



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

Ref. No. FS 3.1.4-18-19

Introduction to Research Ethics Etik och redlighet

Credit points: 2 ECTS

Course code: 5DN001

Established: 2019-05-14

Established by: Committee for Doctoral Studies

Syllabus valid from: 2019-05-14

Responsible Department: Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies

Main field of study: Ethics

Grading system: G pass, U Fail

Level of Education: Doctoral course

1. Required Knowledge

Admitted to studies at third cycle-level.

2. Expected learning outcomes

After completing the course, students will be able:

- use the terminology and have the theoretical background necessary to identify ethical principles that apply in situations that they may encounter in their work;
- articulate their own ethical views and understand alternative ethical frameworks;
- recognise ethical dilemmas and identify the relevant parties involved;
- recognise the importance of equality within the research world as well as between researchers and society in general (in e.g. access to the research world, mentorship, collaborative research, etc.);
- inform participants in research trials/studies;
- recognise scientific misconduct and good scientific practice, respectively.

3. Contents

The course aims to offer a basic introduction to research ethics, focusing on aspects that are relevant for current research practices. It aims to stimulate awareness of ethical issues in the students' own research as well as in research in general.

Topics covered in this course include: What research ethics is; Fraud and misconduct in research; Informed consent; Publication ethics; Science and equality of access. These areas are discussed in relation to the course participants' own research and associated challenges. Issues of equality are covered particularly in relation to gender (i.e. implicit bias against women, the inclusion of women in male-dominated research fields and possible strategies to increase gender equality in the research world) – but also in relation to other characteristics such as ethnicity.



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4. Form of instruction

The course meetings alternate between lectures, seminars, presentations by the students, and work in groups. The course presupposes a taught as well as a research component. As part of the taught component, the participants together with the course instructor discuss theories and cases in research ethics. As part of the research component, they prepare a short essay (up to 3 pages) on a research ethics topic that is related to their current doctoral research.

5. Examination modes

The examination of this course is based on:

- active participation in the course activities
- satisfactory completion of the essay requirement

6. Other regulations

Academic credit transfers are always reviewed individually according to the University's set of rules and academic credit transfer regulations.

7. Literature

European Commission, *Guidance to facilitate the implementation of targets to promote gender equality in research and innovation*. 2018. Available for download [here](#).

James Rachels, *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*. McGraw-Hill: New York, 2012 (fifth edition) (chapters 1 and 2).

Swedish Research Council, *Good Research Practice*. 2017. Available for download [here](#). In Swedish: Vetenskapsrådet, *God Forskningssed*. 2017. Available for download [here](#).

UKÄ, *Women in higher education*, available [here](#).