



LUND UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Medicine

SWEAH
SWEDISH NATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL ON AGEING AND HEALTH

Syllabus approved 2016, revised 2023

From junior to senior researcher in research on ageing and health

Level: Postdoctoral

General information

The course is offered by the Swedish National Graduate School on Ageing and Health (SWEAH), which is a consortium of partners from higher education institutions across Sweden, coordinated by Lund University.

The course is intended for junior researchers with an interest in research on ageing and health, in Sweden and abroad. Researchers from all disciplines are welcome. Precedence will be given to junior researchers who obtained their PhD within the past three years. If places are available, researchers who earned their PhDs within the last 4–5 years will be admitted. Junior researchers from higher education institutions that are partners of SWEAH take precedence. Diversity regarding gender, discipline, research orientation, nationality, etc. will be considered for the selection of participants. The total number of students on the course will be limited to 25.

The course is scheduled to correspond to 5 weeks of full-time work distributed over 6-8 months. It is a part-time distance learning course using an online learning platform. The course includes mandatory 1-2-day workshops on site located in different locations around Sweden.

Language of instruction

Swedish or English.

Objective

The main aim of the course is to prepare junior researchers for successful careers as independent senior researchers within the field of ageing and health. A further aim is to enable researchers to develop and deepen an interdisciplinary and integrative approach to ageing and health including international perspectives.

Learning outcomes

With an overall focus on ageing and health research, on completion of the course the participants shall be able to:

- provide constructive feedback on the choice of theories and methods to doctoral students and junior researchers from disciplines other than their own;
- reflect on the personal qualities required for leadership, mentoring and supervision of research on ageing and health;
- critically discuss the conditions for national and international research collaboration and ethical issues of research projects;

- describe, reflect on and justify their own priorities in a career development plan and explain their relevance for the development of a successful academic career in the field, both nationally and internationally;
- motivate, account for and analyze success criteria for obtaining research funding in national and international competition;
- develop skills to independently design a research proposal and a qualifications portfolio of high quality.

Course content

The course is based on the participants' national and international career planning within the research field of ageing and health. The theoretical components address leadership, mentoring, supervision of doctoral students and researchers, as well as the principles of research ethics and obtaining research funding. The theoretical components will be applied to the participants' own projects and then refined in interaction with senior researchers.

Teaching

The course is based on workshops and lectures, presentations by the participants in small and large groups, group discussions and written reports, and reading the course literature. The online learning platform is used for different assignments, both individually and in groups. Meetings and interaction with other junior and senior researchers within the field of ageing and health are an important element of the course.

Active attendance at workshops and completion of the learning platform assignments are compulsory.

Assessment

The course includes different assessed assignments, both written and oral. During the workshops, active participation with both individual presentations and group work is required. The components assessed using the learning platform are presentations and reflections on individual written assignments and written feedback to fellow researchers.

Grades

The grades awarded are Pass and Fail.

Required reading

- Gabrys, B.J. and Langdale J.A. *How to Succeed as a Scientist: From Postdoc to Professor*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012, pages 1–207.
- Vetenskapsrådet. *Good Research Practice*. Stockholm, 2017.
- Vitae. *Researcher Development Framework*, 2010.
- A list of additional reference texts will be made available during the course.