Faculty of Health, Science and Technology

# Doctoral Programme Course

## Research Ethics for Doctoral Students: Basic Course

**Course Code:** 7OMV002
**Course Title:** Research Ethics for Doctoral Students: Basic Course
**HE credits:** 3 ECTS credits
**Degree Level:** Doctoral

### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Health, Science, and Technology on 2019-06-19 and is effective from the spring semester of 2020 at Karlstad University.

### Language of Instruction

Language of instruction is alternately Swedish or English for every other course offering.

### Prerequisites

Admission to a doctoral studies programme or a Master's degree, or equivalent, with priority given to doctoral students at Karlstad University.

### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

- give an account of and reflect on the history of research ethics and the role of science in society,
- Identify and reflect on research ethical issues and problem in different research contexts, including their own research,
- Identify and reflect on research ethical issues in relation to producing as well as publishing scientific results,
- demonstrate an ethical approach to research,
- give an account of and reflect on good research practice,
- give an account of and reflect on legislation, codes and the processing of research data from an ethical perspective,
- make ethical assessment in research

**Course Content**
Instruction is in the form of lectures, seminars and practical exercises and comprises the following components:

- The historical emergence of research ethics and the foundations of research ethics
- The role of science in society
- Legislation and codes
- processing research data
- Publishing ethics
- Research misconduct and conflicts of interest
- Research information to human subjects and consent

**Course Literature**
See separate document.

**Examination**
Assessment is based on individual written and oral assignments in relation to mandatory seminars and an individual written take-home exam.

**Grades**
One of the grades Fail (U) or Pass (G) is awarded in the examination of the course.

**Quality Assurance**
The course convenor has a duty to encourage a continuous dialogue on learning processes and goal fulfilment. A written evaluation is carried out at the conclusion of the course combined with a joint student-teacher discussion of all aspects commented on. The result of the evaluation is collated and made available in accordance with the *Higher Education Ordinance* Ch.1, sect. 14.

**Course Certificate**
Course certificate is issued on request.

**Literature List**

**Course Title: Research Ethics, 3 ECTS (doctoral level)**

European Commission. 2010. *European textbook on Ethics in Research* (203 s). https://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/document_library/pdf_06/textbook-on-ethics-report_en.pdf

Gustafsson, B., Hermeren, G. & Pettersson, B. (2017). Good research practice. Stockholm: Vetenskapsrådet. https://www.vr.se/download/18.5639980c162791bbfe697882/1555334908942/Good-Research-Practice_VR_2017.pdf

Vetenskapsrådet Codex
http://www.codex.vr.se/en/forskningsetik.shtml

Act (Sfs 2003:460) Concerning The Ethical Review Of Research Involving Humans.
Lag (2003:460) om etikprövning av forskning som avser människor.

Mustajoki, H. & Mustajoki, A. (2017). A new approach to research ethics. Using guided dialogue to strengthen research communities.

Allea The European Code of Conduct for Research integrity
https://allea.org/allea-publishes-revised-edition-european-code-conduct-research-integrity/

Research articles and book chapter in relation to specific research fields.

**Outcome descriptors**

Outcomes required for the doctor and licentiate degree respectively are marked with

| **Doctor** | | **Licentiate** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Knowledge and understanding** | | **Knowledge and understanding** | |
| Demonstrate broad knowledge and systematic understanding of the research field, and | | Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the research field, | |
| deep and current knowledge in a delimited area of the research field, and | | current expert knowledge in a delimited area of the research field, and | |
| familiarity with research methods in general and the specific methods of the research field in particular. | | deepened knowledge of research methodology in general and the specific methods of the research field in particular. | |
| **Competence and skills** | | **Competence and skills** | |
| Demonstrate ability to perform research analysis and synthesis, and | | Demonstrate ability to identify and formulate problems critically, independently, creatively and with scientific accuracy, and | |
| independent critical review and assessment of new and complex phenomena, problems and situations, and | | to plan and with adequate methods conduct a delimited research project and other qualified task within given time frames and thus contribute to the development of knowledge. | |
| ability to identify and formulate problems critically, independently, creatively and with scientific accuracy, and | | and assess the project | |
| to plan and with adequate methods conduct a delimited research project and other qualified task within given time frames and review and assess such projects, and | | Demonstrate ability to clearly present and discuss research and research results in speech and writing in dialogue with the research community, nationally and internationally, and | |
| through a thesis demonstrate ability to conduct research and substantially contribute to the development of knowledge, and | | with the community at large, and | |
| demonstrate ability to clearly and with authority present and discuss research and research results in speech and writing in dialogue with the research community, nationally and internationally, and | | demonstrate the skills required to participate in research and development work in non-academic contexts. | |
| with the community at large, and | | | |
| demonstrate ability to identify needs of further knowledge, and | | | |
| the potential to contribute to societal development in research and education as well as in other qualified professional contexts, and to support others' learning | | | |
| **Judgement and approach** | | **Judgement and approach** | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Demonstrate intellectual independency and good research conduct, and | X | Demonstrate ability to make research ethical assessment regarding their own research, | X |
| ability to make research ethical assessment, and | X | insight into the potentials and limitations of science, its role in society and our responsibility for how it is used, and | X |
| demonstrate deepened insight into the potentials and limitations of science, its role in society and our responsibility for how it is used. | X | ability to identify their need of further knowledge and take responsibility for their own knowledge development | |