



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION AND LEARNING

HPA202 Master's thesis in teaching and learning in higher education, 15 credits

Magisteruppsats i högskolepedagogik, 15 högskolepoäng
Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Education, Communication and Learning on 2023-08-14 and was last revised on 2024-02-22 to be valid from 2024-09-02, autumn semester of 2024.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Education, Communication and Learning

Position in the educational system

The course can be read as a free-standing course.

The course may be included in a master's degree in teaching and learning in higher education.

Main field of studies

Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

Specialization

A1E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (60 credits)

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires awarded bachelor's degree of at least 180 credits or equivalent degree. Furthermore, the student must demonstrate proficiency in English equivalent English 6 (Swedish upper secondary school level) or English B with at least passed result or through an international test in English with requirements on lowest result: TOEFL paper: 575 or with computer: 213, or or a Bachelor's degree that has been given in English. The student should have gone through equivalent to 15 credits method course with approved result and with contents of relevance for teaching and learning in higher education.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- identify a well defined problem, aim and research question in teaching and learning in higher education
- identify, compile and critically analyse scientific literature in teaching and learning in higher education, of relevance for a defined problem

Competence and skills

- plan and carry out an empirical study relevant for teaching and learning in higher education in accordance with chosen methodology together with ethical and theoretical positionings
- present results and conclusions as well as provide arguments for the relevance of an empirical study in an individual assignment that takes their starting point in scientific university educational literature
- constructively discuss a research project with regard to its contents structure, academic and linguistic form, methodology, results and conclusions

Judgement and approach

- evaluate and problematise implementation, result and conclusions of a scientific study in relation to ethical, methodological and theoretical positionings
- assess the relevance and the significance of a scientific study in the research field teaching and learning in higher education

Course content

The course provides advanced knowledge in a specific problem area in the university educational research field. The course is based on implementation of an individual assignment that includes problem definition, formulation of aim, research question, search and compilation of scientific literature, theoretical, methodological and ethical positionings, planning and implementation of an empirical study, processing and analysis of collected empirical material and presentation and discussion of the result of the study.

Form of teaching

Seminars, supervision and continuous presentations of ongoing development of Master's dissertation.

At the first registration in the course, 20 hours supervision are offered by an appointed supervisor. A student can at re-registration in the course apply for additional supervision sessions of the course coordinator that normally grants a maximum of 8 additional supervision hours for completion of the thesis work. Extra hours are granted once. Thereafter, support in the thesis work in the form of supervision expires.

Language of instruction: English

The language of instruction is English. The Master's dissertation can by agreement with examiner be written in Swedish.

Assessment

The course includes the following examining assignments

- implementation of an individual assignment, 13 credits, that is presented in the form of a written Master's thesis, and presented and defended orally at a thesis seminar with a specially appointed discussant. Grades: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) or Fail (U)
- critical review, evaluation and discussion of another student's Master's dissertation at a thesis seminar, 2 credits. Grades: Pass (G), Fail (U)

A student who has taken two exams in a course or part of a course without obtaining a pass grade is entitled to the nomination of another examiner. The student needs to contact the department for a new examiner, preferably in writing, and this should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

If the course has been discontinued or undergone substantial changes, the student is guaranteed at least three exams/evaluations (including the regular exam) within at least one year and maximum two years. The same applies to internships and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

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

To receive grade Pass, both above stated examining assignments, must be completed with the grade Pass. To receive the grade Pass with distinction (Pass with distinction) in

the course, are required grade Passed with distinction on their own independent Master's dissertation.

Course evaluation

Course evaluation is performed in relation to the course's intended learning outcomes and content and is implemented at the end of the course through an individual written questionnaire on University of Gothenburg's virtual learning environment. The result and potential changes in the course content are communicated to the students who carried out the course evaluation and to the students who will start the following course.

Additional information

Access to Internet connection is required to carry out the course.