

# Problem analysis

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*Modified from documentation from Jonas Ardö document from March 2017*

The Problem analysis is mandatory and corresponds to 8 course credits. The PhD students can start working on the Problem analysis at any time, but should preferably finish it during the first year. There are no common course elements for PhD students, instead it should be performed individually by each PhD student, with support from supervisor(s). It is highly recommended to start within the first months of the PhD studies. The Problem analysis course contains two parts: Written analysis of the research issue and First year seminar. The main supervisor should during the first weeks of the PhD studies introduce the PhD student to the Problem analysis, and together with the PhD student come up with a time plan. The main supervisor is also responsible for setting up the seminar. The department representative (IR) is the examiner.

## **Written analysis of the research issue**

A written analysis of the issue defining the research task should be produced by the PhD student in close consultation with the supervisors during the first year of research studies. This report is to include the research issue, an overview of the literature, methodology, results of initial field and laboratory work and a plan for continuation of the research.

This analysis of the issue should include a literature review on relevant and fundamental literature for the PhD student and the research assignment at hand. The report should constitute the basis of subsequent work and for the writing of articles and the doctoral thesis.

## **First year seminar**

The first year seminar should take place when the written analysis is complete, approximately one year after the start of the PhD student's research studies. This presentation is to include the parts of the existing research and studies that are most important and relevant to the thesis work (defining the research issue, working hypotheses, methodology, introductory field work, etc). The PhD student will get approximately 15 minutes for this presentation, followed by a discussion/questions for another 15 minutes.

The report with the written analysis of the research issue is to be available to everyone at the department at the latest one week before the seminar, at:

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The main supervisor is responsible for making sure that the seminar is announced at the department, through an e-mail and/or at the homepage. The main supervisor and the IR (examiner) must attend, and preferably also co-supervisors. PhD students as well as post-docs, researchers, lecturers and professors within similar research fields are encouraged to attend.