



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

# SLUkurs

## Syllabus

**PLG0041 Research Design for PhD-students, 3.0 credits**

## Syllabus approved

2012-08-29

## Subjects

Biometry

## Education cycle

Third cycle

## Grading scale

Pass / Failed

The requirements for attaining different grades are described in the course assessment criteria which are contained in a supplement to the course syllabus. Current information on assessment criteria shall be made available at the start of the course.

## Language

English

## Prior knowledge

PhD student

## Objective, including learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to give an introduction and overview of different research strategies and methods in general as well as within the faculty. Quantitative and qualitative methods will be discussed and related to ongoing or planned research

projects as well as lectures and course literature.

On completion of the course, the postgraduate student will have more profound knowledge about research design and the possibilities and limits of different kind of research methods and strategies. In that way the student will be better prepared to design and perform their own research projects.

### **Content**

The course will consist of lectures, seminars, group discussions, excursions and visits to the main research environments at the faculty. Lectures and seminars will be scheduled on full time (ca 9 – 16) at least four days each week. A detailed scheme will be available in late October.

The lectures will present and discuss fundamental aspects of research design within natural sciences as well as social science and the humanities. Quantitative methods (experimental designs, inquiries, statistical analysis) as well as qualitative methods (case-study methodology, grounded theory, narratives) will be discussed. Invited researchers will present their own work from a research design perspective. The homework consists of independent work, where course participants reflect and link their own postgraduate project to aspects of research design discussed in lectures, seminars and course literature. Course participants' independent work will be discussed during a concluding seminar.

### **Requirements for examination**

Active participation in lectures and seminars. Presentation of an individual paper consisting of critical reflections of a selected scientific article in relation to own postgraduate project. Write a short paper with a critical discussion on the course literature. Critical assessment of papers presented by the other course participants.

### **Additional information**

Deadline for registration is 1st of November 2015

### **Responsible department**

Department of People and Society