From junior to senior researcher in research on ageing and health

Level: Postdoctoral

General information
The course is offered within the context of the Swedish Graduate School for Competitive Science on Ageing and Health (SWEAH) which is a consortium of partners from different higher education institutions and research agents in Sweden, coordinated by Lund University.

The course is intended for junior researchers with an interest in research on ageing and health, in both Sweden and abroad. Researchers from all disciplines are welcome. Precedence will be given to junior researchers who obtained their PhD within the past three years. If places are available, researchers who earned their PhDs within the last 4–5 years will also be admitted. Junior researchers from higher education institutions/research agents who are partners of SWEAH take precedence. The total number of students on the course will be limited to 20.

The course is scheduled to correspond to 5 weeks of full-time work spread out over 10 months. It is a part-time distance learning course using an online learning platform and teaching by means of digital iTechnology. The course also includes face-to-face meetings in the form of workshops (days with scheduled activities throughout the day) located in different locations around Sweden.

Language of instruction
Swedish or English

Objective
The main aim of the course is to prepare junior researchers for successful careers as independent senior researchers within the field of ageing and health. A further aim is to enable researchers to develop and deepen an interdisciplinary and integrative approach to ageing and health including international perspectives.

Learning outcomes
On completion of the course, the participants shall be able to
- reflect on and justify their own priorities in a career development plan and explain their relevance for the development of successful research on ageing and health, both nationally and internationally
- account for success criteria for obtaining research funding in national and international competition
- independently design a research project plan, a qualifications portfolio and a budget for a project application of high quality
- provide constructive feedback on the choice of theories and methods to doctoral students and junior researchers from disciplines other than their own
- reflect on the personal qualities required for leadership, mentoring and supervision of research on ageing and health
- critically discuss the conditions for national and international research collaboration and ethical issues of research projects

**Course content**
The course is based on the participants’ national and international career planning within the research field of ageing and health. The theoretical components address leadership, mentoring, supervision of doctoral students and researchers, as well as the principles of research ethics and obtaining research funding. The theoretical components will applied to the participants’ own projects and then refined in interaction with senior researchers.

**Teaching**
The course is based on workshops and lectures, presentations by the participants in small and large groups, group discussions and written reports, and reading the course literature. The learning platform is used for different assignments, both individually and in groups. Meetings and interaction with other junior and senior researchers within the field of ageing and health are an important element of the course.

Active attendance at workshops and completion of the learning platform assignments are compulsory.

**Assessment**
The course includes different assessed assignments both written and oral. During the workshops, active participation with both individual presentations and group work is required. The components assessed using the learning platform are presentations and reflections on individual written assignments and written feedback to fellow researchers.

**Grades**
The grades awarded are Pass and Fail.

**Required reading**

https://publikationer.vr.se/produkt/good-research-practice/

A list of reference texts will be made available at the start of the course.