



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

PDA182 Academic writing and research design, 15 credits

Akademiskt skrivande och forskningsdesign, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Education and Special Education on 2011-03-09 and was last revised on 2021-07-02 to be valid from 2021-08-30, autumn semester of 2021.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Education and Special Education

Position in the educational system

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) International Master's Programme in Educational Research (L2EUR)

Entry requirements

To be eligible for this course students need at to have passed the first year courses: *PDA085, Introduction to International Master in Educational Research, PDA180, Research environment – optional course I* or *PDA084, Qualitative approaches to educational research, PDA086 Research methodology, inquiry and data analysis* or *PDA186, Design, measurement and analysis in educational research* and *PDA181, Introduction to a research environment - optional course II* or *PDA185, Introduction to educational research practice*.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- explain and discuss research literature within the scope of one's own research, especially research problem, research designs and current research progress

- explain and discuss the implication of the educational research for sustainability

Competence and skills

- formulate a research plan including research problem and design relative to previous research within the field of study
- analyze and discuss formulation of a research problem and choice of relevant research design in relation to an analysis of current research within the chosen field of study
- to reflect on and evaluate text qualities in academic writings

Judgement and approach

- develop and concretize research problems by critical analysis of previous research its significance for the international research field
- consider do-ability and relevance of different kinds of research design for the current research problematic
- apply ethical issues of proposed research in accordance with good research ethics.

The course is sustainability-related, which means that at least one of the learning outcomes clearly shows that the course content meets at least one of the University of Gothenburg's confirmed sustainability criteria.

Course content

The course is focused on writing Master thesis proposal. It will introduce different ways in which educational research can be planned and conducted, the variety of educational research problems and methods. Base on the reading and through the set of activities students are encouraged to formulate and develop their own research ideas in order to design a coherent and feasible research plan. Of special interest is the construction of research questions and research design in relation to reviews of relevant research in current international discourses. Special attention is given to the individual writing of research plans for an international Master thesis based on analyses of current research discourses and evaluation of alternative research designs.

Form of teaching

The course is taught in a combination of seminars, individual presentations and writings.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Learning is assessed through the following assignments:

1. A written outline of initial ideas for Master thesis research.
2. A formal presentation and defense of one's research plans. If the opportunity to do the formal presentation is missed, one other opportunity (plus a maximum of two resits where needed) will be offered.
3. A written Master thesis proposal.

Each assignment is a progression towards writing the Master thesis proposal. Students will receive feedback from tutors and peers on the first two assignments, and from the tutor on the third assignment.

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 special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years, after the course has ceased/been changed.

Grades

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

For the grade Pass, the assignments 1-3 must be graded a Pass (G). For the grade Pass with Distinction (VG), assignments 1 and 2 must be graded a pass, while assignment 3 must be graded Pass with Distinction.

Course evaluation

Course evaluation is done in relation to the course learning outcomes and content and is done continuously during the course in the form of an individual network survey at the end of the course. The result and any changes in the course structure will be communicated to both the students who completed the evaluation and to the students who will begin the course.

Additional information

The course uses the University of Gothenburg's management learning system for different forms of digital communication. Access to a computer and the Internet is therefore required