

Research Course at the
Nordic School of Public Health:



PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE

RESEARCH DESIGN

RESEARCH ETHICS



Linnasmäki Turku

23–27 August and
20–24 September 2010

— This is a course for those interested in conducting high quality research in Public Health. It gives you a critical perspective on public health science understood as a multidisciplinary field of knowledge and an opportunity to work with your own research. For this we need to discuss: choice of research theme, problem analysis, research questions, aims, research design, ethical considerations and research quality control.

COURSE VENUE: Linnasmäki Hotel and
Congress Center, Turku

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www.linnasmaki.fi

PREREQUISITES: To be eligible to take the course, you must meet NHV's basic requirement of an academic degree that corresponds to at least 3 years of higher education. We also require that you have completed some courses in Public Health Science and courses in Quantitative and Qualitative methods. Applicants will be judged for eligibility individually.

COURSE COORDINATORS: Professor em Bo Eriksson, Nordic School of Public Health, bo@nhv.se, Professor Raimo Isoaho Nordic School of Public Health and Turun Yliopisto, raimiso@utu.fi

COURSE ADMINISTRATOR: Rose Wesley Lindahl, rose.wesleylindahl@nhv.se

COURSE LANGUAGE: English

Applications are considered on an ongoing basis up to the start of the course, the maximum number of participants is 25. Application can be submitted at the Nordic School homepage www.nhv.se or through e-mail to the course administrator or Bo Eriksson.

COURSE CODE: 31532010B

Course introduction

Presentations and discussions are based on different views regarding scientific theory and research ethics, as well as applicability and relevance. Evidence value, trustworthiness, generalizability and ethical dilemmas in public health research are discussed in relation to research questions and methods as well as ethics in general.

— Various examples are used to illustrate the strengths and weaknesses in different situations, along with opportunities for combining theories, methods, data and competences. Theoretical and methodological issues are also contrasted to practical needs like human competence and economic resources.

— The course should be useful for PhD students and other with an interest to deepen their insights in Public Health research.

ECTS-CREDITS: The course is given 8 credits in the European Credit Transfer System.

COURSE FEE: Participants shall pay a limited service fee and accommodation (Euro 49 per night, including breakfast). Travel costs are borne by the participants.

THE NORDIC SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH:

Strategies, mission, vision and position: // NHV's strategies – a description of our activities. With the student in focus and with high scientific quality and public relevance, NHV carries out research, teaching and commissioned education for today's and tomorrow's public health. *// NHV's mission – the extreme aim with everything we perform.* With the Nordic countries as a base, NHV shall create and spread multi-professional knowledge promoting good and equal health. *// NHV's vision – why we exist and where we are going together.* NHV is in a leading position in the Nordic countries and is internationally recognized for its education and research. *// NHV's desired position – how we want to be perceived.* The natural choice for our target group concerning education, research and commissioned education.

www.nhv.se

Work Model

The course will use different themes as basis for the work. These will be public health research problems where multi-disciplinarity and multi-methodology are necessary for appropriate analyses. To underline the complexity of public health research we will refer to the case-study concept, as defined by RK Yin:

“An empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-time context, especially when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident, copes with the technically distinct situation in which there are many more variables of interest than data points and therefore relies on multiple sources of evidence with data needing to converge in a triangular fashion and benefits from the prior development of theoretical development to guide data collection and analysis.”

Examination is individual. Every course participant shall define a research project and submit a written account for critical analysis of the following aspects of the project:

- Research questions, theories and hypotheses. Public health relevance of the project.
- Research process and methods. Multi-disciplinary or inter-disciplinary potential and methodological manifold.
- Analysis and presentation.
- Validity and trustworthiness. Possible issues of causality.
- Potential use, intervention. Possible policy implications.
- Ethical issues.

The participants will be forming groups. The idea is that the group shall be able to support the work on the group member projects. At the end of the course the groups are to present their work in general and for each participant in the group. The ambition shall be to form group with common features.

— We assume that a substantial part of the work on the individual projects will have to be done during the time between the two course weeks. The course is accredited 8 ECTS which correspond to altogether four weeks work with two scheduled in Turku and two as own work. The deadline for the submission of individual work will be one week after the second course week. The written submission shall have 4–6 A4 pages.

— The learning platform Fronter will be extensively used for communication between participants and resource persons.