



Practical research training BI1347, 40062.2021

15 Hp
Pace of study = 100%
Education cycle = Advanced -
Course leader = Paul Becher

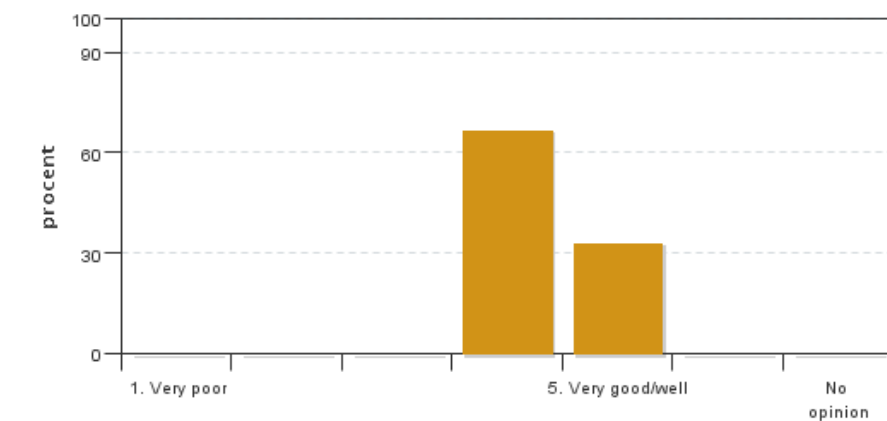
Evaluation report

Evaluation period: 2021-05-30 - 2021-06-20

Answers 3
Number of students 3
Answer frequency 100 %

Mandatory standard questions

1. My overall impression of the course is:

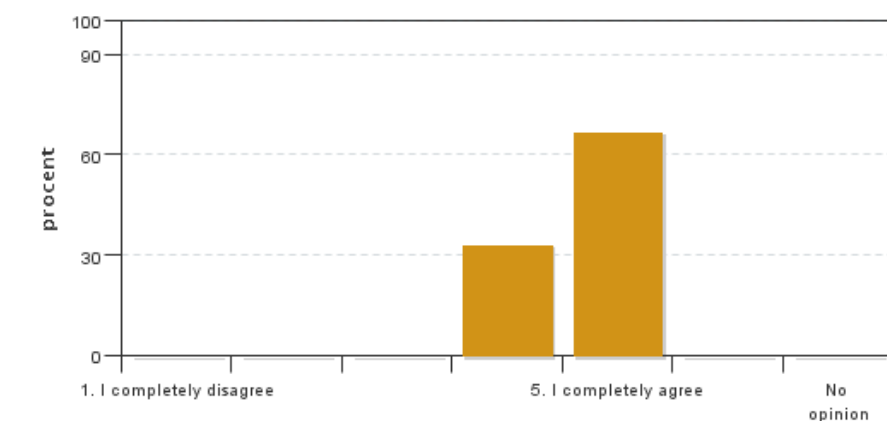


Answers: 3
Medel: 4,3
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 2
5: 1

