



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences
Biology

Syllabus

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Social and Life Sciences on 7 May 2012, and is valid from the Spring semester of 2013 at Karlstad University.

Course Code: BIAD14

Biology Independent Research Project, 30.0 ECTS Credits

(Biologi examensarbete, 30.0 Swedish credit points)

Degree Level: Master

Progressive Specialisation: A2E (Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits))

Language of Instruction

Swedish or English

Prerequisites

Bachelor's degree of 180 ECTS cr with a major in Biology, including at least 15 ECTS cr in ecology or equivalent and specialisation courses in biology 30 ECTS cr at Master's level.

Major Field of Study

BIA (Biology)

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- critically and independently identify and formulate research questions on eco systems with an emphasis on water ecology and critically assess and specify adequate methodological choices for investigations in aquatic environment,
- conduct literature searches and data collection in aquatic environments and analyse collected data using the appropriate statistical methods,
- reflect on and assess the ethics of research questions and research in ecology,
- describe and explain methods, results, analysis and conclusion in an academic essay and evaluate the work,
- orally present and defend their own essay and independently and critically review other academic essays in the area of aquatic ecology.

Content and Form of Instruction

Instruction is in the form of supervision and seminars.

Students conduct their own individual research project, chosen in consultation with the examiner. The project should be based on the students' previous studies in biology and provide the opportunity to specialise. Parallel to the independent project students also carry out literature studies.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on an independently written work, its presentation and defence, participation in at least five academic seminars, and on performance as a peer reviewer of master-level degree project.

Grades

One of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G), or Distinction (VG) is awarded in the examination of the course.

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. Course assessment is based on student views and experiences as reported in written course evaluations and/or group discussions. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of the measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional Information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor's and Master's levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

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