

Reg-no. HS2021/1139

**Course syllabus**

**Course Approval**

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences on 1 December 2021 and is valid from the spring semester 2022 at Karlstad University.

**Third-Cycle Subject Area**

History/Historia

Human Geography/Kulturgeografi

Risk and environmental studies/ Risk- och miljöstudier

Political Science/Statsvetenskap

Sociology/Sociologi

Social Work/Socialt arbete

Other third-cycle subject areas might also be included.

**Course Title**

The art of writing a thesis and feeling great along the way - writing processes and academic writing - Konsten att skriva en avhandling och må bra på vägen – skrivprocesser och akademisk skrivande.

**Credits:**

5 ECTS credits

**Degree Level:**

Third-cycle level

**Language of Instruction:**

English

**Target group and Entry Requirements**

To be eligible for the course, you must be admitted to the doctoral programme.

The course is directed at doctoral students writing a thesis in social sciences or the humanities, in particular doctoral students who are part of the Graduate School on Sustainable Societal Transformation. Participation of other doctoral students is subject to availability. The course is primarily directed at doctoral students who have recently begun their doctoral studies and want to develop sustainable strategies for daily writing.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the course, the doctoral students shall be able to:

- Account for different methods of working, which aims to improve and make writing more efficient, especially writing a thesis

- Evaluate the practiced methods and strategies in relation to the work on their own thesis

- Reflect critically on what characterises academic writing, based around the work on their own thesis

- Analyse their own approach to writing and developing an action plan in order to improve their writing strategies in the future.

**Content**

The course is based on research on how new researchers can successfully plan their writing by producing new text by means of short writing sessions every day. The aim of the course is for the doctoral students to develop a routine for daily writing and planning of their writing time. During the course, the doctoral students will experiment with various procedures for structured writing and planning, adapted to the needs of the individual students.

The course length is one semester. The doctoral students will meet the course director and each other for a short seminar every other week, in order to give each other support in developing new writing routines, as well as discussing and reflecting on any challenges that arise. Each seminar is also focused on a specific theme, such as for example academic writing, planning and writer’s block.

The course comprises a half-day introduction as well as mandatory seminars every other week. Each week, the doctoral students will submit an overview to the course director, stating how often they have been writing.

**Reading list and other study material**

See separate document.

**Examination**

Examination is based on active participation in at least 80 percent of the mandatory seminars, as well as on the brief, weekly reports to the course director. In these reports, the doctoral students will note how often and how much they have been writing, as well a brief reflection on their progress and the challenges they are facing. The course concludes with a short written assignment.

**Quality assurance**

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course, in order to ensure continuous improvement and contribute to the planning of future courses.