



Faculty of Social Sciences

## **PSPR14, Course 14: Master's Thesis, 30 credits**

*Kurs 14: Examensarbete för psykologexamen, 30 högskolepoäng*

**Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå**

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### **Details of approval**

The syllabus was approved by the board of the Department of Psychology on 2014-11-11 and was last revised on 2024-05-15 by Programme Committee for the Master of Science Programme in Psychology. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2024-09-02 and is valid from the autumn semester 2024.

### **General information**

The course is a compulsory component of semester 9 and 10 of the Master of Science programme in Psychology.

*Language of instruction:* Swedish  
Some components may be in English.

*Main field of study*

*Specialisation*

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AXX, Second cycle, in-depth level of the course cannot be classified

### **Learning outcomes**

On completion of the course, the students shall be able to

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

- demonstrate advanced understanding of the scientific problems in a psychological research area

## Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate a research question of scientific relevance through an independent and critical review and assessment of the content of research publications in a psychological research area
- demonstrate an advanced ability to select an adequate design and suitable research methods for answering a scientific psychological research question
- demonstrate the ability, under supervision, to independently plan and carry through a scientific empirical research study to answer a scientific psychological research question
- demonstrate the ability to independently document a scientific empirical research study in a research report using the form and language appropriate for scientific reports in psychology
- demonstrate the ability to independently and critically communicate the contents of psychological research in an academic context
- demonstrate the ability to independently and critically communicate the contents of psychological research in a way accessible to the general public

## Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to independently apply principles of research ethics to scientific investigations in psychology

## Course content

The aim of the course is to enable the future psychologists to execute an empirical research study based on a psychological issue, applying knowledge about the theory of science, research methodology and research ethics acquired in course 12 and previously on the programme. The aim is also that the future psychologists should develop their ability to scientific communication by presenting the work in a degree project; by participating in scientific seminars in the capacity of essay writers and in the capacity of peer reviewers; as well as through a popular presentation of the own work.

The course is divided into three modules.

Module 14:1. Master Thesis, 30 credits.

During the module, the future psychologist is to execute an empirical research study and document the study in a Master's thesis in psychology. The project is to be executed individually or by two students in collaboration.

Before the work with the thesis is started, the future psychologist should prepare a research plan and submit a declaration of research ethics in accordance with the ethical guidelines for degree projects established by the Department.

The teaching mainly consists of supervision of the project work. The module also

includes teaching in academic writing and research ethics.

Module 14:2. Thesis Opponentship, 0 credits.

During the module, the future psychologist is to execute a critical review of a Master's degree project, orally at a thesis seminar and in a written report. The oral review can be executed individually or by two students in collaboration. The written review is to be executed individually.

The future psychologist must have passed course 12 to be permitted to execute a critical review. Furthermore, the future psychologist must first have attended five other thesis seminars.

Module 14:3. Popular Psychology Presentation, 0 credits.

During the module, the future psychologists are to learn the principles of popular science presentations and, individually or in pair, make a popular science summary of their own thesis.

## **Course design**

The teaching mainly consists of supervision, individually or in groups. A number of lectures and seminars that are compulsory are furthermore included in the teaching.

The other compulsory components consist of a project plan, participation in the student's own thesis seminar, participation in five thesis seminars of the student's choice (apart from the one in which the student is the reviewer), oral and written critical review, and the written popular science presentation.

If the students are unable to participate in a compulsory component due to circumstances such as accidents or sudden illness, they will be offered the opportunity to compensate for or re-take the component. This also applies to students who have been absent because of duties as an elected student representative. If the student is absent from or fails their own defense seminar or the oral review, the re-examination may be postponed to the following semester.

## **Assessment**

Module 14:1. Master's Thesis

The examination is in the form of a thesis seminar in which the future psychologists present and defend his or her own degree project. A specially appointed examiner assesses the degree project and the defense of the degree project based on a number of assessment criteria established by the department.

The examiner assesses the thesis as 1) passed, 2) passed subject to certain revisions, or 3) failed. The degree project will be failed if the examiner finds that additional supervision is required. A failed thesis must be presented at a new seminar.

The examiner also assesses the defense of the thesis at the seminar as passed or failed. For a Pass on the module, the student must have passed both the thesis and the defense. To be awarded a grade of Pass, all activity regarding the thesis work must reflect an understanding and respect for the ethical principles that must be followed.

The passed degree project should be registered in electronic form in an open access database at Lund's university. The student independently chooses the level of access.

#### Module 14:2. Thesis Opponentship

The assessment is based on the future psychologist's critical review of a degree project in psychology at a thesis seminar. The examiner will assess the critical review as passed or failed based on a number of assessment criteria established by the department.

The assessment will also be based on an individual, written critical review submitted by the future psychologist.

#### Module 14:3. Popular Psychology Presentation

The assessment is based on the future psychologist's popular science summary of their thesis, whether prepared individually or in pair with the thesis co-author.

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

The grades awarded are Pass or Fail. For a grade of Pass, the student must have attained the learning outcomes stated 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 in the course.

### **Entry requirements**

To be admitted to the course, students must be admitted to the Master of Science programme in Psychology and meet the requirements for progression described in the current programme syllabus.