

Course plan for Literature Management and Scientific Communication

Course code PHDLMSC

Credits: 5

Number of semesters: 1 semester

Applies to: Course start spring 2022

Teaching language: English

Responsible: Faculty of Health and Social Sciences

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Academic content in course

This course aims to provide the PhD candidate with transferable research skills. It is open to candidates from all PhD programmes, and is best suited to those at an early stage of the PhD. The main goal for the course is that each candidate, early on in the research process, gains a confident insight and overview of their research field, of crucial literature and of different information sources. To this end, the PhD candidate will learn how to make a literature review for the dissertation including extensive searching in relevant databases and methods for administrating the literature. Useful software for the review process will be introduced, including the reference management tool EndNote. The candidates will learn about publishing processes, publishing channels, research networks and evaluation of research. The course also aims to provide the candidates with knowledge about data management including data storage, archiving, protection, and sharing.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

The Candidate:

- can critically evaluate the expediency and application of different methods and processes in research and scholarly projects
- can position own research in relation to a larger field of study through an extensive literature review
- has an awareness of useful software for organising and reviewing the literature
- can critically evaluate the quality of different publications and publishing channels
- has specific knowledge about procedures of peer review, how to get published internationally, criteria for ranking of journals and other publication channels and other forms of research evaluation
- has specific knowledge about how to increase the visibility of own research
- has specific knowledge about data storage and archiving, personal data, data protection, and data sharing in light of national and international regulations

Skills

The Candidate:

- can use a variety of literature search techniques and critically review relevant sources of information in the field of study
- can use an electronic reference management system for correct referencing and citation techniques
- can critically analyse and evaluate different forms and rules of scientific communication and formulate an appropriate publishing strategy
- can make a data management plan for own research.

General Competence

The Candidate:

- can contribute to developing new knowledge by identifying gaps in the previous research, positioning own research in the field and engaging in the written dialogue with researchers in the field
- can communicate research and development work through recognized national and international channels, and by online networking
- can consider ethical challenges related to data collection, storage, publishing, and sharing.

Learning activities

There will be lectures and practical exercises in which the candidates will learn how to make a data

management plan, search relevant databases, and increase the visibility of own research. These exercises will be useful to the mandatory course essay. It will be possible for the PhD students to schedule individual guidance sessions with a local subject librarian inbetween the teaching sessions. The last course day after lunch, there will be a seminar in which the participants will give a presentation of an essay proposal. A peer candidate and the course instructors will give opposition on the proposal to identify potential improvements that should be made.

Forms of assessment

Examination

Assessment is based on the course essay that should be about 4000 words. The essay have to indicate how you intend to produce the literature review section related to your research (in your dissertation or in an article), including how the course literature can guide you in this approach. You should document your literature search in two relevant databases. The essay should also contain a justified strategy for how to publish and disseminate the research to increase the visibility. Additionally, a reference management system in line with institutional (USN) and international requirements should be used in the essay. Finally, a data management plan must be attached.

The essay must include literature from the course and can be written in English, Norwegian, Danish, or Swedish.

The essay will be assessed by an external examiner and one of the course teachers.

Assessment form: accepted / not accepted.