

## **Empirical methods and statistics in legal science for PhD students, 7.5 University Points**

*Determined on 16 January 2025 by the Faculty of Law's Research Committee, Uppsala University, by virtue of Chapter 6 Section 14 and 15 of the Higher Education Ordinance.*

### **General about the course**

“Empirical methods and statistics in legal science” is a 7.5 university points (7.5 ECTS credits) course at research level in the studies for the degree of Doctor of Laws, according to the degree requirements adopted 14 June 2011 by the Faculty of Law's Research Committee of Uppsala University. The course is held in Swedish or English. The course directors are Moa Lidén and Annika Rejmer.

### **Entry requirements**

The student must be registered as a doctoral candidate in law.

To be eligible for the course you should be at the beginning of your PhD studies, ideally during year 2.

To be accepted for the course you need to submit an application describing a part of your PhD thesis that you intend to address using empirical methods and/or statistical analysis. The applications will be used to adjust the course content to the interests of the course participants and will also be the starting point for your examination to be agreed with the course directors.

If special reasons exist, the board of exemption may grant exemption from the acceptance requirements.

### **Course content**

The course is a hands on introduction to empirical methods such as archive studies (including large scale legal case analysis), interviews, surveys and experimental studies, using software such as Nvivo and Redcap. It also focuses on statistical analysis of data obtained using such methods. This includes learning to conduct statistical analysis in the software IBM SPSS.

The first part of the course entails theories about methods and practice, whereas the second part entails application to a research question entailed in the doctoral student's dissertation.

### **Learning outcomes**

After completing the doctoral course, the doctoral student shall have knowledge and skills that enable them to:

1. Identify relevant empirical methods and statistical analyses to use for research questions in legal science
2. Use empirical methods and statistical analysis to answer a specific research question (to be discussed with the course director) in their thesis.

## Teaching

The teaching consists of:

- Lectures on each of the empirical methods including e.g. archive studies, interviews, surveys and experimental studies.
- One workshop on creating surveys and experiments using real life examples and the software RedCap. Before starting the course you need to install RedCap on your computer, using the UU university license.
- One workshop on conducting interviews in which students will get to interview each other on designated topics.
- One workshop on text and document analysis method using real life examples and software Nvivo. Before starting the course you need to install Nvivo on your computer, using the UU university license.
- Two statistics workshops where the students get to test their statistics skills on real examples using e.g. t-tests, ANOVA and regression analysis. Before starting the course you need to install SPSS on your computer, using the UU university license.
- One-on-one feedback with the course directors regarding empirical methods and statistical analysis to be applied in the doctoral student's thesis

## Examination

The examination consists in conducting and reporting on the use of at least one empirical method and at least one statistical analysis or text analysis for a specific research question within the frames of the doctoral student's thesis. The exact scope of this task will be agreed with the course directors.

## Literature

Field, Andy Discovering Statistics Using IBM SPSS Statistics, Sage Publications, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2013

Bryman, Alan (2018). Samhällsvetenskapliga metoder. Tredje upplagan Stockholm: Liber

Beekhuizen, Jenine & Bazeley, Pat, Qualitative data analysis with nvivo, 4th edition, Sage, Thousand Oaks, 2025

Edhlund, Bengt M. & McDougall, Allan G., Allt om Nya NVivo Windows: 2020 års upplaga av det världsledande verktyget för kvalitativ analys, Form & Kunskap AB, Stallarholmen, 2020

Esaiasson, Peter, Gilljam, Mikael, Oscarsson, Henrik, Sundell, Anders, Towns, Ann E. & Wängnerud, Lena, Metodpraktikan: konsten att studera människor, organisationer och samhällen, Sjätte upplagan, Norstedts Juridik, Stockholm, 2024, 440 sidor

Gravetter, Frederisk & Forzano Lori-Ann, Research Methods for the Behavioral Sciences, Cengage, 6<sup>th</sup> edition, 2021

Westerlund, Joakim & Borg, Elisabeth Statistik för beteendevetare, Liber, 2020, 4th edition