### **Master thesis course in forest economics/ business administration** - Självständigt arbete i Skogsvetenskap, A2E respektive Självständigt arbete i företagsekonomi – Jägmästarprogrammet (August 30- January 16, 2021 in Uppsala)

**EX0975**, Application code: 10066.2122

The course's website: en

<https://student.slu.se/studier/kurser-och-program/kurser/?sprak=en&anmkod=10066.2122>

**EX0976**, Anmälningskod: 10068.2122

Kursens webbsida: sv

<https://student.slu.se/studier/kurser-och-program/kurser/?sprak=sv&anmkod=10068.2122>

*Master thesis in Business Administration, A2E*

**EX0925**, Application code: 10071.2122

The course's website: en

<https://student.slu.se/studier/kurser-och-program/kurser/?sprak=en&anmkod=10071.2122>

Open course home page for these courses **EX0975 EX0976 and EX0925** is a shared domain in Canvas

and the courses are offered in coordinated efforts. The learning objectives (last two pages) are the same for all three courses. The course language (in Canvas and documents) is English, but you may write your thesis in Swedish or English (in forestry economics). Business administration thesis projects are written in English. We encourage writing in English.

Examination is made by one of us: Anders Roos, Anders Lindhagen, Camilla Widmark or Cecilia Mark-Herbert based on active participation in obligatory parts of the course, independence in the process and a final report that fills all the course objectives. Course leader: Cecilia Mark-Herbert [cecilia.mark-herbert@slu.se](mailto:cecilia.mark-herbert@slu.se)

# Preliminary schedule

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Datum** | **Time** | **Activity and task** | **Lecturer (information)** |
| **w 35** | | | |
| 30/8  Mon | 13-16 | Course start (aims, criteria for evaluation, publication on Epsilon, Urkund …) | Cilla  Zoom: <https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/7550490044>  Code: 490044 |
| 31/8  Tue | 10-12 | A thesis project – from research plan to proposal, onwards to a full project. Roles, responsibilities, and support systems. | Cilla  Zoom: <https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/7550490044>  Code: 490044 |
| 13-15 | Scientific writing | Anders Roos  Zoom: https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/65347408769  Passcode: 210044 |
| 1/9  Wed | 09-11 | Library – taking the library skills one more notch - Instructions from Sabina:  **Send an e-mail to Sabina PRIOR to the workshop (31/8 at 12.00)** with information about things you found challenging related to writing and finding literature in your previous thesis project | Sabina Lundberg  [sabina.lundberg@slu.se](mailto:sabina.lundberg@slu.se)  SLU Library  Zoom: <https://slu-se.zoom.us/my/sabinalundberg>. |
| 2/9  Thur | 8-12 | Thesis presentations – schedule and reports will be available in Canvas (This is thesis projects from the spring semester) | Students from the *spring semester* take opponent roles. You all serve as an active audience (constructive questions) |
| 13-15 | Metod – Qualitative approach | Cilla  Zoom: <https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/7550490044>  Code: 490044 |
| 3/9  Fri. | **09-11** | Method – Quantitative approach | Anders L  Zoom: <https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/66652258599>  Passcode: 853706 |
| **13-15** | **Work plan - seminar**– Presentation of thesis idea, turn in work plan (problem, aim, approach and time frame). Please prepare a 5 minute presentation of your project for the seminar – after your presentation you will get questions from all of us | Supervisors + Cilla + all students  Zoom: <https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/7550490044>  Code: 490044 |
| **w 37** | | | |
| 13/9  Mon | **13-17** | **Proposal seminar** Proposal documents needs to be ***submitted in Canvas Thur. Sept 9thh by 12, noon.***  All students take two “discussant roles”. A list will be posted in Canvas in Canvas the evening of Sept 9th | Anders L, Torbjörn, Anders R and Cilla + all students in the course – discussion of proposals.  Zoom: <https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/7550490044>  Code: 490044 |
| **v 42** | | | |
| Oct. 20th Wed. | 8-12 | **Half time seminar** - in the course  A mauscript needs to be made available by **Monday Oct 18th at 08.00** on Canvas in the correct folder, in a doc/docx format.  A list of opponent roles will be available in Canvas by lunch October 18th. All advisors and students  (A schedule will be available by lunch Oct 18th in Canvas) | **Plan A** – Seminar in person at Ultuna, lecture hall “Alnarp” (A 305) 20 seats  **Plan B** (if Covid does not allow for us to meet) Zoom: <https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/7550490044>  Code:49 0044 |
| **w 2, 2022** | | | |
| Jan 10th  Tue. | Kl 08 | *Turn in your manuscript (Canvas) in preparation for oral presentations in an open seminar. D-day for turing in manuscript and submitting to Urkund and making it available in Canvas (as a submission and in the group folder)* | *A schedule for presentations will be made available at latest Jan 10th (by lunchtime)* |
| Jan 12th Wed. | **08.00 -16** | **Oral presentations and opponent dialogue in an open seminar** – Each student takes two opponent roles providing feedback orally in a constructive dialogue and in writing (questions during the seminar and details in manuscript) | **Plan A** – Seminar in person at Ultuna, lecture hall “Alnarp” (A 305) 20 seats  **Plan B** (if Covid does not allow for us to meet) - Zoom: <https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/7550490044>  Code: 490044 |
|  |  | **D-dag for turning in your revised thesis for grading Wednesday Jan 26th at 08.00** | Turn in – Canvas + and e-mail to Cilla with attachment |
|  |  | **Examination** | Anders R & Cilla |
|  |  | Seminar if somebody has missed the seminar i January the next one will be arranged in May 2022 | A message will be available in Canvas concerning the date for this seminar. |
| Don’t forget to fill out the course evaluation – please! Thank you!!! | | | |

**Contact information for advisors and examiners**

**Anders,** Anders Lindhagen, researcher at the Department of Forest Economy Ulls Hus, Ulls väg 27 [anders.lindhagen@slu.se](mailto:anders.lindhagen@slu.se)

**Anders,** Anders Roos, professor Department of Forest Economy, 018671564, 0739840705, [anders.roos@slu.se](mailto:anders.roos@slu.se), <https://internt.slu.se/cv-originalen/anders-roos/>

**Camilla,** Camilla Widmark, lecturer at Forest Economics in Umeå,[Camilla.Widmark@slu.se](mailto:Camilla.Widmark@slu.se)

**Cilla,** Cecilia Mark-Herbert, lecturer at Forest Economics in Uppsala 018-671709, [cecilia.mark-herbert@slu.se](mailto:cecilia.mark-herbert@slu.se), Department of Forest Economy , Box 7008, 750 07 UPPSALA, Visiting address: Ulls Hus, Ulls väg 27, room D357, Uppsala <http://www.slu.se/en/cv/cecilia-mark-herbert/>

**Sabina,** Sabina Lundberg, library expert e-mail: [sabina.lundberg@slu.se](mailto:sabina.lundberg@slu.se)

**Torbjörn,** Torbjörn Andersson,Vice HOD, research assistant at Department of Forest Economy 018-673518, 072-55 77 097, [torbjorn.e.andersson@slu.se](mailto:torbjorn.e.andersson@slu.se)

**Course book**

Robson, Colin & McCartan, Kieran (2015) *Real World Research* (4th ed.) John Wiley & Sons, Chichester, the UK, ISBN: 978-1-118-74523-6 + articles that are available in Canvas

**Suggestions of topics** – see Appendix (last in this document)

**Course presentation (forest science and business administration) Advanced study in the main field**

Second cycle, includes independent project (degree project) for the degree of Master of Science (120 credits, A2E)

Grading scale

5:Pass with Distinction, 4:Pass with Credit, 3:Pass, U:FailThe requirements for attaining different grades are described in the course assessment criteria which are contained in a supplement to the course syllabus. Current information on assessment criteria shall be made available at the start of the course.

Language

English

Prior knowledge

Knowledge equivalent to 30 credits at second-cycle level in the main field of study. A Pass grade for the independent project at first-cycle level, or a Bachelor’s degree. The student must have completed at least one course relevant to the subject of the independent project before starting the project. Knowledge of English equivalent to English 6.

Objectives

The aim of the course is for the student, based on previously acquired knowledge, to independently plan, carry out and present an academic study within a given time frame. Through the independent project, the student will develop their skills in the academic work process and deepen their subject knowledge considerably.  
  
On completion of the course, the student will be able to:  
  
- independently and creatively identify and formulate scientific questions;  
- independently search, compile, evaluate and critically interpret relevant information and literature;  
- independently plan and, using adequate methods, carry out a scientific study within given time frames;  
- analyze and evaluate data and/or findings on a scientific basis;  
- discuss contents and conclusions in a scientific work critically, and reflect on how the choice of question and method relates to the scientific and practical basis of the subject;  
- reflect on social and ethical aspects, sustainability aspects within the subject as well as ethical aspects of research and development;  
- present a scientific work in accordance with the prevailing practice of the discipline, adapted to the intended audience and according to the instructions given;  
- write a summary in English of a scientific report according to the instructions given;  
- write a popular science summary of a scientific work according to the instructions given;  
- present a scientific work orally and critically review and discuss, as well as give constructive criticism of, another student’s project, including method, conclusions and the context of the work in a wider perspective;  
- identify their own skill and knowledge development needs in the subject of the project.

