



Graduate School of Health at Karlstad University offers Doctoral Course

# Phenomenography

## 4.5 ECTS

Phenomenography is a qualitative research methodology that offers a unique lens for exploring how people experience and understand the world around them. Rather than seeking one single truth, phenomenography focuses on the rich variation in how the same phenomena (concepts, events, or practice) are perceived and interpreted by different individuals.

Grounded in the idea that human understanding is shaped by context, background, and lived experience, phenomenography provides powerful tools for uncovering these differences. The approach enables researchers to systematically map and analyze the range of ways people make sense of a phenomenon, offering valuable insights for fields such as health sciences.

In this course, you will gain a solid foundation in phenomenographic theory and practice and learn how to apply this method to investigate and better understand diverse perspectives in your own research.

### Prerequisites and selection

The course is intended for doctoral students admitted to a research programme in health sciences. See the course syllabus for details on the selection process, including the order of priority in admissions.

### Course delivery

The course is delivered through a combination of lectures, literature studies, group discussions, and seminars. It covers ontological and epistemological assumptions underlying phenomenography, central concepts within the field, and various methodological approaches. In addition, the course addresses issues related to sampling, data collection and analysis, as well as reliability and trustworthiness.

The course will be conducted primarily in English, with Professor Emerita Gerlese Åkerlind of the Australian National University and Professor Emerita Margret Lepp of the University of Gothenburg serving as the main lecturers.

The course is assessed through two components: (1) a group assignment involving the analysis of interview material using a phenomenographic approach, and (2) an individual written paper. The paper is presented and critically discussed in an opponent-responder seminar, focusing on how phenomenographic methodology has developed over time.

### Dates

The following course sessions are scheduled for autumn 2026: 13–15 October, 26 October, and the examination seminar on 12 November. All sessions will take place at Karlstad University, except for 26 October, which will be held online via Zoom.

**Course start: 13 October at 09.00**

### Application

Please apply by September 28, 2026 to Project Coordinator Maria Klint Hidén [maria.hiden@kau.se](mailto:maria.hiden@kau.se)

The number of places on the course is limited to 10.

### Course leaders

**Professor Maria Larsson**

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**Professor Cecilia Olsson**

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