



UNIVERSITY
OF SKÖVDE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Qualitative Research, Post-graduate level

3 credits

Course code: IT0932F

Version number: 3.1

Valid from: 1 July 2024

Ratified by: Curriculum Committee for Third-cycle Studies

Date of ratification: 11 March 2024

1. General information about the course

The course is provided by the University of Skövde and is named Qualitative Research, Post-graduate level (Kvalitativ forskning, Forskarnivå). It comprises 3 credits .

The course is a part of the third-cycle subject area of Informatics.

2. Entry requirements

The prerequisites for this course are general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes, i.e. a second-cycle qualification or satisfied requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second cycle (or the equivalent).

In order to fulfil the specific entry requirements, the applicant must have completed course requirements of at least 60 credits, including an independent project of at least 15 credits at the second cycle, within the subject Informatics, applicable areas of a similar kind or other fields assessed as directly relevant for thesis work in the subject Informatics.

An additional requirement is proof of skills in English equivalent of studies at upper secondary level in Sweden, known as the Swedish course English 6. This is normally demonstrated by means of an internationally recognized language test, e.g. IELTS or TOEFL or the equivalent.

3. Course content

The purpose of this course is to give the participants an in-depth introduction to qualitative research, its design and execution. It covers the following topics:

1. Qualitative research paradigms
2. Ethical aspects
3. Sampling
4. Types of qualitative data collection
5. Common mistakes during data collection
6. Transcription methods
7. Data analysis
8. Quality aspects of qualitative research
9. Publishing qualitative research

4. Objectives

After completed course the PhD student should be able to:

- know about different qualitative methodologies and methods that can be used for generating empirical material;
- know the differences between these methodologies and can argue for their methodological choices;
- understand how to identify when a research topic requires qualitative research methods, and be able to select the most appropriate methods to answer the particular research question; and
- have learned what a qualitative research paper should contain and have initial practical experience with developing one.

5. Examination

The course is graded G (Pass) or U (Fail).

To receive the grade Pass on the course, all examination parts have to be graded Pass.

The examinations of the course consist of the following modes of assessment:

- **Assignments**
3 credits, grades: G/U

Doctoral students with a permanent disability who have been approved for directed educational support may be offered adapted or alternative modes of assessment.

6. Types of instruction and language of instruction

The teaching is comprised of exercises, lectures and supervision.

The teaching is conducted in English.

7. Course literature and other educational materials

Creswell, J. W. (2013). *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing among Five Approaches*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE. ISBN 978-1-4129-9530-6.

Symon, G. & Cassell, C. (2012). *Qualitative Organizational Research: Core Methods and Current Challenges*. London: SAGE. ISBN 0-85702-410-8.

Saunders, M.N.K. and Townsend, K. (2016) Reporting and Justifying the Number of Interview Participants in Organization and Workplace Research. *British Journal of Management*, Vol. 27, 836–852. DOI: 10.1111/1467-8551.12182

Scientific articles based on qualitative research.

8. Doctoral student influence

Doctoral student influence in the course is ensured by means of course evaluation. The students are informed about the results of the evaluation and potential measures that have been taken or are planned, based on the course evaluation.

9. Additional information

Further information about the course, as well as national and local governing documents for higher education, is available on the website of the University of Skövde.