

COURSE SYLLABUS

Research Methods I in Lifelong Learning, Sustainability and Work, 7.5 credits

Forskningsmetodik I i Livslångt lärande, hållbarhet och arbete, 7.5 högskolepoäng

Course Code: LFSS26	Education Cycle: Second-cycle level
Confirmed: Nov 21, 2025	Disciplinary domain: Social sciences
Valid From: Jan 19, 2026	Subject group: Education
	Specialised in: A1F Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements
	Main field of study: Education

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

On completion of the course, the student should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- describe different perspectives and traditions within the philosophy of science
- explain and discuss the applicability of quantitative and qualitative methods for lifelong learning and socially sustainable working life
- identify and describe the relation between theory and methods in current research about lifelong learning and socially sustainable working life

Skills and abilities

- develop and formulate research questions that can be researched in a master's thesis
- reflect upon appropriate research methods that can be applied in a master's thesis
- apply relevant ethical considerations within the chosen field of research
- develop and formulate a research plan for a master's thesis

Judgement and approach

- compare different perspectives and traditions within the philosophy of science and specific methods used in research about lifelong learning and socially sustainable working life
- compare and discuss strengths and limitations of specific methods for problems related to research about lifelong learning and socially sustainable working life
- critically assess relevant ethical considerations and implications in research about lifelong learning and socially sustainable working life with a focus on the chosen field of research in the master's thesis

Content

- Philosophy of science
- Research methods
- Research ethics

Type of instruction

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and exercises performed individually and in groups.

Lectures are joint with parallel master programmes. Seminars and exercises are adapted to the specific main field of study (Lifelong Learning, Sustainability and Work).

A learning management system is used.

Students who have been admitted to and registered for a course have the right to receive instruction/supervision for the duration of the time period specified for the particular course instance to which they were accepted. After that, the right to receive instruction/supervision expires.

Language of instruction is English.

Entry requirements

Passed courses of at least 10 credits from the Master's program Lifelong Learning, Sustainability and Work, or equivalent. English proficiency is required.

Examination and grades

The course is graded A, B, C, D, E, FX or F.

The grades A, B, C, D and E are all passing grades. For courses with more than one element of examination, students are given a final grade based on an overall assessment of all the elements included in the course. The final grade of the course is issued only when all elements of examination have been passed.

The examination is based on the intended learning outcomes.

The course is examined through a Individual written assignment.

The examination must allow for students to be assessed on an individual basis. Further information concerning assessment of specific intended learning outcomes and grading criteria is provided at the beginning of the course.

The receive a passing grade on the course the student must achieve an approved grade on all group presentations and the individual written assignment. The grade received on the individual written assignment decides the final grade for the full course.

Registration of examination:

Name of the Test	Value	Grading
Individual written assignment	7.5 credits	A/B/C/D/E/FX/F

Course evaluation

The instruction is followed up throughout the course. A course evaluation is conducted at the end of the course. A summary and comments are published in the learning management system. The evaluation constitutes a basis for future improvements to the course.

Other information

Students are guaranteed a minimum of three attempts to pass an examination, including the regular attempt.

If a student has failed the same examination three times, the student can request that the next attempt be graded by a new examiner. The decision to accept or reject such a request is made by the associate dean of education. A student may not make a second attempt at any examination already passed in order to receive a higher grade.

In case a course is terminated or significantly altered, examination according to the earlier syllabus shall be offered on at least two occasions in the course of one year after the termination/alteration.

The examiner has the right to give an adapted examination or let the student carry out the examination in an alternative way provided that the intended learning outcomes can be secured and that there are exceptional reasons for this, including the student's right to targeted study support.

Course literature

Please note that changes may be made to the reading list up until eight weeks before the start of the course.

Brace, N., Kemp, R. and Snelgar, R. (2016 (or newer)). *SPSS for Psychologists (and everybody else)* . Palgrave McMillan.

Creswell, J.W & Creswell D.J. (2018 (or newer)). *Research Design. Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches* . SAGE.

Della Porta, D. (2014) (ed.). *Methodological Practices in Social Movement Research* . Oxford University Press, online edn, <http://www.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198719571.001.0001>, chapters 3 and 5.

Neuendorf, K.A. (2017 (or newer)). *The Content Analysis Guidebook*. SAGE

Oreskes, N (2019). *Why trust science?* Princeton University Press. Available online at: http://www.primo.library.ju.se/permalink/46JUL_INST/1kh77vo/alma998107310603831. First 92 pages.

Sundström, M. (2020). *How not to write a thesis or dissertation: a guide to success through failure*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Tarrow, S. (2010). "The Strategy of Paired Comparison: Toward a Theory of Practice". *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 43 , No 2, 235-237.

Selected articles and methodological texts within the field of Lifelong Learning (approx. 200 pages).

Citing Sources – How to Create Literature References

<https://ju.se/library/academic-language/reference-management.html>

Sourcewise: A Student's Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism Information about plagiarism at higher education institutions Available in the learning management system