



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

SLUkurs

Syllabus

PFG0040 Research Ethics, 2.0 credits

Syllabus approved

2010-08-18

Subjects

Other Social Science

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

Admitted to PhD studies at SLU.

Objective, including learning outcomes

After the course the students will demonstrate the ability to

- Describe and discuss the contents of some codes of professional conduct and their ethical underpinnings

- Briefly describe the history of research ethics since the Second World War
- Identify cases of scientific misconduct and suggest strategies for dealing with suspected cases of misconduct

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Describe a system for ethical vetting
- Describe and discuss a concrete ethical problem of relevance for his or her research and for SLU and present a well-argued ethical assessment of the problem.

Content

Research ethics is increasingly important. Whether she is in academia, industry, government or somewhere else, a scientist today is expected to be able to reflect upon and assess the professional undertakings of science from an ethical point of view when communicating with her peers as well as the general public.

This course covers the fundamentals of the professional ethics of researchers.

This course covers the following topics

- Professionalism, professional ethics and its theoretical underpinnings
- Scientific misconduct – plagiarism, fraud etc
- Research involving humans – harm, privacy, informed consent
- Animals in research
- Environmental issues in research
- Dual-use items – research that can be used and abused for military purposes or by terrorists

Requirements for examination

Attendance to lectures and completed assignments.

Additional information

The course will be held in Umeå at the SLU Camupus between 10 am and 4 pm on the following days: Thu 8/11, Fri 9/11, Wed 21/11, and Thu 22/11. In addition, there will be presentation of individual assignments in small groups (about 2 hours). The preliminary date is Wed Nov 28.

To register for the course, please contact the course leader Per.Sandin@slu.se.

Responsible department

Faculty of Forest Sciences