Faculty of Social Sciences

HURN05, Psychology and Sociology: Independent Desk-Study, 15 credits

Psykologi och sociologi: Självständigt fördjupningsarbete, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Programme committee for the Master of Science Programme in Human Resources on 2026-03-30. The syllabus comes into effect 2026-03-31 and is valid from the autumn semester 2026.

General information

The course is given as an elective course in the Master Programme in Human Resource, 120 credits.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study	*Specialisation*
Psychology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Sociology	A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

For a grade of Pass on the course, the student must

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge in explaining and discussing current practical and theoretical issues/questions related to scientific study in the field of Human Resources (1)
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of research methods relevant to the specialisation project, for example discourse analysis, scoping reviews, systematic literature reviews, document analysis, interviews, meta-analysis, experiments, or other qualitative and/or quantitative methods (2)

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to identify and investigate a relevant research problem relating to both practical and theoretical developments in the field of Human Resources (3)
- demonstrate the ability to identify, synthesise and apply relevant literature and theories in relation to an identified research problem (4)
- demonstrate the ability to develop a suitable research plan that can be applied to generate further knowledge in the field of Human Resources (5)
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss, both orally and in writing, one's conclusions and the knowledge and arguments upon which these are based (6)

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate an advanced ability to distinguish between different types of sources and academic approaches within Human Resources (7)
- demonstrate an advanced ability to evaluate the suitability of scientific methods and theoretical approaches in relation to practical problems within Human Resources (8)

Course content

This course consists of an independent project in an area in which the student wishes to deepen their knowledge. The course builds on the knowledge and experience gained in previous courses and provides a deeper insight into a current, relevant topic within the field of Human Resources, from both an academic and a practical perspective. Students may choose their own topic for their in-depth study or a case from HR practice. This may involve the student conducting a literature review, undertaking an in-depth study of a practical case, or preparing a systematic literature review. This work may form the basis for their forthcoming Masters thesis.

The course aims to provide students with an in-depth understanding of academic developments in the field of HR. The course consists of an introductory seminar in which current HR issues and the state of research in the field are discussed and analysed. The themes and topics covered will vary depending on developments in the field and the current state of research.

Based on the seminar, the student compiles a reflective report on what they found interesting and how this can be applied to their in-depth project, and presents a plan for how the project will be carried out. The student works independently under supervision. The in-depth project is finally presented in the form of a written report and an oral presentation.

Course design

Attendance at seminars is compulsory. Absences must be made up by completing a written assignment within the scope of the course.

Assessment

The course is examined through

Individual written research proposal 2 credits (learning outcomes 1–3, 5)

Individual written report on the in-depth project 12 credits (learning outcomes 1–5, 7–8)

Individual oral presentation of the in-depth project 1 credit (learning outcome 6)

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.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass
To pass the course, students must have been awarded the grade of pass on all assessed components. At the start of the course, the student is informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and the grading scale and how this is applied during the course.

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires the equivalent of a Swedish Bachelor's degree with one of the following main fields of study: psychology or sociology (including at least 90 credits with a specialisation in one of these main field of study, of which at least 15 credits in total are quantitative and qualitative methodology) with a specialisation in Human Resources, personnel and working life, occupational science or equivalent. Oral and written proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B in Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. Recognition of qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines.