UNIVERSITY OF SKÖVDE

TRANSLATION FROM SWEDISH

COURSE SYLLABUS

Master Degree Project in Cognitive Neuroscience A1E

30 credits

Course code: KU729A
Version number: 1
Valid from: 1 January 2027
Ratified by: Curriculum Committee for Bioscience
Date of ratification: 25 March 2026

1. General information about the course

The course is provided by the University of Skövde and is named Master Degree Project in Cognitive Neuroscience A1E (Examensarbete i kognitiv neurovetenskap A1E). It comprises 30 credits and is a second-cycle course. The level of progression is A1E.

The course is a part of the main field of study in Cognitive Neuroscience. The disciplinary domain of the course is Natural Sciences.

2. Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires passed courses KU728A Seminars in Cognitive Neuroscience A1N, KU722A Consciousness and Its Neural Basis A1N, KU725A Research Methods and Data Processing in Cognitive Neuroscience A1N and KU726A Cognitive Neuroscience: Research Practice A1N (or equivalent).

3. Course content

This course comprises the independent completion of a Master's thesis within the field of cognitive neuroscience. The student, in consultation with their supervisor, is responsible for identifying and formulating a research problem addressing the relationship between cognitive processes and neural systems. This is then developed into an individual proposal outlining the study's rationale and justifying the choice of methodology and analytical approach. The methodology draws on approaches taught within the programme, such as behavioural experimental methods, psychophysiological methods, or integrative literature reviews using systematic search strategies. The course work involves conducting the planned investigation, which includes critically synthesizing the current literature within the field, analysing the data and results, and presenting results, while considering the ethical and societal dimensions of the research. The course culminates in a comprehensive written thesis in which the student critically interprets and discusses the study's results, implications, and limitations, and an oral defense at a final seminar. Furthermore, the student completes a critical review of another student's thesis.

4. Objectives

After completing the course, the student should be able to:

- identify and formulate a relevant problem area and justify the methodological approach, appropriate for a degree project in cognitive neuroscience,
- synthesize relevant research literature to construct a theoretical framework that positions and motivates the research within the current field,
- author a scholarly essay in the format of a scientific research report, critically interpreting results and discussing their implications and limitations for the field,
- evaluate the ethical and societal implications of the research and its findings,
- orally present, justify, and defend the essay in a critical academic discussion, and
- provide constructive and scholarly critique of another student's essay.

5. Examination

The course is graded A (Excellent), B (Very good), C (Good), D (Satisfactory), E (Sufficient) or F (Fail).

A final grade of the course is only issued when all the examination parts have been passed.

In order to be examined for the component Essay, the student must have already passed the component Research Plan. In order to be examined for the component Oral presentation, the student must have already passed the component Essay.

Since the examination components build on each other in succession, it is not possible to effect significant topic changes in a degree project. If the examiner determines that such a topic change has occurred, the student must present their new problem area, with (if required) related contextualization, which the examiner must approve before the student will be able to continue with subsequent remaining examination components.

Once the course is finished, access to additional supervision is limited, and determined by the programme coordinator a case-by-case basis. Access to such additional supervision cannot be granted more than one year after the course has finished.

The examinations of the course consist of the following modes of assessment:

- **Individual assignment - Research plan**
  3 credits, grades: G/U
- **Opposition**
  1 credit, grades: G/U
- **Oral presentation**
  3 credits, grades: G/U
- **Essay**
  23 credits, grades: A/B/C/D/E/F (determines the final grade)

Students with a permanent disability who have been approved for directed educational support may be offered adapted modes of assessment.

6. Types of instruction and language of instruction

The teaching comprises supervision, independent work, and seminars. Lectures/workshops may occur.

The teaching is conducted in English.

7. Course literature and other educational materials

Primary literature

American Psychological Association (2020). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. ISBN 9781433832161.

Additional literature agreed with supervisor.

Reference literature

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J. M., Bizup, J., & Fitzgerald, W. T. (2016). *The Craft of Research* (4th ed). Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press. ISBN 9780226239569.

Sword, H (2012). *Stylish Academic Writing*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. ISBN 9780674065093.

8. Student influence

Student influence in the course is ensured by means of course evaluation. The students are informed about the results of the evaluation and potential measures that have been taken or are planned, based on the course evaluation.

9. Additional information

The content of the course corresponds completely or partially with the following course(s) and cannot be included in the required credits of a degree qualification:

- KU727A - Master Degree Project in Cognitive Neuroscience A1E 30 credits

Further information about the course, as well as national and local governing documents for higher education, is available on the website of the University of Skövde.