



LUND
UNIVERSITY

School of Economics and Management

EEH009F, Economics of Innovation, 7.5 credits

Innovationsekonomi, 7,5 högskolepoäng
Third Cycle / Doktorandnivå

Details of approval

Approved by the Board of the Department of Economic History, Lund University School of Economics and Management 2021-03-09.

General Information

This is an optional course at the PhD programme.

The language of instruction is English.

Learning outcomes

On a general level the student will acquire advanced knowledge about economics of innovation. More specifically, to pass the assessments students will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- understand the process of economic growth and the structures underlying it. In particular, this concerns the role of innovations and how different social, economic and spatial contexts influence processes of innovation and entrepreneurship;
- understand and be able to assess the benefits and drawbacks of various institutional settings at different geographical levels for promoting innovation;

Competence and skills

- transform theoretical models into testable empirical models and conduct the appropriate empirical investigation;
- analyse and interpret the findings of advanced theoretical and empirical applications;
- communicate their own and others results, both in writing and orally;

Judgement and approach

- assess the relevance and implications of their findings for research as well as policy purposes;
- independently read, interpret and assess current research in growth and innovation as well as advanced professional reports and analyses.

Course content

This course covers several areas of innovation economics, such as their characteristics, their driving forces of innovation and how innovation affects economic growth. The sub-themes of the course are the following:

Market structures and innovation. This part of the course describes how competitive structures and imperfect competition may induce innovation in different industries.

Institutions and innovation. Drawing on the systems of innovation literature, this theme addresses how the institutional framework affects innovation. Some of these aspects are related to national innovation systems (NIS), a concept for comparative analysis of innovative performance. Innovation processes and interdependencies within a more local or regional context are further analysed focusing on regional innovation systems (RIS). In addition to governing structures we address the role of different instruments such as standards, prizes and intellectual property rights such as patents for promoting innovation.

Diffusion. This theme discusses the implications of why innovation spreads and how it spreads into the economic environment from different perspectives. Concepts discussed include adoption, imitation and spillovers. We consider the relatively new field of network economics as well.

The role of innovation in economic growth. In this theme we will examine the role of innovation in economic growth through processes related to radical innovations, general purpose technologies, competence blocks and development blocks.

The course themes will be complemented by laboratory exercises using statistical data.

Course design

The course is designed as a series of lectures, exercises and work with projects reports. Grading is based on individual performance, via written exams, paper, presentations and other mandatory activities.

Assessment

Grading is based on individual performance, via written exams, papers, presentations, and other mandatory activities. Examination may draw on information presented in class as well as the course literature.

The University views plagiarism very seriously and will take disciplinary actions against students for any kind of attempted malpractice in examinations and assessments. The penalty that may be imposed for this, and other unfair practice in examinations or assessments, includes suspension from the University.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail or Pass.

Prerequisites

PhD students applying for this course should have at least 60 credit points in either economic history, business administration, economic and social geography, economics, history, sociology or the equivalent knowledge.

Further information

This course cannot be included in the same degree as EKHM71.