

Qualitative methods in Information Systems Research, 7,5 credits

Kvalitativa metoder inom informatikforskning, 7,5 hp

Course Code/Codes	20KMI16
Subject Area	Informatics
School/equivalent	School of Business
Valid from	2014-06-01
Approved	2014-04-07
Revised	<i>If applicable, enter the date on which any amendments to the course syllabus were approved. If no amendments have been made, delete the help text by pressing the space key on your keyboard. To display a calendar, click on the drop-down arrow to the right</i>
Approved by	Head of School
Translation to English, date and signature	2014-08-28, FKN

1 Course content

The course aims to provide the doctoral student training in assessing research and research publications in the field of informatics from a methodological perspective.

The course includes:

- studies of literature on qualitative research in Informatics
- analysis of characteristics of various qualitative methods in general and as a tool in doctoral-projects in particular
- analysis of the use of qualitative methods in current publications (research articles) based on current research method literature

2 Outcomes

2.1 The course in relation to the doctoral programme

The course shall primarily refer to the following intended learning outcomes for third-cycle courses and study programmes as described in the Higher Education Ordinance, i.e. the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- familiarity with research methodology in general (part of outcome 2)
- familiarity with the methods of the specific field of research in particular (part of outcome 2)

Competence and skills

- the ability to review and evaluate research and other qualified tasks (part of outcome 4)

Judgement and approach

- the ability to make assessments of research ethics (part of outcome 9)

The intended learning outcomes are listed in the same order as in the general syllabus for the programme.

2.2 Intended course learning outcomes

To obtain a passing grade, the doctoral student shall demonstrate:

- 1) sufficient depth and specific knowledge of the historical development and current status of the use of qualitative methods in Informatics research to understand and take part in methodological discussions in leading Informatics journals.
- 2) ability to present, analyse and discuss qualitative research methods in general and those used in Informatics research in particular.
- 3) ability to present, explain and critically analyse research methods used in Informatics research, how they are used and what the contentious methodological issues are.
- 4) ability to discuss and analyse the concept of "research quality" as defined by various research methods.
- 5) ability to evaluate published qualitative research from a methodological perspective
- 6) ability to assess how different qualitative methods can be used in a doctoral-project.
- 7) ability to explain and analyse research methods from an ethical perspective.

3 Reading list and other teaching material

The following course readings and teaching material will be used on the course:

Myers, Michael D. (2009) *Qualitative Research in Information Systems*
<http://www.qual.auckland.ac.nz/> (app. 350 pages)

Vaishnavi, Vijay och Kuechler, Bill. *Design Research in Information Systems*
<http://desrist.org/design-research-in-information-systems/> (Selection, app. 50 pages)

AIS (2009) *Theories Used in IS Research Wiki*
http://www.fsc.yorku.ca/york/istheory/wiki/index.php/Main_Page (Selection, app. 50 pages)

The course requires reading of a selection of literature on qualitative research methods, including both the method specifications and papers about the current critical debate, as discussed in the informatics community. This literature is mainly drawn from the international databases and updated before the course starts in order to best reflect the current discussion. The literature is app. 200 pages.

Four contemporary papers from major Information Systems journals or conferences selected for review by students (app. 60 pages)

4 Teaching formats

Teaching on the course takes the following format:

- Lectures (compulsory)
- Analysis of literature (individual and group assignments)
- Four (4) seminars (one for each article; compulsory)
- A final seminar where the doctoral student's paper is presented and discussed (compulsory)

5 Examination

The course is assessed through an examination consisting of the components listed below. The individual components are not graded separately but together they provide the basis for assessment and grading.

- Four (4) discussion seminars: oral discussions about research methods and research quality.
- Written assessment: written assessment of four (4) scientific articles.
- Written reflective paper and presentation of the paper at the final seminar.

For examinations consisting of several examination components, the following applies: If during the course it is concluded that a doctoral student is unable to complete a certain examination component, the examiner may set a substitute assignment provided that circumstances do not reasonably allow for the course component to be completed at a later date during the run of the course.

6 Grades

Examinations on third-cycle courses and study programmes are to be assessed according to a two-grade scale with either of the grades 'fail' or 'pass' (local regulations).

The grade shall be determined by a teacher specifically nominated by the higher education institution (the examiner) (Higher Education Ordinance).

To obtain a passing grade on examinations included in the course, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the intended course learning outcomes as described in section 2.2. Alternatively, if the course consists of multiple examinations generating credit, the doctoral student is required to demonstrate that he/she attains the outcomes that the examination in question refers to in accordance with section 5.

A student who has failed an examination is entitled to a retake.

If an examination consists of several examination components, and a student fails an examination component, the examiner may, as an alternative to a retake, set a make-up assignment with regard to the examination component in question.

A doctoral student who has failed an examination twice for a specific course or course element is entitled, upon his/her request, to have another examiner appointed to determine the grade.

7 Admission to the course

7.1 Admission requirements

To gain access to the course and complete the examinations included in the course, the applicant must be admitted to a doctoral programme at Örebro University.

7.2 Selection

Selection between applicants who have been admitted to doctoral programmes at Örebro University and who otherwise meet the admission requirements as listed above is made according to the following order of precedence:

- 1) Applicants from the subject of Informatics
- 2) Applicants from the university's graduate school: Technology-mediated Knowledge Processes

- 3) Applicants from the School of Business
- 4) Other applicants who have been admitted to doctoral programmes at Örebro University

If no other selection criteria are specified in this section, priority shall be given to applicants with a lower number of course credits left before the award of their degree over applicants with a higher number of remaining course credits. Should two or more students have equal number of credits, selection will be done through the drawing of lots. This also applies within any selection groups listed unless otherwise stated.

7.3 Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University

Other applicants than doctoral students admitted at Örebro University may be given access to the course on the grounds of provisions for and/or agreements regarding contracted courses, joint degrees, national graduate schools or cooperation in other respects with other universities.

Any decisions on what such other applicants may be given access to the course are made separately and on the basis of the provisions and/or agreements that occasion the student to apply for the course.

For participation in the course in other respects, the same provisions shall apply as for doctoral students admitted to Örebro University.

8 Transfer of credits for courses, study programmes and other experience

Provisions on the transfer of credits can be found in the Higher Education Ordinance and on the university's webpage.

9 Other information

Course language is Swedish or English as necessary. The course literature is mainly in English.

Doctoral students who have been admitted to a course have the right to receive tuition and/or supervision for the duration of the time period specified for the particular course to which they were accepted. After that, the right to receive tuition and/or supervision expires.

Transitional provisions