



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Medicine

## **MPHP24, Public Health: Qualitative Methods, 7.5 credits** *Folkhälsovetenskap: Kvalitativa metoder, 7,5 högskolepoäng* Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by The Master's Programmes Board on 2019-05-15 and was last revised on 2019-05-15. The revised syllabus applies from 2019-05-16, spring semester 2020.

### **General Information**

Compulsory course in master's programme in public health

*Language of instruction:* English

*Main field of studies*

Public Health Science

*Depth of study relative to the degree requirements*

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

### **Learning outcomes**

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- Explain the theory of science underpinning qualitative methodology and account for the characteristics of a qualitative research process
- Account for key concepts and procedures for different qualitative research methods relevant to public health science
- Describe how different methods for collecting qualitative data relate to different research questions
- Account for the basic principles and procedures in qualitative data analysis
- Describe how one assesses the trustworthiness of qualitative research findings

#### **Competence and skills**

- Independently identify and justify the choice of relevant qualitative methods for data collection in relation to the research question
- Design an interview guide, carry out a qualitative interview/focus group, carry out

- a simple processing of qualitative data and present qualitative research results
- Critically review questions in regards to the trustworthiness of qualitative research findings and conclusions
- Critically assess the content of scientific qualitative studies

### **Judgement and approach**

- Reflect on ethical considerations in connection to qualitative research
- Reflect on the possibilities and limitations of the qualitative research methodology

### **Course content**

The course provides an overview of the diversity of traditions and concepts in qualitative research. Emphasis is placed on how theory of science underpins both starting points and strategies that different types of qualitative research methods have in common and demonstrates basic differences in relation to quantitative research methods. Furthermore, the course covers the design of a qualitative study (problem formulation, sampling principles, data collection and analysis). Methods for generating qualitative data are presented and discussed. A description is given of the different steps and techniques applied in qualitative analysis, with a special focus on Grounded Theory and Qualitative Content Analysis. Different approaches concerning the concept of trustworthiness within qualitative research are discussed. The students are given supervision for conducting interviews and/or focus groups and for processing/coding qualitative data. The course also includes student-led seminars for a critical review of scientific qualitative articles.

### **Course design**

The teaching consists of lectures, seminars and group exercises. The seminars and group work are compulsory components of the course.

### **Assessment**

The assessment is based on three components: Individual written examination 3 credits; Individual written assignment 3 credits; Course portfolio consisting of active participation in group work, seminars and oral presentation of own work 1.5 credits. If there are specific reasons, other forms of assessment may be applied.

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, Pass with distinction.

To pass the entire course, all components have to be passed. For Pass with distinction in the whole course, Pass with distinction on the individual written examination and

on the individual written assignment and the grade Pass on the course portfolio is required.

### **Entry requirements**

To be admitted to the course, students must have a Bachelor's degree or the equivalent. Specific entry requirement: English B from Swedish upper secondary school or the equivalent.

## Subcourses in MPHP24, Public Health: Qualitative Methods

Applies from V20

- 2001 Individual Written Assignment, 3,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 2002 Individual Written Examination, 3,0 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction
- 2003 Course Portfolio, 1,5 hp  
Grading scale: Fail, Pass