UNIVERSITY OF SKÖVDE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Research Ethics, Post-graduate level

5 credits

Course code: IT0925F
Version number: 4
Valid from: 1 January 2019
Ratified by: Committee for the Doctoral Programme in Informatics
Date of ratification: 10 December 2018

1. General information about the course

The course is provided by the University of Skövde and is named Research Ethics, Post-graduate level (Forskningsetik, Forskarnivå). It comprises 5 credits .

The course is a part of the third-cycle subject area of Informatics.

2. Entry requirements

The admission requirements of the course are general entry requirements for third-cycle courses and study programmes, i.e. a second-cycle qualification or satisfied requirements for courses comprising at least 240 credits of which at least 60 credits were awarded in the second cycle, or the equivalent.

In order to fulfil the specific entry requirements, the applicant must have completed academic courses of at least 60 credits , including independent thesis writing of at least 15 credits at advanced level, within the field Informatics, applicable areas of a similar kind or other fields which are judged as directly relevant for the licentiate or PhD thesis.

Priority is given to students enrolled in doctoral studies at the School of Informatics at the University of Skövde. Other doctoral students from other universities can also be admitted as far as space allows.

3. Course content

This course discusses ethical questions that arise in relation to different steps in the research process, from hypothesis through ethical review to implementation and publication, on the basis of both fundamental ethical principles and moral philosophical frameworks, as well as national and international regulations. The students' own research topics are given particular focus, in order to train their ability to undertake independent and sufficient ethical considerations in relation to their own research. In addition, the course highlights ethical aspects of the possibilities and limitations of science more generally, its role and utility in society, and how these issues are affected by both the researcher's own, and society's changing, opinions.

4. Objectives

After completed course, the PhD student should be able to:

- understand and in detail explain the importance of ethical principles and moral philosophical frameworks, in addition to national and international research ethical regulations, of relevance to the student's own research;
- independently put together and review an ethical review for a research project of relevance to the

student's own research, on the basis of existing regulations and sufficient ethical considerations;
- independently identify and analyse research ethical problems that can arise in different stages of the research process;
- critically reflect on the manner in which a researcher's own opinions, and society's changing opinions, affect research ethical approachs; and
- ciritically reflect on research ethical aspects and regulations in relation to the possibilities and limitations of science, and its role and utility in society.

5. Examination

The course is graded G (Pass) or U (Fail).

To receive the grade Pass on the course, all examination parts have to be graded Pass.

The examinations of the course consist of the following modes of assessment:

- **Assignment 1**
  1.5 credits, grades: G/U
- **Assignment 2**
  1.5 credits, grades: G/U
- **Seminars**
  2 credits, grades: G/U

Doctoral students with a permanent disability who have been approved for directed educational support may be offered adapted or alternative modes of assessment.

6. Types of instruction and language of instruction

The teaching is comprised of lectures and seminars/group discussions.

The teaching is conducted in English.

7. Course literature and other educational materials

Vetenskapsrådet (2011). *Good Research Practice*. [Electronic] Stockholm: Vetenskapsrådet. ISBN 978-91-7307-194-9.

Scientific articles, as specified by the course instructor.

8. Doctoral student influence

Doctoral student influence in the course is ensured by means of course evaluation. The students are informed about the results of the evaluation and potential measures that have been taken or are planned, based on the course evaluation.

9. Additional information

Further information about the course, as well as national and local governing documents for higher education, is available on the website of the University of Skövde.