

En separat lista över kurslitteraturen finns hos den ansvariga institutionen. Antalet sidor som ingår i kurslitteraturen är ca700.

7. Assessment

In order to pass the course, the student must receive Pass on all three subparts.

A student who has failed a test twice has the right to change examiners, if it is possible. A written application should be sent to the Department.

The number of examinations is limited to five occasions.

If the course is discontinued or major changes have been made, the student is guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination occasion) during a time of at least one year from the last time the course was given in the original form.

8. Grading scale

The grading scale comprises Fail (U), Pass (G), Pass with Distinction (VG).

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For the compulsory elements only U and G are given. In order to be awarded G for the whole course of 15 HEC, G is required on all three subparts. For Pass with Distinction on the whole course, Pass with Distinction is required on subparts equivalent to more than half of the total number of higher education credits.

9. Course evaluation

10. Additional information

Language of instruction: English.