

UPPSALA UNIVERSITET
Faculty of Educational Sciences
Department of Education
Doctoral Studies

Education as science: theoretical perspectives, 15 ECTS

Pedagogik som vetenskap: teoretiska perspektiv, 15 högskolepoäng

Valid from 2026-05-20

The course is a mandatory course in the PhD program in Education.

Course language

Swedish and/or English, set in course announcement.

Entrance qualifications

Admission to the PhD program in Education at the Faculty of Educational Sciences, Uppsala University, is a prerequisite to gain access to the course. The course coordinator may admit doctoral students in Education or related subjects at other institutions of higher education and doctoral students in related subjects at Uppsala University.

Goals and learning outcomes

The goal of the course is for the students to appropriate profound knowledge about Education as science. After completing the course, the students are expected to be able to:

- give an account of and critically reflect upon Education as an academic discipline nationally and internationally
- develop an independent approach to and critically discuss central theoretical perspectives and key concepts
- with a high level of autonomy, account for, critically discuss, and evaluate the empirical employment of theoretical perspectives.

Course content

The course includes four parts:

- An overall orientation in the history of educational ideas and the development of Education set in a national and an international perspective
- Curriculum theoretical perspectives: institution, codes, and context
- Perspectives on difference: normality/deviance, inclusion/segregation, social justice
- Theoretical approaches to language, culture and interaction: socialization, learning and identity

Enactment

Classes include mandatory lectures and seminars.

Examination

The course is examined through active participation in lectures and seminars, through assignments during the course, with one more encompassing paper and a final written exam.

The course will be graded Pass or Fail and the grade will depend on the execution of the assignments for seminars, participation in discussions, as well as the quality of the final paper

and the written exam. To some extent absence in lectures and seminars may be compensated with additional assignments according to directions of the course coordinator and seminar leaders.

Course Evaluation

The course is evaluated orally during and at the end of the course, and in writing at the end of the course.