EHFO001, Research Policy,  
7.5 credits  
Forskningspolitik,  
7,5 hp  
Third Cycle/Forskarutbildningsnivå

General information
The course EHFO001 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

Applying knowledge and understanding
- 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, participate fully in all three meetings and produce a 5.000 word essay on a topic of their own choosing applying literature and analytical approaches taught in the course.

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.
Conceptualising the governance of research


Scientific expertise and policy


Module Two: Key Approaches in studying the governance of research

This module focuses on identifying and outlining well established frameworks for studying research policy. The list is not exhaustive but is intended to give the student insights into the theoretical approaches and how they have been applied to study themes in research policy.

Rational choice and Institutional Approaches


Critical policy studies


**Frame analysis**


**Optional reading**

**Key areas of research in research policy**

**Priority/Agenda Setting**


European Science Foundation (2013) Science Foresight to Advance European Research, ESF, Strasbourg, France Chs. 1–4. 156–65

**Research funding instruments and Modalities**


**Evaluation**


**Emerging research areas**

**Careers**


**Mobility and Governance**


**Internationalisation of governance**

