

Research methods, 15 HE credits

Forskningsmetodik, 15 hp

Established: 2020-05-28

Established by: School of Business, Economics and IT

Applies from: H20

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding to

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- Explain similarities and differences between different methodological approaches (theory-building - theory testing, inductive-deductive, positivist-hermeneutic, explorative-confirmative)
- Discuss the link between research question and design, implementation and analysis
- Explain essential statistical concepts (validity, reliability and generalizability)
- Explain essential concepts in qualitative analysis (credability, transferability)

Skills and abilities to

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- Formulate, evaluate and critically review research questions
- Develop a research plan including design, implementation and planned analysis, as well as ethical issues related to the rights of research participants (informants/respondents)
- Use software to perform basic qualitative and quantitative analyses.
- Perform basic statistical analyses
- Perform basic qualitative analyses
- Critically review scientific work

Judgement and approach to

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- Discuss the significance of ethical conduct in research
- Demonstrate ability to make ethical assessments regarding protection of research participants
- Show in-depth insight into the possibilities and limitations of different scientific methods
- Make ethical reflections related to the use of research results

Entry requirements

Participants must be admitted to third-cycle programme in Work Integrated and Workplace Learning or another relevant third-cycle programme.

The forms of assessment of student performance

The following individual assessments:

- two assignments for quantitative and qualitative analyses respectively
- preparation and active participation at seminars
- develop a research plan.

Course contents

The third-cycle subject Work Integrated and workplace Learning (WIL) encompasses a variety of phenomena with focus on individuals, relationships, organizations, structures or processes, which means that a broad methodological expertise is needed. The course will contribute to development of ability to formulate research questions based on different methodological approaches and to formulate a research plan and to critically review scientific texts. The course follows the research process. The starting point is in design, that is, the logic behind how different forms of research questions should be investigated to gain access to the knowledge sought. The focus is on the relationship between the purpose of a study, research questions, theoretical assumptions, forms of data and analysis methods. Ethical issues related to the research subjects' participation, to the quality of research and to different social contexts will be addressed. In the course practically carrying out analyzes will be emphasized. Also, the course will provide orientation and opportunity to apply different methods for generating and analyzing data. The quantitative/statistical methods comprise basic descriptive and analysis using SPSS. The qualitative analysis section deals with descriptions and analysis of different forms of text data, where the nVivo software can be a tool in data management.

Other regulations

Course grading: Failed or Passed

Course language: The teaching is conducted in English.

Course Overlap

Read about course overlap in the Swedish version of this course syllabus.

Cycle

Third cycle