



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Information Systems

Syllabus

Research methods in game development

Course Code:

ISAD03

Course Title:

Research methods in game development
Forskningsmetoder inom dataspelsutveckling

Credits:

7.5

Degree Level:

Master's level

**Progressive
Specialisation:**

Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

Major Field of Study:

IKA (Information Systems)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2025-04-22, and is valid from the Spring semester 2026 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

A Degree of Bachelor, Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts, or vocational diploma of at least 180 ECTS credits, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

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

1. give an account of current research in the field of games, computer games, and game development,
2. compare and apply scientific research methods relevant to the field of games, computer games, and game development,
3. search for and critically evaluate scientific publications in the field of games, computer games, and game development, and
4. design a study within the field of game development.

Content

The course addresses current research, scientific theory, and various scholarly traditions relevant to the analysis and understanding of games in general, and computer games and game development in particular. It also covers planning and knowledge projection in preparation for a thesis project.

The primary forms of instruction are seminars and supervision. The course includes practical exercises in searching for and evaluating research publications, as well as techniques for data collection, analysis, and presentation. The course requires students to be responsible for working actively, individually and in groups.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Assessment is based on written hand-in assignments, completed individually and in groups and presented and discussed in seminars. Submissions for assessment must clearly indicate individual contributions.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) 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 evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

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