LUND UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

Department of Business Administration

Reg. no U 2018/455

EHFO001, Research Policy, 7.5 credits

Forskningspolitik, 7,5 hp

Third Cycle/Forskarutbildningsnivå

General information

The course EHFE001 is a course on Research Policy at the third cycle level

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies: Research Policy

Course description

The course will provide PhD-students with an overview of the key concepts and approaches in research on research policy. On completion of this course, students will have acquired a working definition of research policy; be able to identify and define the key concepts in the field; identify and analyse key problems and critically engage with some of the most well established analytical frameworks in the field. Apart from this substantive knowledge, students will have acquired analytical skills that will allow them to formulate problems in research policy.

Learning outcomes

The following learning outcomes are required for a passing grade on the course.

Knowledge and understanding

- A thorough understanding of concepts in research policy – background, key concepts and analytical frameworks

Competence and skills

- Applying the research policy literature to your personal research project
- Critically reflecting on the way in which research policy affects research practice

Communication

- Have an ability to form arguments for both research and public debate orally as well as in writing.

Course content

Research or alternatively science policy may be defined as the set of practices (e.g. evaluation and agenda setting) and funding instruments designed and implemented to stimulate the production of scientific and technological knowledge in order to realise the ideal of progress and/or welfare. Research policy may be implemented at several levels, the nation state, a university, a region or a company but for the purposes of this course we will restrict ourselves to publicly funded science.

National research policy may be regarded as having two parts, one normative, the other regulative. The normative part consists of a rationale for why science should be publicly funded and an underlying but seldom explicated commitment that science is the path towards achieving the normative goals of the agency or state. The second, regulative part consists of a portfolio of instruments, practices, rules, etc. that are intended to regulate the practice and outcomes from science through resource allocation, legal and organizational arrangements.

Research policy has generally been divided into two streams: policy for (the governance of) science and science for policy (scientific expertise as an input to policy). In this course we will only briefly touch upon the latter issue.

Course design

EHFO001 is organized around three modules, viz: conceptualizing the governance of research; key approaches in studying the governance of research and critical policy studies. The readings for each of these modules will be research articles and book chapters provided in digital form. Once a student is admitted to the course, s/he will receive a link allowing them access to the course material. The course will be delivered in seminar/lecture format and will be comprised of three lectures and seven seminars grouped together in three meetings, each meeting will encompass one full day.

Assessment

To pass the course, students will be expected to read the listed literature, provide a two page summary and critical reflection of assigned readings prior to each meeting and participate fully in all three meetings.

Credits

Grades are Pass or Fail.

Plagiarism is considered to be a very serious academic offence. The University will take disciplinary actions against any kind of attempted malpractice in examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other improper practices in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University for a specific period of time.

Entry requirements

Any PhD student from social or natural sciences as well as from the humanities interested in Research Policy in a wide sense, how knowledge is supported, evaluated, ignored, and used in society, in theory and in practice. Practitioners who are working with the governance of research, research funding, management, etc. are particularly welcome to join the course.

Course literature

See separate literature list.