Faculty of Science

NGEK11, Physical Geography and Ecosystem Analysis: Bachelor's Degree Project, 15 credits

Naturgeografi och ekosystemanalys: Examensarbete för kandidatexamen, 15 högskolepoäng

First Cycle / Grundnivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The Education Board of Faculty of Science on 2025-06-10. The syllabus comes into effect 2025-06-10 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

General information

The course is a compulsory course at first cycle level for a Degree of Bachelor of Science in physical geography and ecosystem analysis. The course is also given as a freestanding course.

Language of instruction: English
The course is given in English as it is part of an Engligh-language Bachelor programme.

Main field of study	*Specialisation*
Physical Geography and Ecosystem Science	G2E, First cycle, has at least 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, contains degree project for Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science

Learning outcomes

The overall aim of the course is to enable students to independently plan, execute and report on a scientific project within a chosen area related to physical geography and ecosystem science.

Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the course the student shall be able to:

- demonstrate subject knowledge and explain the current state of knowledge within the chosen field of physical geography and ecosystem science

- explain methods as well as their possibilities and limitations within the chosen field of physical geography and ecosystem science

Competence and skills

On completion of the course the student shall be able to:

- independently search for, obtain, compile, assimilate, evaluate and communicate the knowledge required to address a scientific problem, using scientific literature or other sources of information
- independently and within planned timeframes, formulate, carry out, and evaluate a research project
- present a scientific project in both written and oral form, including the research question, methods, and results

Judgement and approach

On completion of the course the student shall be able to:

- evaluate and compile scientific information, as well as critically interpret scientific data
- assess the results of their thesis work in relation to the research within the relevant field of physical geography and ecosystem science
- identify and discuss their own need for further knowledge, as well as various ways to develop their competence within physical geography and ecosystem science or related fields

Course content

The thesis is an individual assignment that is carried out in project form. The student chooses a subject study field in consultation with a supervisor. The subject study field is preferably included in one of the research projects that are carried out at the department. The thesis can also be carried out as a collaborative project with external departments, universities, national authorities, organisations or companies. The student should solve a defined and well delimited assignment. Within the frame of the work, problems that are linked to the selected field and aims of the study are processed.

Course design

The thesis is an individual assignment, but with continuous contact with a supervisor. The individual work includes literature studies, possibly supplemented by practical work in the field and/or laboratory. Participation in exercises and seminars, including a mid-term seminar and final presentations, is mandatory.

Assessment

The work is presented in the form of a scientific report, written in either Swedish or English. The thesis is presented and defended at a seminar, where it is subject to opposition by a fellow student or a member of the examination committee.

The thesis includes:

- written report in Swedish or English,
- oral presentation and defence of the thesis at a seminar
- critical review and opposition of another degree project at undergraduate level.

The report should be available in a version that admits review at least a week before the seminar. The department archives the degree project after approval and publishes it in electronic format in the Lund University portal LUP Student Paper.

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, Pass with distinction
The final grade is determined by a single examiner, who is also present during the oral presentation and defence.

To pass the course, both the written report and the oral presentation must be approved. The overall grade is based on an assessment of both components, with the written report carrying the greatest weight.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have 90 credits in natural science studies, including knowledge equivalent to:

NGEA01 Physical geography: an introduction to the global environment, 15 credits,

NGEA03 Remote sensing for landscape studies, 15 credits

NGEA04 Ecosystem Analysis, 15 credits,

NGEA07 Theory and methods of Physical Geography, 15 credits,

NGEA21 The climate system, 15 credits

NGEA31 Geographic Information Systems , basic course, 15 credits

Further information

The course replaces NGEK01, Physical Geography and Ecosystem Analysis: Bachelor's Degree Project, 15 credits and credits from that course cannot count towards a degree together with this course.

See also the rules and recommendations for degree projects at the faculty of Science (Dnr N2011/130).

The course is offered at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Lund University.