



LUND UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Science

SYLLABUS

Date
2021-06-23

Reg. No.
U 2021/445

Syllabus for the course Sustainability Impacts and Societal Relevance in Research Proposals, NMV007F *Swedish title: Hållbarhetspåverkan och samhällsrelevans för forskningsansökningar*

The course syllabus was confirmed by the Faculty board for graduate studies 23 June 2021. The course is in the third cycle and amounts to 3 credits.

The course syllabus is formally approved in Swedish. This is a translation.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, participants shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Describe opportunities and limitations of the sustainable development goals
- Describe approaches to weighting impacts for sustainability indicators
- Explain systemic properties in research questions and methodologies pertaining to sustainability assessments
- Describe some ways of involving citizens, users, actors and stakeholders in research design and for sustainability assessments

Skills and abilities

- Search for relevant approaches to estimate sustainability impacts connected to at least one actual research question
- Formulate in writing aspects concerning societal relevance and estimates of sustainability impacts for part of a research application
- Communicate with researchers from several fields on issues related to societal relevance of research projects, and estimating sustainability impacts
- Identify both direct and indirect types of sustainability impacts, in the short and long term, as well as need for additional knowledge concerning specific aspects of a research project.

Judgement and approach

- Summarize consequences of system dynamics and forecasting for estimating sustainability impacts
- Argue for choices of scenarios, indicators and framework conditions in estimating sustainability impacts
- Show insight about ethical consequences of methodological and technological choices and their applications, with respect to distributive aspects, intergenerational justice and risk.

Course content

Identifying, estimating and formulating societal relevance and sustainability impacts in writing; examples of sustainability requirements and criteria in research call texts; sustainability impacts across different time scales; distribution aspects; local, national and global sustainability impacts; global trade and economic impacts; life-cycle analysis; policy and regulation; systemic approaches; sociotechnical systems; goal conflicts; sustainability indicators; sustainable development goals; planetary boundaries.

Teaching

Lectures, seminars, workshops and discussions with course participants.

Assessment

Assessment is based on attendance, oral exam and written assignment.

Grading scale

Possible grades are Pass and Fail. To pass the course, the student must attend all scheduled components, actively participate in seminars and workshops, pass the oral exam and written assignment.

Language of instruction

English

Entry requirements

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Additional information

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