

Course responsible and contact

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Syllabus for **Research planning**, PhD course, 4.5 p

Target group

Doctoral students independently of research field.

Prerequisites

Enrollment in a doctoral programme for a least 6 months.

Aim

The course is primarily intended to focus on the research work needed to be done to complete a licentiate or doctoral project.

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the participants will be able to:

- Survey the literature and important research outlets within a specific field of study
- Devise specific research question(s) to address a selected research focus
- Select a sound research strategy appropriate to the research focus/area
- Develop a research design, including methodology, data collection and analysis, ethics considerations and actual plan to address the specific research questions to achieve a research goal

Contents

The course's content is two-fold.

The first is for each student to familiarise with his/her research area and get an understanding of the research areas of other participating students. This includes identification of:

- Core literature and seminal papers
- Key conferences
- Leading researchers and research groups
- Main results in the field
- Current research issues and hot topics

The second is for each student to formulate a research plan for his/her licentiate or doctoral project based on the items identified in the point above.

Course organization

The course is organized in three modules. Each module includes a full day workshop (6 hours) and an individual assignment. The workshops focus on both research planning elements, exposed critically by the course's main lecturer and discussed upon by all participants, and presentation of assignments by the students.

The assignments are meant to gradually and incrementally lead the students to come up with a sound research plan for their lic/phd project, based on the notions learnt and discussed during the workshops. After each workshop, the students submit a new version of the research plan, which can be seen as a 'live' document throughout the course's duration. Peer-reviewing among students of their assignments will be part of the course too.

Examination

- Mandatory participation to 3 full-day (6 hours each) workshops
- 3 mandatory assignments, to gradually reach a research plan for lic/phd project

Workshop dates

For maximum flexibility, the dates will be decided together with the prospect participants after their submission of intent to participate.