



Faculty of Social Sciences

MIDM38, Field Methods, 7.5 credits

Fältmetoder, 7,5 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Steering committee for the Master of Science Programme in International Development and Management on 2017-08-23. The syllabus comes into effect 2017-08-23 and is valid from the autumn semester 2017.

General information

This course is a compulsory component of the Master of Science Programme in International Development and Management (LUMID, 120 ECTS). The course is field-based.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study *Specialisation*

Development A1F, Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry
Studies requirements

Learning outcomes

To pass the examination, students must be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- discuss the use of methodology throughout the research process and with special emphasis on fieldwork and field data collection,
- explain how various methodological approaches, research methods and specific techniques can be applied and combined in fieldwork for the sake of generating relevant and sufficient amounts of empirical material,

Competence and skills

- reflect on methodology in relation to fieldwork and to do so in terms of planning, organising, carrying out, documenting and reporting research in the field,
- translate main research questions into suitable questions for interviews (and observations) and to refine those questions throughout the fieldwork,
- formulating and pilot-testing questionnaires based on the main research questions,
- carry out interviews with informants as well as respondents and manage various types of interviews ranging from individual interviews and group interviews to focus groups,
- make, document and reflect upon field observations,
- compare, evaluate and combine field data from various sources,
- critically and independently identify and formulate issues, plan and use appropriate methods and carry out advanced tasks within specified time limits, and evaluate this work,

Judgement and approach

- make adequate and ethically sound judgements concerning sensitive issues, and
- assess when field data from various sources have reached a point of saturation.

Course content

This course focuses on the processes involved in planning, organising, carrying out and documenting research in the field. It also encourages continuous reflection on students' own fieldwork. Moreover, it fosters the capacity to be flexible in relation to altered conditions and new options in the field and it increases the ability to reformulate, if necessary, the original research question in relation to emerging field data. Finally it offers an opportunity for students to give constructive comments on the fieldwork of other students, including a discussion and peer review of the final reporting from the field.

Course design

The course will be initiated towards the end of the second term of the programme, through an introductory lecture accompanied by online logreporting and written instructions for how to design a research plan that is to be used as a tool for planning, organising and carrying out research in the field. Once in the field, the participants in the course will communicate via a web-based study portal in order to share insights and reflections from the field both with teachers and with fellow students. In the field, students should read the assigned literature and apply insights from their reading to their fieldwork.

Assessment

Assessment will be based on logs comprising students' analytical reflections on their own fieldwork.

The course includes opportunities for assessment at a first examination, a re-sit close to the first examination and a second re-sit in the same year. Two further re-examinations on the same course content are offered within a year of the end of the course. After this, further re-examination opportunities are offered but in accordance with the current course syllabus.

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

For the grade of Pass, the student must fulfil the learning outcomes specified for the course. At the start of the course, students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied on the course.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have completed the courses International Development Perspectives (MIDA11, 15 ECTS), Development Studies: Theory of Science and Methods (MIDM12, 15 ECTS), Development Studies: Global Health (MIDA13, 7.5 ECTS), Development Studies: Rural and Urban Development and Livelihoods (MIDM45, 7.5 ECTS), Development Studies: Sustainable Development and Natural Resource Management (MIDA24, 7.5 ECTS), and Development Studies: Development Organisations and Programme Management (MIDM26, 7.5 ECTS).