



Board of Teacher Education
Special Education

Syllabus

Research Methods in Special Needs Education

Course Code:	LPAS10
Course Title:	Research Methods in Special Needs Education <i>Vetenskapliga metoder i specialpedagogisk forskning</i>
Credits:	15
Degree Level:	Master's level
Progressive Specialisation:	Second cycle, has second-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1F)
Major Field of Study:	SQA (Special Education)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Board of Teacher Education 2024-02-14, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2024 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

Special Needs Education: Research and Practice, 15 ECTS credits, Special Education in Practice, 15 ECTS credits, and Teaching and Learning in School for Pupils with Intellectual Disability Part I, 15 ECTS credits, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

The aim of the course is for students to acquire in-depth and integrated knowledge about theoretical and methodological issues in the area of special needs education. The need for special education professionals to combine science with proven experience is treated through relating research efforts in the field of special education to the planning of a degree project.

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

1. demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the research process, knowledge claims, and theory of science points of departure,
2. identify and formulate research problems in relation to national and international research in the field of special needs education,
3. apply scientific methods to collect or construct as well as process and analyse data and other types of empirical material,
4. discuss and critically examine reliability and credibility in scientific studies,
5. give an account of and reflect upon research ethical rules and principles,
6. demonstrate in-depth knowledge of key scientific theories and methodological approaches in the field of special needs education, and
7. independently write a research plan in which a research problem is identified and different scientific and methodological standpoints are described and justified in relation to that problem.

Content

In relation to the applicability of different methods in the field of special needs education, the course covers the following:

- research and the research process
- formulating a research problem
- quantitative and qualitative methods for collecting data or constructing other types of empirical material, and methods for processing and analysing data tested in practice,
- sound scientific practice and research ethical guidelines
- different approaches and principles for assessing the knowledge claims of scientific studies, including their validity
- scientific theories and methodological approaches in the field of special needs education
- planning a research study in preparation for the degree project

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

Learning outcomes 1-2 are assessed based on an individual written hand-in assignment.

Learning outcome 3 is assessed based on an individual oral and written presentation.

Learning outcomes 4-7 are assessed based on an individual written research plan in preparation for the degree project.

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.

Required course for the Programme in Special Needs Training: Intellectual Disability