



**LUND UNIVERSITY**  
Faculty of Medicine

COURSE SYLLABUS      Reg. No M2011/950

Adopted by the NBMFU 15 June 2011  
Valid from autumn semester 2011

Biomedical, Medical and Public Health  
Training Board (NBMFU)

## **BIMA 54 Professional Development – Introduction to Biomedical Ethics**

**1.5 credits      First cycle**

### General Information

*Main field*  
Biomedicine

*Subject*  
Professional development

*Type of course*  
The course is a compulsory component of semester 5 in the Bachelor's programme in Biomedicine.

*Language of instruction*  
Swedish (or in English as required)

### Learning Outcomes

#### *Knowledge and learning*

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

- account for the laws and regulations governing the ethical principles of biomedical research
- describe the type of research requiring ethical approval in terms that a non-expert can understand.

#### *Competence and skills*

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

- identify and describe in writing the ethical issues of a research project and determine whether ethical approval is required
- describe in speech and writing their own ethical decisions and relate them to fundamental ethical theory.

### *Judgement and approach*

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

- reflect on the responsibility of the individual researcher for conducting ethically justifiable research
- reflect on how they justify their own ethical decisions to family, friends and society at large.

## Course Content

The course provides an introduction to the ethical issues in biomedical research and an overview of the laws and regulations determining how research should or may be conducted. The fields covered include the types of research permitted, animal experiments, human experiments, ethical use of research findings, genetic data, biobanks and stem cells. Also more philosophically oriented issues are discussed, such as the start of life and the status of mankind in relation to other organisms. Lectures provide support for discussion by introducing key ethical concepts and theories. Students work in groups to consider ethical boundaries and their own reflections. Furthermore, the course deals with a research project in which the students are to analyse the ethical issues and account for the parts of the project requiring approval from different ethical committees. The focus of the assignment is on the ethical execution of the project, what aspects require approval and permissible use of data and samples for experiments.

## Instruction and Examination

Lectures dealing with ethical concepts, ethics in biomedical research and the work of ethical review boards. Students then work individually and in groups on ethical issues.

The course is examined in two stages. First, each group present their discussions and decisions orally to their fellow students. Secondly, each student submits his or her assessment of one of the research projects and his or her own decisions and personal reflections in writing.

## Grades

The grades Pass or Fail are awarded on the course.

## Admission Requirements

To be admitted to the course students must have passed Professional development – Understanding and Presenting Science.

## Literature

Bryant, J. A., la Velle, L. B. & Searle, J. (2005). *Introduction to Bioethics*. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons Inc.

or

Forsman, B. (2005). *Etik i biomedicinsk forskning - en orientering*. Lund: Studentlitteratur.