



# Course syllabus

## Basic methods course

Grundläggande metodkurs

**Higher Education Credits:** 7,5 hp

**Level:** Doctoral studies

**Subject area:** Education science

**Subject:** Educational work

**Evaluation-assessment:** Fail, Pass

**Responsible Department:** Institutionen för tillämpad utbildningsvetenskap (Department of Applied Educational Science)

### 1. Decision

The course was established by the graduate committee of the Department of Applied Educational Science, Umeå University, and the syllabus was confirmed on 2021-02-17. The course plan applies from and including the spring term 2021 and until further notice.

### 2. Content

The course deals with research design and research methods in the field of educational research. Principles of research design, including their ontological and epistemological premises, and a range of methods in educational science are presented and critically discussed, using concrete research examples. Ethical regulations and considerations in relation to methods and methodology are systematically highlighted throughout the course. The presentation of methods includes classroom observations, interviews, different forms of text analysis, quasi-experimental design and analysis of large-scale register and survey data.

### 3. Expected learning outcomes

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

*Knowledge and understanding*



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- Demonstrate knowledge of different research methods and methodological approaches in education science.
- Develop an understanding of how different research methods and methodological approaches relate to each other and/or can be combined in education science research.

## *Skills and abilities*

- Argue for the choice and use of research methods in relation to the focus, research questions and knowledge claim of a particular study.
- Demonstrate the ability to make research ethical considerations in relation to different research methods in education science.

## *Competencies of critical evaluation and set of attitudes*

- Critically discuss and evaluate research methods and their implications for a study's knowledge contribution in educational research.
- Critically discuss and evaluate the ethical implications of various research methods in education science research.

## **4. Prerequisites**

Admission to the graduate program in a relevant subject area.

## **5. Course Design and Delivery**

The main forms of instruction are lectures and seminars. The PhD students take responsibility for a presentation at a seminar. There are also workshops, for instance to evaluate research with special focus of the methods applied and the ethical considerations in the research. Teaching will be in Swedish or, if needed, in English.

## **6. Examination**

The course is examined through a written assignment in the form of an individual essay and orally by regular participation and attendance in seminars.