



LUND
UNIVERSITY

School of Economics and Management

EKHT55, Economic History: Fieldwork, 15 credits

Ekonomisk historia: Fältarbete, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Economic History on 2019-10-08 to be valid from 2020-01-01, spring semester 2020.

General Information

The course is offered as an elective course within the MSc in Innovation and Global Sustainable Development and within the development track of the MSc in Economic Growth, Population and Development. Students from other tracks or Master's programmes within the Department of Economic History are entitled to take the course with the written approval of the director of the track or the Master's programme. The language of instruction is English.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Economic History

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- knowledge and understanding of the subject area of the conducted fieldwork, including its scientific basis and suitable approaches
- knowledge of relevant empirical methods for the areas encompassed by the fieldwork
- understanding of relevant theories and methods to be applied in the area of the fieldwork.

Competence and skills

- ability to apply theories and models relevant to the subject area of the fieldwork
- ability to apply relevant empirical methods to analyse the field related to the fieldwork
- ability to design a qualitative study, which identifies appropriate methods for the research questions
- ability to design interview guides
- ability to analyse qualitative data in a rigorous manner
- ability to discuss findings from case studies and other intensive research strategies in a broader empirical and theoretical perspective

Judgement and approach

- ability to draw conclusions in the field of the programme studied, which considers academic, societal and ethic aspects
- ability to reflect on and assess the ethical dilemmas of qualitative data collection and analysis
- ability to analyse relevant issues encountered in the field or during the fieldwork, independently and individually.
- insight into the role of scientific knowledge in society and issues regarding responsibility surrounding its use and applicability to contemporary challenges in the field of the programme pursued

Course content

The course is an opportunity for students who are interested in conducting fieldwork for gathering material for their upcoming Master's degree project. It is intended for fieldwork in developing countries, which requires more time for preparation and execution. However, other destinations for fieldwork may be considered if duly justified.

The course has two parts:

Part 1. Qualitative methods of data collection and analysis (3 credits):

Prior to the fieldwork, the students are required to take a one-week full-time course in qualitative methods of data collection and analysis. This course provides an introduction to qualitative research methodology and a deeper analysis of a selection of qualitative methodologies of enquiry such as case studies, action research, participatory observation and discourse analysis. Students will also learn to work with different instruments for data collection such as interviews, focus groups or observation as well as learn to use dedicated software for qualitative data analysis. Students are required to be well prepared for the different seminars and workshops, read the compulsory literature for the course, draft their own instruments for data collection, and actively participate in the lectures, exercises and discussions.

Part 2. Fieldwork (12 credits):

The fieldwork component has a minimum duration of 8 weeks full time. Prior to the fieldwork course starts, students will need to prepare a detailed fieldwork research proposal for the planned fieldwork. During the fieldwork, students are to apply the knowledge acquired from the qualitative course, in terms of both the implementation and revisions to the qualitative methods and the fieldwork research plan. The students are required to keep a fieldwork diary, documenting their daily duties. Students can expect only limited supervision from the course coordinator.

Course design

The qualitative methods part of the course is based on a mix of learning techniques, including lectures, exercises and plenary discussions. In workshops, the students will work on the design of their own instruments for data collection during their fieldwork. Individual work is required for the preparation of the different assessment components described below as well as the preparations for the practical implementation of the fieldwork research plan.

Assessment

The assessment of the whole course is based on a portfolio comprised of four components:

- 1) a fieldwork research proposal, which the students are encouraged to work on throughout the autumn semester
- 2) a research methodology framework
- 3) a fieldwork diary produced during the fieldwork period
- 4) a fieldwork report to be completed after the fieldwork period. See a detailed description of each assessed component below.

Fieldwork research proposal:

To gain entry to the course the students are required to submit a proposal for their fieldwork containing information on the aim, a research question, theoretical perspective, a reflection on methods and their relevance to the research question, a timetable and plan for the practical on-site implementation, including a contingency plan. Further instructions on the content and format of this proposal will be included in the detailed course syllabus.

Research methodology framework:

The part on qualitative methods is examined through submission and assessment of a research methodology framework. The research methodology framework should include a reflection on the suitability of qualitative methods for the research questions, the instruments of data collection and analysis and the limitations of the chosen qualitative method, as well as ethical considerations, in relation to the suggested reading for the course and the fieldwork research proposal submitted prior to the course.

Fieldwork diary:

Based on the knowledge acquired in the qualitative method course, the students are required to keep a fieldwork diary (or log), recording their daily activities and reflecting on any deviation from the research plan. The students shall provide a copy of, or temporary access to, their fieldwork diary to the examiner.

Fieldwork report:

In the final fieldwork report, the students integrate all the above components. The report shall include a critical reflection on the knowledge acquired during the fieldwork, in relation to the required reading of the first course part (qualitative methods) and how it relates to the content of their respective Master program and the upcoming degree project. The report shall critically reflect on the collection and methodological triangulation of data. Furthermore, the students may be required to take an oral exam in the form of a discussion with the examiner.

Students must pass all course components to be awarded 15 credits.

The University views plagiarism as a very serious academic offence, and will take disciplinary actions against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in connection with examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass.

Entry requirements

Students will not be allowed to undertake the fieldwork unless they have completed the three previous semesters of the Master's programme in Innovation and Global Sustainable Development or the development track of the MSc in Economic Growth, Population and Development respectively (90 credits).

Students from other Master's programmes at the Department of Economic History who have been approved by their programme director to take this course, may be subject to different entry requirements.

For certain destinations, sufficient knowledge of the country's main language may be required.

Further information

Time restriction: The course may only be undertaken during the spring semester of the second year of the Master's programme in Innovation and Global Sustainable Development (January–March).

Disclaimer: The destination of the fieldwork must be approved by the programme director. Students are responsible for making their own fieldwork arrangements.

Students are responsible for financing their own travel, insurance, living expenses etc. (standard insurance must be obtained for fieldwork abroad). The department and study programme will try to assist the student in finding a suitable counterpart in the host countries when possible.

Admission to course: The course is offered once per semester. Applications to the course shall be made using a special fieldwork agreement form.

Subcourses in EKHT55, Economic History: Fieldwork

Applies from V20

- 2001 Qualitative methods of data collection and analysis, 3,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
- 2002 Fieldwork, 12,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass