



Board of Teacher Education  
Special Education

# Syllabus

## Research Methods in Special Needs Education

<b>Course Code:</b>	LPAS10
<b>Course Title:</b>	Research Methods in Special Needs Education <i>Vetenskapliga metoder i specialpedagogisk forskning</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	15
<b>Degree Level:</b>	Master's level
<b>Progressive Specialisation:</b>	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 2025-02-19, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2025 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. reflect upon and critically examine the research process, knowledge claims, and epistemological starting points,
2. apply and critically evaluate quantitative research approaches within educational science,
3. collect, process, and analyse empirical material using a qualitative research approach,
4. discuss and critically assess the reliability and credibility of scientific studies,
5. explain and reflect upon research ethical rules and principles, and
6. independently develop a research plan in which a scientific problem is identified in relation to national and international research, and the methodological choices of the proposed study are described.

## **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 outcome 1 is assessed based on an individual written hand-in assignment.

Learning outcomes 2 and 3 are assessed based on individual oral and written hand-in assignments.

Learning outcomes 4-6 are assessed based on a 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