



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

PDA184 Master Thesis in Education, 30 credits

Masteruppsats i pedagogik, 30 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Education and Special Education on 2011-11-14 and was last revised on 2021-07-02 to be valid from 2022-01-17, spring semester of 2022.

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)

Main field of studies

Education with Specialization in Educational Research

Specialization

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Entry requirements

To be eligible for this course students on the International Master's programme in Educational research need at to have passed the first year courses. The first year courses are: *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*. In addition, the students should have passed one of the second year courses: *PDA182, Academic writing and research design* or *PDA183, Academic reading in education*.

Learning outcomes

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

Knowledge and understanding

- critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate scientific questions;
- operationalise key concepts;

Competence and skills

- investigate research questions using appropriate methods and theoretical frameworks, so as to contribute to the development of knowledge within the field;
- report an analysis, findings and discussion in a scientific or scholarly manner;

Judgement and approach

- make and defend scientific judgements relevant to educational research, taking into account social, cultural, ethical and socio-environmental (sustainable education/educational research) aspects;
- present and discuss scientific work in writing according to scientific standards.

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

A master's thesis is a carefully argued scholarly text that presents an original argument that is carefully documented from clearly identified primary or secondary sources. The thesis will be based on an independent work within the field of education research on a topic that has been decided upon in consultation with an appointed supervisor.

Form of teaching

Individual supervision of Master's thesis project, progress seminars and a peer-evaluation exam

During the work on the thesis, 26 hours of supervision are offered. Upon re-registration, students can apply for additional supervision hours at the director of studies, who normally grants a maximum of 6 additional supervision hours for the completion of the degree project. Extra hours are granted on one occasion. Thereafter, no more supervision will be offered.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Learning is assessed through the following:

1. A thesis;
2. An oral examination of the thesis;
3. Acting as discussant in another student's oral examination.

The thesis may be individually written or written together with one or two co-authors. Where more than one author is involved the individual contributions of each must be clearly pointed out in a foreword to the thesis.

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).

Saknas

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.