



UNIVERSITY
OF SKÖVDE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Research Ethics, third-cycle level

5 credits

Course code: IT0925F

Version number: 6

Valid from: 1 January 2025

Ratified by: Curriculum Committee for Third-cycle Studies

Date of ratification: 16 September 2024

1. General information about the course

The course is provided by the University of Skövde and is named Research Ethics, third-cycle level (Forskningsetik, forskarnivå). It comprises 5 credits.

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

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).

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

This course provides a foundation in research ethics and good research practice, partly through an overview of relevant national and international research ethical regulations and other rules concerning good research practice, and partly through an introduction to ethical principles and moral philosophical frameworks with relevance to research generally. The course starts from doctoral students' topic areas, with a focus on those research ethical aspects that are relevant for the individual doctoral student. The content is largely of a practical nature, with an emphasis on how researchers are expected to act (e.g. in relation to ethics review, processing sensitive personal information, or similar), but also with discussion of how these expectations have arisen and changed over time as a result of society's changing values. In addition, the course reflects on ethical aspects of the possibilities and limitations of science more generally, as well as its role in and benefits for society. The doctoral students are also taught about open research practices and good research data management, including the possibility to establish a data management plan.

4. Objectives

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

Knowledge and understanding

- report current national and international research ethical regulations of relevance to one's own research,
- report rules regarding research misconduct and other unethical research practices,
- describe how ethical principles and moral philosophical frameworks impact research ethical standpoints,

Competence and skills

- independently identify and analyse research ethical aspects of one's own research area,
- independently identify and analyse research ethical problems that can arise in different stages of the research process,

Judgement and approach

- critically reflect on how researchers' and society's changing values impact one's own research ethical approach, and
- critically reflect on ethical aspects of the possibilities and limitations of science, and its role in and benefits to society more generally.

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 1**
1.5 credits, grades: G/U
- **Assignment 2**
1.5 credits, grades: G/U
- **Seminars**
2 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 lectures and seminars/group discussions.

The teaching is conducted in English.

7. Course literature and other educational materials

Vetenskapsrådet (2011). *Good Research Practice*. [Electronic] Stockholm: Vetenskapsrådet. ISBN 978-91-7307-194-9.

Scientific articles, as specified by the course instructor.

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.