Biomedical, Medical and Public Health Training Board (NBMFU)

MPHN40
Master’s Thesis in Public Health

30 Higher Education Credits Level A2E

General information

Main field
Public health

Subject
Public health

Type of course
Obligatory course within the Master’s programme in Public Health.

Language of instruction
English

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding
On completion of the course, students shall be able to
- In a substantially deeper way account for the present state of knowledge and current research in a limited area within the field of public health
- In a substantially deeper way account for methods applicable to a limited area within the field of public health and for the possibilities and weaknesses of the methods

Skills and Abilities
On completion of the course, students shall be able to
- Independently formulate specific research questions of relevance to the knowledge development within the main field, on the basis of relevant theories and in the current state of knowledge
- Independently search for, select and assess sources by means of structured strategies and use information from the literature in the implementation of a research project
- Carry out a study, collect data, analyse results and independently compile and critically assess the significance and limitations of these on the basis of the formulated research question and chosen method
- Discuss scientific methods applicable to the area of specialisation and the possibilities and limitations of the methods, and provide arguments for the choice of methods in the thesis project
- Independently identify and reason about the principles of research ethics of specific relevance to the own and other students’ thesis projects
Identify the need of further knowledge that might be required within the area of specialisation

Plan and independently write a research paper in English and a popular science summary of the paper

Independently account for and discuss, in English, the thesis project and the knowledge and arguments on which the thesis is based, in dialogue with both researchers and students

Carry out an opposition on another students thesis project by critically reviewing and giving constructive feedback in English, both orally and in writing

Judgement and approach
On completion of the course, students shall be able to

- Assess his/her need of further knowledge and take responsibility for his/her knowledge development
- Make assessments with respect to aspects of research ethics with specific relevance to his/her thesis project

Course content
The aim of the thesis project is to give the students an opportunity to specialise and broaden within the main field and hereby practise on searching for, critically review and compile research information including research in public health. The student is to formulate a research question and complete a study based on collected primary and secondary data, alternatively a meta-analysis or a systematic literature review in cases where a meta-analysis is formally impossible to carry out, and present the results in the form of a research article.

Examination credits
Paper, 25 credits
Defence, 2 credits
Opposition, 1 credit
Seminars, 2 credits

Teaching and examination
1. Teaching: Carrying out his/her own (i.e. the work should be individual and is not possible to do in a group) supervised scientific project. Developing a project plan that must be approved by the course leaders. The project can be carried out in Sweden or abroad.

2. Examination credits: A written report in the form of a paper written in English in the structure of a research article, which should include an abstract and a popular science summary. The thesis is presented and defended orally; including a critical review and opposition on a fellow student’s thesis project at a presentation seminar, and active participation at other presentation seminars.

3. Number of examination opportunities: A student who has failed an examination is entitled to four more opportunities for examination. More examination opportunities may be offered in individual cases.

Marks
1. Pass with Distinction, Pass and Fail are the marks used.
2. To receive a Pass with Distinction for the entire course, a Pass with Distinction for the paper and defence, as well as a Pass for the opposition on another students thesis project and active participation on seminars are required.
Admission requirements
A Bachelor’s degree (180 credits) or equivalent, and proficiency in English equivalent to English B. A Pass on the courses Epidemiology and Biostatistics, 15 credits, and Qualitative Research Methods, 7.5 credits, or equivalent.

Required reading
Specific literature depending on chosen research area.

Further information