



Course syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Pedagogy

4PE90U Vetenskaplig teori och metod I – Praktisknära skolforskning,
7,5 högskolepoäng

Scientific theory and method I – Practice-based educational research,
7.5 credits

Main field of study

Education

Subject

Education

Level

Second cycle

Progression

A1N

Date of Ratification

Approved 2024-12-19.

The course syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2025.

Prerequisites

Completed public-sector professional training (the national school leadership training programme), older public-sector school leadership training or credited school leadership training programme at a higher education institution that offers such professional training. Work as a principal or in a similar managerial function for at least one year part-time after completed national school leadership training.

Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- account for the concepts disciplinary foundation and best practice in relation to the mission of teachers and principals,

- account for the basic concepts and processes in practice-based research and in relation to systematic evaluations,
- discuss various problem definitions in research and evaluation and their relevance to the mission of teachers and principals,
- identify possibilities and limitations of different method approaches and justify the choice of method approach for different practice-based research and development studies,
- reflect on and problematise the importance of an ethical approach in practice-based research,
- plan a defined practice-based research and development study in their own school practice.

Content

The aim of the course is for students to widen their methodological and epistemological knowledge in pedagogical research, and develop their scientific approach to research issues in the field of pedagogy.

The course discusses the students' research literacy through knowledge and understanding of the philosophy of science, research traditions, methods and research ethics. The course deals with the different elements of the research process, including problem definition, research design, data collection, analysis and compilation of data. The aim of the course is for students to develop their scientific approach to the field of educational science.

Type of Instruction

Teaching takes place in the form of lectures, seminars, group supervision and presentations. Interventions in the form of development work in the students' own organisations are carried out and documented in between the residential training instances.

Examination

The course is assessed with the grades Fail (U) or Pass (G).

Examination of the course takes place by means of one written individual assignment and one oral presentation of a development work carried out in the own organisation.

In order to receive a grade of Pass in the course, the course objectives must be attained.

A retake of the examination is provided in accordance with the Local Regulations for First-cycle and Second-cycle Courses and Examination at Linnaeus University.

In the event a student with a disability is entitled to special study support, the examiner will decide on adapted or alternative examination arrangements.

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Course Evaluation

A course evaluation is carried out either during or at the end of the course.

Other Information

The course is a contract education offered by the Swedish National Agency for Education within the scope of continuing professional development for principals

(FFR) and addresses individuals who have completed the national school leadership training programme or equivalent education.

The course comprises approximately 15 per cent of full-time during one year and the studies take place in the form of residential training, individual work from home and studying of the course literature. The studies also involve development projects to be carried out at their own school or preschool. The accountable authority/organiser is responsible for paying for the course participant's costs of travel, board and lodging.

Required Reading and Additional Study Material

Bergmark, Ulrika & Graeske, Caroline (latest edition). *Praktiknära forskning i förskola och skola – undervisning, forskning och utveckling i samverkan*. Lund: Studentlitteratur (168 p.).

Jahnke, Anette (Ed.) (latest edition). *Datadriven skolförbättring – Att bygga agerbar kunskap om sin verksamhet*. Ifous rapportserie 2023:1, (86 p.).

Matta, Corrado (latest edition). *På vetenskaplig grund: en vetenskapsteoretisk vägledning för lärare och lärarstudenter*. Stockholm: Liber, (181 p.). Selected parts, ca. 140 p.

Additional literature in the form of articles and reports are also included, comprising approximately 400 pages.