UNIVERSITY OF SKÖVDE

TRANSLATION FROM SWEDISH

COURSE SYLLABUS

Research Funding – Principles and Practice

Third-cycle

3 credits

Course code: IT0952F
Version number: 1
Valid from: 1 July 2027
Ratified by: Curriculum Committee for Third-cycle Studies
Date of ratification: 4 May 2026

1. General information about the course

The course is provided by the University of Skövde and is named Research Funding – Principles and Practice, third-cycle level (Forskningsfinansiering - grunder och praktik, forskarnivå). It comprises 3 credits.

The course is a part of the third-cycle subject areas of Informatics and Health Science.

2. Entry requirements

The admission requirements of the 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 fulfill the specific entry requirements, the applicant must have completed academic courses of at least 60 credits, including independent thesis writing of at least 15 credits at advanced level within the fields of Informatics, Health sciences, applicable areas of a similar kind or other fields which are judged as directly relevant for the licentiate or PhD thesis.

A further requirement is proof of skills in English, equivalent of studies at upper secondary level in Sweden, known as English 6 or English level 2. This is normally demonstrated by means of an internationally recognized test, e.g., IELTS, TOEFL, or an equivalent.

The course requires that each student has completed their Planning seminar before taking the course. If too many eligible students apply for the course admission will be based on the amount of credits taken within the postgraduate training. Preference is given to students registered for postgraduate training at the University of Skövde.

3. Course content

The pressure on external research funding has increased significantly in recent years, and funders are imposing ever higher demands. It is therefore important to understand both the implicit and explicit requirements of an application.

The course addresses key aspects needed to succeed in externally funded research projects. This includes the following components: matching a research idea with research funding; designing an application with a high chance of being funded; understanding the application and evaluation processes, as well as lessons learned from previous applications.

Questions concerning the funders expectations and requirements that are discussed during the course include, for example: interpreting a call for proposals; differences when applying for basic research versus applied research; and the expectations and objectives of different research funders.

During the course, a draft application for an externally funded research project is developed and presented to a review panel. Course participants get feedback from the review panel and revise their draft once based on this feedback.

4. Objectives

After completion of the course, the student shall be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the funding system in their research field,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research and its relevance for the development of society,
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and explain the need to others, and
- develop a high-quality application that meets the funder's expectations and requirements based on a research idea.

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:

- **Assignment I** [1]
  1.5 credits, grades: G/U
- **Seminar participation** [2]
  1 credit, grades: G/U
- **Assignment II** [3]
  0.5 credit, grades: G/U

[1] Draft application for an externally funded research project is presented orally and written.
[2] Active seminar participation is required.
[3] The draft application for an externally funded research project is revised after feedback from the reviewers.

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

6. Types of instruction and language of instruction

The teaching comprises seminars and own work regarding preparation and drafting of a grant proposal for an externally funded research project, an oral presentation and a revision of the draft.

The teaching is conducted in English.

7. Course literature and other educational materials

Research funding

Scientific articles will be distributed during the course.

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

The subject Health Science is part of the third-cycle disciplinary domain Health in the digital society.

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.