



Introduction to the Educational Sciences

Introduktion till det utbildningsvetenskapliga fältet

Higher Education Credits: 7,5 hp

Responsible Institution: Institutionen för tillämpad utbildningsvetenskap

Area of Research: Educational Work

Evaluation-assessment: Fail, Pass

Level: Doctoral Level

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 23 September 2020. The course plan applies from and including the autumn term 2020 and until further notice.

2. Content

The course is a critical introduction to the research field of educational science, and an overview of the field's development in Sweden and internationally. The course examines the contribution of various disciplines to the study of education, the theoretical assumptions that underpin education research, the connections between education policy and research, and the implications of these for researching practice. Education research that includes (but is not limited to) classroom and school work is essential. Positioning of students' individual and emerging doctorate work in the field of education is vital throughout the course.

3. Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course students should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate knowledge of the field of educational sciences and its development, in Sweden and internationally

- Demonstrate knowledge of the sub-disciplines of education research, their different objects of inquiry and scientific approach
- Demonstrate understanding of the significance of policy contexts on education goals and values

Competences and abilities

- Critically discuss educational research relevant to their doctorate area, using arguments and evidence from Swedish and international researchers
- Demonstrate ability to describe and write analytically about their own research topic
- Position their doctorate research in the field of educational science and begin to identify their contribution
- Demonstrate competence to write in academic English

Evaluation and approach

- Identify and apply relevant knowledge of education research to their research topic
- Demonstrate ability to argue for and show the relevance of research for educational and pedagogical practice

4. Prerequisites

Admission to the graduate program in a relevant subject area.

5. Course Design and Delivery

The course is delivered by a combination of lectures, seminars, and student presentations.



6. Examination

Assessment will be based on the writing of a 3,000-words essay. In addition, regular attendance and active participation in seminars is expected.