Content

The course involves carrying out an independent, academic project (degree project) under supervision. The project is to be carried out independently, using data collected by the student themselves, or equivalent data. The project should preferably be carried out individually, but the course coordinator can admit exceptions under certain circumstances. The set-up of the independent project should be documented in a work plan established in consultation with the supervisor before the project starts.  
  
The project is to be presented orally and in writing, as seminars or an equivalent format, and according to the instructions given. The course also involves taking part in a public discussion of another student’s project in order to assess the ability to give constructive criticism.

Formats and requirements for examination

A Pass grade for the written report and the oral presentation, as well as a Pass grade for the critical review of another student’s project. If the work has been carried out in pairs, it must be made clear to the examiner what each individual has contributed; this applies to both the written report and the oral presentation. The work effort and the scope of the work should correspond to 30 credits for each student, and each student must fulfil all intended learning outcomes. - If the student has not received a Pass grade for a test, the examiner has the right to give a supplementary assignment, provided this is feasible and can be justified.  
  
- If the student has been granted learning support due to a disability, the examiner has the right to offer an adapted test or let the student take the test in an alternative manner.  
- If this course syllabus is changed, or if the course is discontinued, SLU shall decide on transition rules for examination of students admitted under this syllabus but who have not yet completed the course.  
- For the examination of an independent project (degree project), the examiner may also allow the student to add supplemental information after the submission date. For more information, please refer to the regulations for education at Bachelor’s and Master’s level.

* If the student fails a test, the examiner may give the student a supplementary assignment, provided this is possible and there is reason to do so.
* If the student has been granted special educational support because of a disability, the examiner has the right to offer the student an adapted test, or provide an alternative assessment.
* If changes are made to this course syllabus, or if the course is closed, SLU shall decide on transitional rules for examination of students admitted under this syllabus but who have not yet passed the course.
* For the examination of a degree project (independent project), the examiner may also allow the student to add supplemental information after the deadline. For more information on this, please refer to the regulations for education at Bachelor's and Master's level.

Other information

* The right to take part in teaching and/or supervision only applies to the course date to which the student has been admitted and registered on.
* If there are special reasons, the student may take part in course components that require compulsory attendance at a later date. For more information on this, please refer to the regulations for education at Bachelor's and Master's level.

Responsible department

Department of Forest Economics

Further information

*Determined by:* Vice dekan S-fak

# Appendix

# **Suggestions for thesis topics (fall 2021)**

Writing a master thesis can be done *individually or in pairs.* If it done collaboratively, both students need to write a reflection on the process and their contributions in this process. The thesis report has the same format independent of if an individual student or two students write it. Students in the Forestry program (Jägmästare) may write their thesis in Swedish or English. Students writing their thesis in Business Administration write their thesis in English. The course language (in the shared Canvas domain and seminars) is English, unless everybody participating are comfortable with Swedish.

It is smart to start the course with a firm understanding of a selected topic for the thesis – so you can do a literature review before the thesis course starts, as an orientation that makes the start of the thesis project so much easier. We do not recommend taking other classes and conducting a thesis process at the same time. Nor do we recommend working extensively parallel to the thesis project. It a semester working full time to do it all if you want to maximize your learning.

Some students have a commission or a subject related task of their interest. Other students might be interested in conducting a thesis project that is closely connected to an ongoing research project. We have therefore provided a list (Table below) of suggestions for topics you may investigate further before making a choice.

You can also make suggestions of your own for topics/ problems. Please make contact with us to ensure that we have capacity to take an advisory role. We are limited in scope and in number of projects we can take a supervisory role for.

Table. Possible topics for master thesis projects

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic (Subject)** | **Short background** | **Contact person** |
| Circular economy, value chain man., marketing | Value chains and forest damage – how can value chain management be part of efforts to minimize forestry damage? | [Anders.roos@slu.se](mailto:Anders.roos@slu.se) |
| Sustainability management, organizing shared use of resources | Agroforestry – land use for multiple stakeholder needs sounds ideal in a circular economy from a sustainable development – but it entails conflicts and difficulties that is visible in many systems. What are the enabling factors for a shared use of resources? | [Anders.roos@slu.se](mailto:Anders.roos@slu.se) |
| Marketing – sustainability communication | Analysis of sales documents for apartment – unique selling points (USP) for apartments in WMC (wooden houses) and concrete respectively. | [Cecilia.mark-herbert@slu.se](mailto:Cecilia.mark-herbert@slu.se) |
| Sustainability management circular economy focusing on practices for financial institutes when providing loans for construction (Marketing) | A new legislation (2022) will require new constructions to provide a sustainability declaration. This requirement will enable financial institutes to tailor their practices to support sustainable development and risk management. How do financial actors take roles in a sustainability transition – for more wooden multistorey construction (WMC)? | [Cecilia.mark-herbert@slu.se](mailto:Cecilia.mark-herbert@slu.se) |