



**Karolinska
Institutet**

Course syllabus for

Biostatistics, 6 credits

Biostatistik, 6 hp

This course has been cancelled, for further information see Transitional provisions in the last version of the syllabus.

Please note that the course syllabus is available in the following versions:

Spring2017 , Spring2018 , Spring2019 , Spring2020 , Spring2021

Course code	4BI101
Course name	Biostatistics
Credits	6 credits
Form of Education	Higher Education, study regulation 2007
Main field of study	Biomedicine
Level	AV - Second cycle
Grading scale	Pass with distinction, Pass, Fail
Department	Institute of Environmental Medicine
Decided by	Programnämnd 7
Decision date	2016-10-17
Revised by	Programme committee for study programmes in biomedicine
Last revision	2021-04-22
Course syllabus valid from	Spring 2021

Specific entry requirements

A Bachelor's degree or a professional degree worth at least 180 credits in biomedicine, biotechnology, cellular and molecular biology or medicine. English language skills equivalent to English B at Swedish upper secondary school.

Objectives

The main aim of the course is to equip the participants with statistical concepts and tools for relating biological outcomes to multiple possible explanatory variables.

The course will mainly focus on regression modelling.

At the end of the course, students should be able to analyse real data by applying the appropriate regression model, identifying the role of different covariates, and using different methods to handle nonlinearity and interactions.

Upon completion of the course the student should be able to:

Regarding knowledge and understanding

- explain the concept of random variation in biological phenomena as it relates to experimental and observational studies in research,
- describe appropriate statistical methods to quantify random and systematic effects in complex biological data,
- discuss the distinction between explanatory and predictive modelling.

Regarding competence and skills

- choose and fit multivariate regression models of intermediate complexity using a standard statistical software package,
- communicate the results in a manner suitable for oral presentation, technical reporting and scientific publication,
- understand, discuss and evaluate critically corresponding findings of intermediate complexity in the relevant scientific literature.

Regarding judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to weigh and integrate seemingly conflicting empirical evidence in the literature.

Content

Randomness of biological observations. Experimental and observational data. Types of data: nominal, ordinal, continuous variables. Data summary measures. Graphical representations. Concepts of probability and probability distributions. Parameter estimation: mean, proportion, standard deviation, standard error. Concepts of statistical inference: confidence intervals and hypothesis tests. Elements of parametric hypothesis tests. Simple linear regression.

Multiple linear regression and general linear models. Continuous and categorical predictors. Role of covariates. Interactions. Nonlinear effect of covariates. Model fitting and diagnostics. Generalised linear models and logistic regression. Survival analysis and Cox proportional hazard regression. Quantile regression. Models for longitudinal data.

Teaching methods

Teaching will be in the form of lectures and practical computer activities.

Examination

The examination consists of written exam.

Limitations of the number of examinations or practical training sessions

A student who does not pass the examination on the first occasion is offered a maximum of five additional opportunities to sit the examination. A student who fails the examination on six occasions is not permitted to sit the examination again or to retake the course.

Participation in an examination is defined as an occasion on which a student attends an examination, even if the student submits a blank examination paper. If a student has registered to sit an examination, but does not attend the examination, this is not defined as participation in the examination.

The course director assesses if, and in that case how, absence can be compensated. Before the student has participated in all compulsory parts or compensated absence in accordance with the course director's instructions, the student's results for respective part will not be registered. Absence from a compulsory activity may result in that the student cannot compensate the absence until the next time the course is given.

If there are special grounds, or a need for adaptation for a student with a disability, the examiner may

decide to deviate from the syllabus's regulations on the examination form, the number of examination opportunities, the possibility of supplementation or exemptions from the compulsory section/s of the course etc. Content and learning outcomes as well as the level of expected skills, knowledge and abilities may not be changed, removed or reduced.

Transitional provisions

The course has been cancelled and was given for the last time in spring 2021. According to the syllabus, the final semester when examination will be offered to students who have not completed the course is spring 2023. Six occasions to take the examination will be offered during the transitional period.

Other directives

The course language is English.

Course evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines established by the Board of Higher Education.

Oral evaluation in the form of course council meetings will be carried out during the course.

Literature and other teaching aids

Recommended literature

Altman, Douglas G.

Practical statistics for medical research

London : Chapman and Hall, 1991 - xii, 611 s.

ISBN:0-412-38620-8 (hft.) LIBRIS-ID:8286190

[Library search](#)

Bland, Martin

An introduction to medical statistics

3. ed., [Nachdr.] : Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2009 - XVI, 405 S

ISBN:978-0-19-263269-2 LIBRIS-ID:11926588

[Library search](#)

Dalgaard, Peter

Introductory statistics with R

2. ed. : New York : Springer, cop. 2008 - xvi, 363 s.

ISBN:978-0-387-79053-4 (pbk. : alk. paper) LIBRIS-ID:11305121

[Library search](#)

Pagano, Marcello; Gauvreau, Kimberlee

Principles of biostatistics

2. ed. : Pacific Grove : Duxbury, cop. 2000 - xvi, 525 s. , [42] s.

ISBN:0-534-22902-6 ; No price LIBRIS-ID:5036554

[Library search](#)

Rosner, Bernard

Fundamentals of biostatistics

6. ed. : Belmont, Calif. : Thomson/Brooks/Cole, cop. 2006 - xx, 868 p.

ISBN:0534418201 LIBRIS-ID:9942420

[Library search](#)