

## **Kursrapport**

### **Medical epidemiology 25-29 October 2021**

Number of students: 24

Number of applicants: 42

Number of evaluations: 23

The course was held via Zoom for planning reasons. Benefits with giving the course online was that it allowed students to connect from different locations both in Sweden (Uppsala, Stockholm, Karlstad, Sigtuna, Västerås, Skövde) and elsewhere (Katmandu). Students' comments relating to the education in the Zoom format were mostly positive but there were also mentions of it being boring and that they feel more uncomfortable with asking questions and being active. More than half of the students would have preferred to have the course as a one week on campus course and 30% would have preferred an online course.

From the course evaluations we see that students who are beginners in epidemiology find the course somewhat fast and at a too high level. The course is given at an intermediate to advanced level and we recommend that students have first taken the course Introduction to Epidemiology or a similar course before taking this course. We have made this clearer in the information to the upcoming course in 2022. Since the introductory course is new and most students have not had the possibility to participate in that, there is still some overlap between the courses. Overlap is of course inevitable but we have the aim of providing more depth in this course, building onto the introductory course, and there is an ongoing discussion and interaction between teachers and course leaders in the two courses.

Liisa Byberg, course leader

2021-11-18

## Summary of course evaluation Medical Epidemiology, 2021

Number of students: 24

Number of applicants: 42

Number of evaluations: 23

### Reasons for attending the course

General interest N=16 (70%)

Required for studies N=7 (30%)

	1: not at all	2: a bit	3: to a large extent	4: very much
Are you content with the course?			13 (57)	10 (43)
Did the course given match the course description and goals?			10 (43)	13 (57)
Are you content with lectures?			12 (52)	11 (48)
Are you content with group exercises?			16 (70)	7 (30)
Did the course yield knowledge of relevance for your research project?		1 (4)	14 (61)	8 (35)
Was the course concluded with an adequate examination?		1 (4)	12 (52)	10 (43)

	1: far too low	2: a bit too low	3: appropriate	4: a bit too advanced	5: far too advanced
Was the course held at a teaching level matching your training?		1 (4)	15 (65)	7 (30)	

	1: too long	2: too short	3: good
Length of the course	0	2 (9)	20 (91)

	Yes	No
Was the course worth-while?	23 (100)	0

### Examples of students' comments regarding lectures

Bra föreläsningar, tydliga presentationer. För min del hjälpsamt att ha läst angiven litteratur innan för att hänga med på ett bra sätt. Bra med de kortare gruppdiskussioner/-uppgifter som fanns under några av föreläsningarna. Bra att det fanns utrymme för diskussioner i hela gruppen.

Att det var på distans gör det svårare att ställa "insticksfrågor" för att hänga med på allt.

Bra struktur och bra fokusområden

### Examples of students' comments regarding something they thought were good

Strukturen på kursen. Nivån på materialet.

Kursinnehållet känns relevant och uppdaterat. Bra med praktiska exempel. Det underlättar att kursen hölls på svenska.

Jag upplevde det som att kursen funkade för både de som hade mer erfarenhet och för mig som inte har så mycket praktisk erfarenhet ännu utan läste kursen mer inför att jag ska genomföra studier. Text uppdelning i en grupp för oss som var helt nybörjare när det gäller DAGs och mindre diskussionsgrupper för de som redan hade arbetat med såna tidigare.

Öppenhet att diskutera, kändes som det inte fanns dumma frågor för en gångs skull.

### **Examples of students' comments regarding something they thought could be improved**

Lite för få interaktiva moment de första fyra dagarna så att man själv får ställas inför problem innan lösningen kommer genom någon typ av övning/gruppdiskussion. Många begrepp är svåra att hänga med på om man inte tidigare stött på problemet begreppet försöker förklara/lösa. Jag fick mest ut av de delar där jag själv hade den typen av kännedom innan (de andra begreppen/områdena hoppas jag på att ta med mig i bakhuvudet inför att jag stöter på problem i framtiden). Vet inte precis hur det ska göras, mer lösa gruppdiskussioner vet jag inte om det ger så mycket. Kanske kunde man på något sätt arbeta med aspekter av examinationsuppgiften löpande under kursen? Kanske kunde man utgå mer från våra egna projekt i högre grad (lite oklart hur, kanske indelade i någon typ av grupper efter metod man arbetar med eller liknande...) Kunde vara bra med lite fler exempel från artiklar på olika design och problem.

Jag hade kunnat tänka mig ännu fler interaktiva moment, exv polls och liknande

## Report of course evaluation Medical Epidemiology, 2020

Number of students: 40

Number of applicants: 49

Number of evaluations: 39

### Reasons for attending the course

General interest N=27 (69%)

Required for studies N=12 (31%)

	1: not at all	2: a bit	3: to a large extent	4: very much
Are you content with the course?			16 (41)	23 (59)
Are you content with description of goals?		1 (3)	7 (19)	29 (78)
Are you content with lectures?			19 (49)	20 (51)
Are you content with group exercises?		1 (3)	14 (36)	24 (62)
Did the course yield knowledge of relevance for your research project?		5 (13)	16 (41)	18 (46)
Was the course concluded with an adequate examination?			7 (18)	31 (82)

	1: far too low	2: a bit too low	3: appropriate	4: a bit too advanced	5: far too advanced
Was the course held at a teaching level matching your training?		4 (10)	29 (74)	6 (15)	

	1: too long	2: too short	3: good
Length of the course	1 (3)	9 (23)	29 (74)

	Yes	No
Was the course worth-while?	39 (100)	0

### Comment from the course leader

The course was for the first time held via Zoom. We also had an all time high in applications and therefore decided to try to give the course with more participants than usual (we aim at 25 when on campus). I think that 40 is a maximum in this format and still some students commented that they were not comfortable speaking up in such a large group (and the Zoom format also helped with that). Benefits with giving the course online was that it allowed students to connect from different locations both in Sweden (Uppsala, Stockholm, Nyköping, Visby, Falun, Gävle) and elsewhere (Pakistan, Kenya, Tanzania). Students' comments relating to the education in the Zoom format were ranging from 'great' via 'surprisingly well' to 'pretty well' and 'utmanande'. Disadvantages mentioned (and experienced from teachers) is the lack of the more informal conversations and contacts that occur when on campus.

Of those wishing the course to be during one week, 50% would have preferred it on campus and 50% online.

### **Examples of students' comments regarding lectures**

They were high quality information and very well planned.

Very informative and covered a lot

Well organized. Interactive. Adequate time for Q&A

It's great that the lectures are interrupted with breakout room discussions every once in a while

### **Examples of students' comments regarding something they thought were good**

The structure of this course is great and easy follow; The interactions between lecturers and students are also helpful.

The mix with breakout rooms and lectures. The clear structure of the course

The lecturers were clearly very experienced and knowledgeable, but also able to teach difficult concepts to those less experienced.

Examination day.

### **Examples of students' comments regarding something they thought could be improved**

Perhaps a bit more time could be given for group discussion/breakout rooms

It was sometimes too heavy to follow at some point but due to the zoom factor. Regardless, I believe a full week is a good approach rather than have it more spread out.

More exercises about the topics lectured on each day