



UID Research Seminar (4–8 credits)

Credit points: 4–8 ECTS

Course code:

Responsible department: Umeå Institute of Design

Main field of study: Industrial Design

Level: PhD

Specialisation in relation to degree requirements: Doctoral or Licentiate degree in Industrial Design

Subject area: Design research

Grading scale: Pass / Fail

Any programme affiliation:

Confirmation: This syllabus was approved by the Research Council at Umeå Institute of Design, Umeå University, on 2021-10-25 and is valid from the autumn term of 2022.

Contents

The UID Research Seminar course aims to give third cycle students an insight into current design research issues and areas, while introducing students to different formats for presentation, discussion and critical reflection. Through active participation in the seminars, the student should develop their ability to discuss texts and themes in design research together with researchers, PhD students and other seminar participants. Each study year concludes with each student submitting a critical reflection essay, reflecting upon the content of the research seminars and their personal styles of engaging in the research seminar format in relation to the expected learning outcomes of the course.

The course is structured around the UID Research Seminar, which is intended to provide a forum for presentation and discussion of ongoing research at the Umeå Institute of Design, in relation to other work in design research and other relevant discourses. The purpose is to enable an ongoing intellectual exchange as part of the research culture at UID and to support PhD students in their development as independent scholars.

The UID Research Seminars are held regularly during the academic year, and all PhD students and research-active staff are expected to attend and participate.

Expected learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student should be able to

- demonstrate an understanding of academic discourse in design research, through discussing and reflecting on themes in design research in national and international contexts,
- independently articulate and present one's own research for other design research scholars within a seminar framework,
- constructively respond to and handle critique and comments on the own seminar contributions, and provide relevant and adequate feedback on the work of others.

Relation to general study plan

The research seminar is a general higher seminar in design research, and as such it serves many of the learning goals described in the general study plan. However, from an educational point of view, it specifically adds to the other elements of the program with respect to the following:

Primary: 1.2.1, 1.2.4, 1.2.5, 2.2.1

1.2. Competence and skills

1.2.1.



demonstrate the capacity for scholarly analysis and synthesis as well to review and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations autonomously and critically

1.2.4. demonstrate the ability in both national and international contexts to present and discuss research and research findings authoritatively in speech and writing and in dialogue with the academic community and in society in general

1.2.5. demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and

2.2.1. demonstrate the ability to independently and critically examine and assess new and complex phenomena, issues and situations within the field of design.

Secondary: 1.3.1, 2.2.3

1.3. Judgement and approach

1.3.1. demonstrate intellectual autonomy and disciplinary rectitude as well as the ability to make assessments of research ethics, and

2.2.3. demonstrate the ability to relate one's own research to other design research, and ultimately also its relevance and application in design and society.

Required knowledge

Qualifications for admission to the PhD programme in industrial design, or equivalent.

Form of instruction

Seminars.

Examination modes

Examination is held orally and in writing. The assessment of the course is based on active seminar participation, presentations of own work, and the submission of individual essays. Each study year concludes with each student submitting a critical reflection essay, reflecting upon the content of the research seminars and their personal styles of engaging in it in the research seminar format in relation to the expected learning outcomes. The essays are discussed at a final course seminar, both of which form the basis for assessment and final grading of the course.

Students are responsible for keeping a record of the seminars they attend and present marking the tally on each critical reflection paper.

The formal requirement for the research seminar course for students in PhD education is attendance at a total of 50 seminars during PhD studies, presentation of own work at a minimum of 4 seminars for PhD studies, and presentation of a total of 4 critical reflection essays.

The formal requirement for the research seminar course for students in Licentiate education is attendance at a total of 25 seminars; presentation of own work at a minimum of 2 seminars, and presentation of a total of 2 critical reflection essays.

A request for course credits can be submitted to the PhD studies administrator as soon as the required number of attendance and papers has been reached.

Academic credit transfer

Equivalency credits for this course can only be given if it can be shown through transcripts and course plans that a similar course has been passed and after the supervisor and examiner for the PhD education have evaluated and approved the students' individual level of skills and knowledge.



If a student spends time at another institution as a visiting scholar or similar, seminars attended there may be included toward course credit after approval from the supervisor and examiner for PhD education.

If students have difficulty meeting the attendance requirement due to there not being enough seminars held at UID, other events and seminars at other departments and institutions may be counted after approval of the supervisor and examiner for the PhD education.

Course literature

There is no set literature for the course, although frequently texts will be distributed in advance for discussion at particular seminars.