

Course syllabus

Inclusive education and pedagogical differentiation for highly able children and pupils in preschool and school

Svensk titel: Inkluderande undervisning och pedagogisk differentiering för barn och elever med särskild begåvning i förskola och skola

Level and subject: PhD Course in Didactics

Modified distance course: Remote teaching as well as at Mälardalen University (MDU), Eskilstuna and Västerås

Credits/ECTS credits: 7.5/ 7.5

Course code: FOUK009

Course syllabus approved by the Research Council, School of Education, Culture and Communication (UKK), MDU.

Date of approval: 2 December 2022

Valid from: 1 February 2023

Course objectives

The purpose of this course is to provide participants with additional knowledge of and skills in inclusive education and pedagogical differentiation for highly able children and pupils in preschool and school. It will also give participants further knowledge of and skills in classroom observation, digital literature searches, literature reviews and collaboration initiatives.

Learning objectives

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

1. Demonstrate knowledge and systematic understanding of inclusive education and pedagogical differentiation, and provide arguments for such education and differentiation.
2. Demonstrate skills in identifying educational provisions for highly able children in inclusive preschools and pupils in inclusive schools using classroom observation, and critically reflect upon these provisions and data collection method.
3. Demonstrate knowledge and systematic understanding of digital literature searches and academic literature reviews, and provide arguments for such searches and reviews.
4. Demonstrate skills in identifying and formulating an issue with scholarly precision, conducting a search and reviewing

this critically with relevance to the course and the topic of your own research/thesis.

5. Demonstrate knowledge and systematic understanding of collaboration between academia and the surrounding society, and provide arguments for such collaboration.
6. Demonstrate didactic competence in planning, implementing and/or critically evaluating inclusive education and pedagogical differentiation in a preschool or school together with a staff member, and critically reflect upon this collaboration.

Course content

The course includes content related to inclusive education and pedagogical differentiation in theory and practice (objective 1, 2, 4 and 6), how to do a digital literature search, how to choose a database, what the steps are in an academic literature review process (objective 3 and 4), collaboration between academia and the surrounding society for co-producing knowledge and educational change (objective 5 and 6).

Teaching

The knowledge and skills will be gained through literature. They will also be learned through lectures, seminars and workshops that include discussions and critical reasoning. Furthermore, they will be learned through classroom observation and collaboration in a preschool or school.

Examination

The course will be assessed through two assignments:

- INL 1 Individual written assignment (3.5 credits; objective 1 and 4) in which educational provisions for highly able children and pupils in inclusive educational systems are described and reflected upon in accordance with your own research area and in relation to the course literature and content. Arguments for inclusive education and pedagogical differentiation should also be provided in INL 1. APA style must be used.
- SEM1 Active participation in the seminars, workshops and discussions (4 credits; objective 2, 3, 5 and 6).

Grade

The grade allocated is a Pass (G).

Prerequisites and application

Research students (PhD-students) enrolled in the GiftED¹ research study programme (doctoral programme; graduate school), a research study programme at Mälardalen University or a research study programme at another university are eligible to apply.

Additional information

The course is part of a Gifted Education Doctoral programme (GiftED) for teacher educators. The course will be given in cooperation with Karlstad University (KAU) and Stockholm University (SU) in the Autumn semester 2023. It will include sessions requiring mandatory attendance and preparation work such as readings and classroom observation in a preschool or school.

Examples of other terms related to highly able (in English, Swedish and Norwegian) are “more able,” “gifted and talented,” “särskild begåvning”, “barn och elever som ligger långt fram i sin kunskapsutveckling” and “stor lärandepotential”.

General qualifications

The course contains the national general qualifications as stated in The Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100), Appendix 2 for degree of doctor:

- Knowledge and understanding: demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field as well as advanced and up-to-date specialised knowledge in a limited area of this field, and demonstrate familiarity with research methodology in general and the methods of the specific field of research in particular.
- Competence and skills: demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well as to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically, demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues with scholarly precision critically, autonomously and creatively, and to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake research and other qualified tasks within predetermined time frames and to

¹ The term GiftED refers to a graduate school called Educational provisions for gifted/highly able children in inclusive educational systems: Gifted education doctoral programme for teacher educators.

review and evaluate such work, demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge, and demonstrate the capacity to contribute to social development and support the learning of others both through research and education and in some other qualified professional capacity.

- Judgement and approach: demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude, and demonstrate specialised insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used.

Notification of attendance

Applications for applying to the course must be submitted to Johanna Lundqvist no later than 1 June, 2023. PhD students admitted to GiftED will have priority. Course communication will take place via Teams (or similar channel) and participants will be added to the Teams channel when they have been allocated a place on the course. The number of participants will be approximately 16.

Preliminary dates:

11 September 2023 (Eskilstuna)
3 October 2023 (Digital träff)
25 October 2023 (Eskilstuna)
23 November 2023 (Digital träff)
15 December 2023 (Digital träff)

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