



DEPARTMENT OF NEUROBIOLOGY, CARE SCIENCES AND SOCIETY

H1F6095, Health Economics in Health Care Science, 1.5 credits (hec)

Hälsoekonomi i vårdvetenskap, 1,5 högskolepoäng

Third-cycle level / Forskarnivå

Approval

This syllabus was approved by The Committee for Doctoral Education on 2025-09-11, and is valid from spring semester 2026.

Responsible department

Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society, Faculty of Medicine

Prerequisite courses, or equivalent

No prerequisite courses, or equivalent, demanded for this course.

Purpose & Intended learning outcomes

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the core concepts and methods of health economics and to develop their ability to critically assess and apply economic evidence in healthcare.

Intended learning outcomes

At the end of the course the student will be able to:

- Describe basic concepts of health economics, types of studies, depiction of uncertainty, problems around discounting.
- Use methods of how to elicit the widely used outcome of a quality-adjusted life year (QALY) in order to demonstrate the basic assumptions underlying the QALY and some of the ongoing discussions around the methodological and ethical shortcomings of the QALY-concept.
- Explain and demonstrate a budget-impact analysis and how this complements cost-effectiveness analyses.

Course content

This course will give PhD students an introduction to and an overview of what health economics is, what types of health economic analyses can be applied, how costs can be calculated, and what basic models are used. Moreover, the strengths and limitations of the Quality-adjusted life year (QALY) as a widely used measure will be presented. To gain some insights into modelling the seminar will be complemented with workshops and hands-on sessions. At the end of the course, attendees should have gained a basic idea of the principles of health economic evaluations and its shortcomings. They will learn how to build certain models, conduct health economic evaluations using Excel, and interpret the subsequent results for evidence-based decision-making.

Forms of teaching and learning

This online course will consist of lectures, seminars, workshops and hands-on sessions. Students are expected to undertake self-directed learning which includes reading, critical analysis, and assignments. The amount of time required for self-studies is approximately 2½ days and for lectures, seminars, workshops, and hands-on sessions and examination for the remaining 2½ days.

Each student will need to read and present one cost-effectiveness study which the lecturers can provide, or the student can select in coordination with the lecturers to avoid duplication.

Language of instruction

The course is given in English

Grading scale

Pass (G) /Fail (U)

Compulsory components & forms of assessment

The participants are required to participate in the teaching and learning activities in the course. As this 2½ day course is given as a block we require a minimum attendance of 2 full days.

The students' knowledge and skills will be assessed in relation to the expected learning outcomes. Examination will consist either of an oral presentation or a written assignment. Details about the examination will be published four weeks prior to the course. If material is needed this will also be sent to the attendees in due time.

Course literature

Recommended literature:

- Drummond MF, Sculpher MJ, Claxton K, Stoddart GL, Torrance GW (2015) Methods for the Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programmes. Fourth Edition. Oxford

University Press

Further reading material on the various topics will be provided three weeks prior to the start of the course.