



FACULTY
OF SOCIAL
SCIENCES

SYLLABUS

Reg. No.
U 2019/245

2019-05-22

SGR007F Kickstart to Academic Life – Information Management and Publication Process for social scientists, 4.5 credits, third cycle

The course was adopted by the Board of the Lund University Faculty of Social Sciences 13 June 2019 and the syllabus was approved by the Research Studies Council 22 May 2019.

The syllabus is valid from the autumn semester 2019.

A. General information

The course is offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences as an interdisciplinary third-cycle course in social sciences. The language of instruction is English or Swedish, depending on the student group.

The aim of this course is to provide doctoral students with generic knowledge (that is, knowledge that is not discipline specific) about how to conduct PhD studies with regard to the key domains of information management and publication processes.

This is not a course in methodology or theory of science; rather, it is a course in the practicalities of research that lie outside scientific methods but nevertheless structure the process of producing a PhD thesis.

B. Learning outcomes

With regard to information management, on completion of the course, students shall be able to:

- demonstrate a clear understanding of the rules of scientific referencing
- assess the quality of an author's scientific referencing practice
- design and conduct professional structured information searches in conjunction with a research project
- identify relevant online tools for networking and monitoring their own research area
- understand how bibliometric and similar research evaluation tools work and how to use them for their own research and publication strategy
- use reference management software

With regard to the publication process, on completion of the course, students shall be able to:

- identify the advantages and disadvantages of writing a monograph or a compilation thesis
- design and manage the process of publishing an article in a peer-reviewed journal, including how to identify the outlet for their research and how to conduct a dialogue with editors and referees
- learn how to make research understandable to others, in terms of media outreach
- identify the various career paths which exist within the university, and the portfolio of skills that they require
- be aware of legal implications of being a state-employed researcher
- reflect on the meaning of writing a dissertation in the social sciences

C. Course content

The course combines an introduction to the processes of managing the need for information as a PhD student, and managing the publication of one's research.

With regard to the process of information management, the course introduces the PhD student to the principles of referencing and how to use reference management software (e.g., Endnote). It presents ways to make structured information searches and how to use online tools and platforms for networking and sharing research. The course introduces tools for evaluation of journals and other bibliometric tools, describing the rationale and roles of these in the publication process. The course also introduces the concept of Open Science and ways to approach it.

Concerning the process of publishing research, the course introduces the PhD student to the differences between monographs and compilation theses; key legal implications of being a state-employed researcher; the design of a publication strategy for scientific articles; the development of media outreach strategies; and, the constitution of a competence and career portfolio.

D. Teaching and assessment

The course is given in the form of lectures and workshops. Lecturers provide general knowledge concerning the PhD research process and methodology, with a special focus on the social sciences. The workshops offer opportunities for the students to discuss course issues with senior researchers. Students are expected to have read and reflected upon relevant course literature prior to lectures, and be prepared to participate actively in workshops.

Students will be assessed on the basis of a) their completion of workshop-related assignments and b) the authoring of a

publishable book review of a volume of their choice, or an equivalent text.

All assignments are to be written in Swedish or English, or possibly another language if an agreement is reached with the examiner.

E. Grading scale

The grades awarded are Pass or Fail. To be awarded a Pass the student must fulfil the learning outcomes specified for the course and demonstrate, both through workshop assignments and the book review, an independent, reflective, well-informed and critical relationship to the issues presented in the course.

F. Admission requirements

Applicants must be admitted to third-cycle studies. In the event that the number of applicants exceeds the number of available places, PhD students from the Faculty of Social Sciences at Lund University are given priority.