

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Title

Regulatory Toxicology I: National Agency Perspectives

Course number

Not applicable

Programme

Not applicable

Language

English

Credits

1.5

Date

2022-10-12 – 2023-03-29

Responsible organisation

Swaccs (Swedish Academic Consortium on Chemicals Safety) with course leaders from Karolinska Institutet and Linköping University

Specific entry requirements

Registered for research education. Research project relevant for the course. To reach a national audience the course is running on zoom with an open SWACCS zoom link.

Purpose of the course

This course aims at giving the doctoral students (and other participants) insights into how authorities are working and interacting within current national and European legal frameworks and policies concerning chemicals' safety and how scientific research results (from environmental chemistry, toxicology, ecotoxicology, and environmental medicine) are used in risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication contexts.

It is also a goal of the course to give course participants insights into how their own projects and research training can support authority work and policy visions.

A goal of this course is also to create networking opportunities between doctoral students with different backgrounds and research focus in the broad scope of chemicals' safety research and training. Such networks are essential for the academic side of the discipline to flourish and develop over time.

Intended learning outcomes

Taking active part in the course deepens the knowledge and awareness of responsibilities, relations, and communication between regulatory science professionals in the chemicals' safety area and illustrates how scientific evidence is and can be utilized for regulatory purposes, and for reaching overarching policy decisions such as the Swedish national environmental goals and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The course also provides doctoral students with tools and networks, which will prepare them to collaborate across disciplines and sectors within society on chemicals' safety challenges. By building on the existing knowledge, experience, and research directions of the different course participants, the course itself will

illustrate the need of improved interdisciplinary collaborations and enhanced communication among researchers and regulators in the broad scope of chemicals safety research.

Contents of the course

This course covers overall responsibilities of authorities in the broad field of chemicals safety and focus on how regulatory bodies are working together, and interacting with universities and academy scientists, at national and European levels in the risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication areas of chemicals safety. The need for scientific competence and knowledge, and for collaboration between scientists in the broad scope of chemicals' safety research for planetary health, will be addressed.

The course has a special focus on the importance of having access to high quality scientific data, and the need to facilitate policy and officer interactions within and between Agencies to reach successful decisions and agreements. To illustrate these aspects the course has a special focus on the complexities involved with the problems of PFAS chemicals as a case example of relevance to multiple sectors of society. Agency interactions between national and European levels will be touched upon.

Teaching and learning activities

The course uses an educational model building on the doctoral students existing knowledge, experience, and research.

Following the open online seminar presentations by Governmental Agency officers, which include ample time for questions and discussion, the doctoral students individually write their own Reflection reports for each Agency presentation. To succeed with the Reflection reports it is mandatory for the students to include thorough visits to each Agency website to find information and at the same time learn about the Agency mandate(s) and responsibility(ies).

Building on the own approved Reflection reports, the doctoral students next prepare for participate in an online group discussion activity with the aim to prepare questions and discussion themes for the Panel discussion with the presenting Agency officers. This Panel discussion between doctoral students and Agency officers is moderated by the course leaders.

Compulsory elements

- Presence at the scientific agency officer seminars.
- Submitted and approved Reflection reports.
- Active participation in group discussions based on the approved Reflection reports to prepare for the Panel Discussion.
- Active participation at the Panel Discussion.

The course leaders assess if and how absence may be compensated for. Can for example be provided as an extra written task to compensate absence.

Examination

Course certificates to students, who have participated and been approved by the course leaders in the compulsory parts, are issued by Swaccs education group based on:

- Active presence at 3 out of 4 Agency officer seminars
- Approved Reflection reports.
- Active participation in group discussions to prepare for the Panel Discussion.
- Active participation at Panel Discussion.

Students who do not pass the examination modules will be offered an extra compensation/examination opportunity within two months of the final day of the course.

A detailed course description is enclosed to the individual certificates.

Course credits can only be registered in LADOK by the home university of the student. Home universities can contact and consult course leaders for any clarifications as needed.

Literature and other teaching material

Multiple links to visit at the Agency websites

Number of students

10-20

Selection of students

Selection will be based on 1) the relevance of the course syllabus for the applicant's doctoral project (according to written motivation), 2) start date of doctoral studies (priority given to earlier start date)

More information

The course runs online over a 6-months period with monthly gatherings for seminars, group discussions or the final panel discussion. Together with the preparation of individual written Reflection reports and reporting from the group discussions the course is estimated to be equivalent to 40 study hours, i.e. 1.5 ECTS as indicated on the Course certificate.

The course "Regulatory Toxicology I: National Agency Perspectives" will be followed by the course "Regulatory Toxicology II: European Agency Perspectives". This course, which will be given fall 2023/spring 2024, will include corresponding but not identical teaching and learning activities.

Additional planning: For each doctoral student it is possible to register for up to 4 circles of the Swaccs course in Regulatory toxicology and thereby earn up to six (6) ECTS credits. Current preliminary planning includes:

- National level (Reg Tox I; 2022/2023)
- EU/Global level (Reg Tox II; 2023/2024)
- Additional national agencies (Reg Tox III; 2024/2025)
- Experience from individual transition-scientists (Reg Tox IV; 2025/2026)

Additional course leader

Anders Jidesjö, Linköping University, anders.jidesjo@liu.se

Latest course evaluation

Not available

Course responsible

Helen Håkansson, Institute of Environmental Medicine, helen.hakansson@ki.se

Contact person

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