School of Economics and Management

INFC60, IS Sourcing Strategies for Business Development, 7.5 credits

IS Sourcing Strategies for Business Development, 7,5 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Board of the Department of Informatics on 2015-12-04 and was last revised on 2016-06-03. The revised syllabus applies from 2016-08-29, autumn semester 2016.

General Information

The course may be included in the Bachelor of Science programme in Information Systems or taken as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies	*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*
Informatics	G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements
Information Systems	G2F, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

This course deals with issues of strategic sourcing of information systems, both in general and in detail. The emphasis is placed on understanding and evaluating different strategies for sourcing of information systems. The course describes different sourcing solutions for development and maintenance as well as administration of information systems. The purpose is to provide students with the knowledge required to judge and evaluate different sourcing solutions for information systems.

The aim of the course is to enable students to obtain a specialised understanding of sourcing strategies for information systems, of the potential solutions available, and of the circumstances that call for a specific solution. The specific issues addressed on the course include: Which solutions are available to companies that want to use

information systems? Which are the advantages or disadvantages of different solutions? When is one solution more suitable than another?

The course provides students with an introduction to a number of key theoretical perspectives that are used to explain and understand when and why a specific sourcing solution for an information systems is to be preferred. On completion of the course, the students shall be able to use this knowledge to understand and evaluate different strategies for sourcing of information systems when participating in sourcing decisions in companies and organisations, in order to promote a positive organisational development.

Knowledge and understanding

For a pass on the course, students shall demonstrate knowledge of and understanding of

- different sourcing solutions
- when a certain sourcing solution is to be preferred
- advantages or disadvantages of different sourcing strategies/solutions
- possibilities and problems of different sourcing strategies
- technical prerequisites for different IS sourcing strategies

Competence and skills

For a pass on the course, students shall demonstrate competence and skills to

- explain and understand different IS sourcing strategies
- describe and explain when a certain IS sourcing solution is appropriate
- describe and explain technical requirements for IS sourcing solutions

Judgement and approach

For a pass on the course, students shall demonstrate the ability to

- assess and evaluate different IS sourcing strategies
- evaluate prerequisites and effects of different sourcing strategies

Course content

The course deals with key topics related to IS sourcing strategies. This is done through studies and analyses of literature, news articles and empirical examples. The course starts with an historical overview from outsourcing to global offshoring and delivery of IS as a service (e g software as a service). Furthermore, the course addresses a number of key theoretical perspectives of sourcing that can be used to explain different IS sourcing strategies and when one solution is to be preferred to another. The prerequisites and effects, organisational as well as technical, of different sourcing solutions are discussed on the course.

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures, classes, seminars and supervision.

The course includes compulsory components. These are indicated in the timetable.

Assessment

The assessment is based on participation at seminars, seminar reports and the writing and presentation of a course paper.

Re-examinations are offered in close conjunction with the first examination.

Cheating such as plagiarism, fabrication and falsification is considered a serious offence in higher education (see Chapter 8 of the Higher Education Ordinance). The disciplinary measures that may be taken as a result of such offences are caution or suspension for a limited period of time from the University.

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

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A.

Grade (Definition) Points or percentage of maximum points. Description.

A (Excellent) 85-100. An excellent result in terms of theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independence.

B (Very good) 75-84. A very good result in terms of theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independence.

C (Good) 65-74. A good result in terms of theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independence.

D (Satisfactory) 55-64. A satisfactory result in terms of theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independence.

E (Acceptable) 50-54. A result that satisfies the minimum requirements with regard to theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independence.

U (Inadequate/Fail) 0-49. An inadequate result in terms of theoretical depth, practical relevance, analytical ability and independence.

To pass a course, the student must obtain the grade of E or higher.

Grading rules

Exam assessment

The grades A to E and U are applied to exams which are awarded *different passing grades*.

The grades U and G (Fail and Pass) are applied to exams which are *not awarded different passing grades*.

Course assessment

In order to determine the grade for the whole course, the exams with different passing grades are weighted according to the following formula:

The number of credits for the exam is multiplied with the number of points for the exam. The total value is then divided by the total number of credits for the exams included. The resulting average is then rounded off to the nearest whole number and the number indicates the relevant course grade in the table above.

Exams with different passing grades which are assigned points are graded according to the scale of A to U and the point intervals above. The exam points are used directly in the calculation.

Exams with different passing grades which are not assigned points are graded according to the scale of A to U as follows: A = 92, B = 80, C = 70, D = 60, E = 52.

Exams awarded the grades of U and G are not included in the calculation of the course grade.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must satisfy the general admission requirements for higher education in Sweden and have passed the courses Informatics: Introduction to Information Systems, 30 credits, and Informatics: Level 2, 30 credits, or the equivalent. English 6/English B.

When the course is taught in English, students are exempted from the general admission requirements of Swedish B from Swedish upper secondary school.

Further information

The course may be included in the Bachelor of Science programme in Information Systems, in accordance with a decision by the programme director.

Attendance is compulsory at the introductory meeting when a roll call takes place. Unjustified absence entails that the admitted student loses his or her place on the course.

Please contact the study advisor for an individual assessment with regard to transitional provisions.

If the course is discontinued, there may be limited opportunities for re-examination. Please contact the study advisor for information.

Amendments

3 June 2016: New grading rule from the autumn semester 2016.

Subcourses in INFC60, IS Sourcing Strategies for Business Development

Applies from H16

1601 Paper, 4,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, E, D, C, B, A
Individual assignment or group assignment

1602 Seminars, 3,5 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass
Individual assignment