No opinion: 0

2. I found the course content to have clear links to the learning objectives of the course.

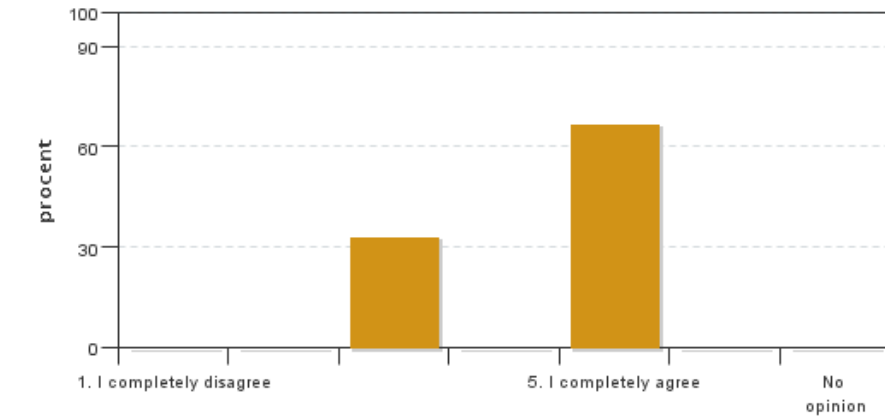


Answers: 3
Medel: 4,7
Median: 5

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 1
5: 2

No opinion: 0

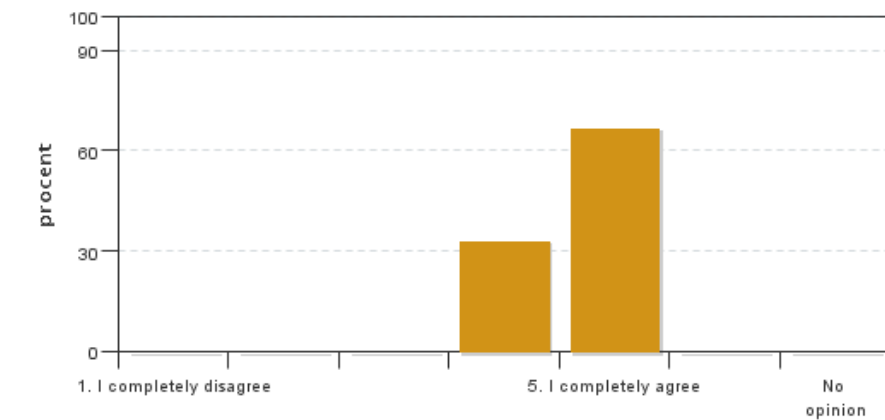
3. My prior knowledge was sufficient for me to benefit from the course.



Answers: 3
 Medel: 4,3
 Median: 5

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 1
 4: 0
 5: 2
 No opinion: 0

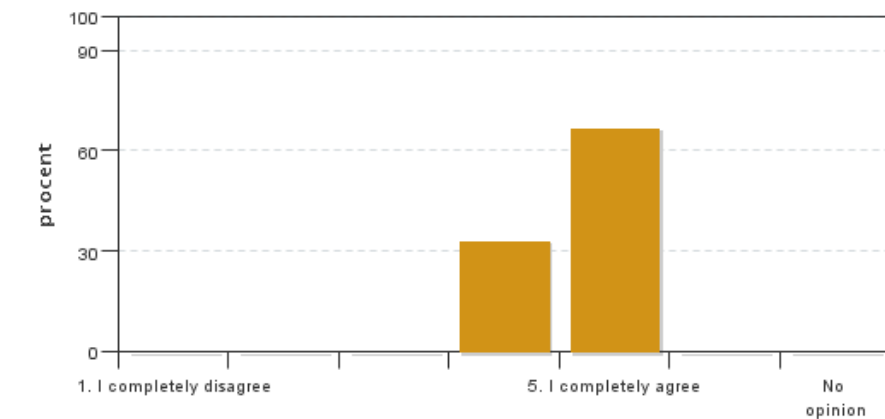
4. The information about the course was easily accessible.



Answers: 3
 Medel: 4,7
 Median: 5

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 0
 4: 1
 5: 2
 No opinion: 0

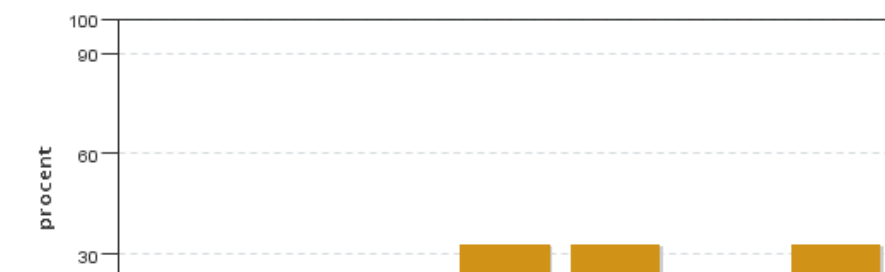
5. The various course components (lectures, course literature, exercises etc.) have supported my learning.



Answers: 3
 Medel: 4,7
 Median: 5

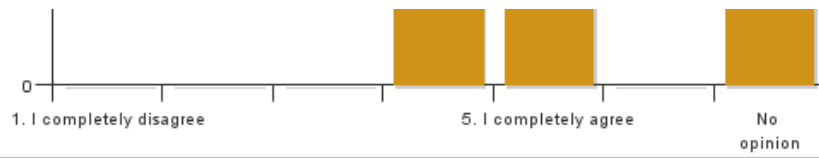
1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 0
 4: 1
 5: 2
 No opinion: 0

6. The social learning environment has been inclusive, respecting differences of opinion.



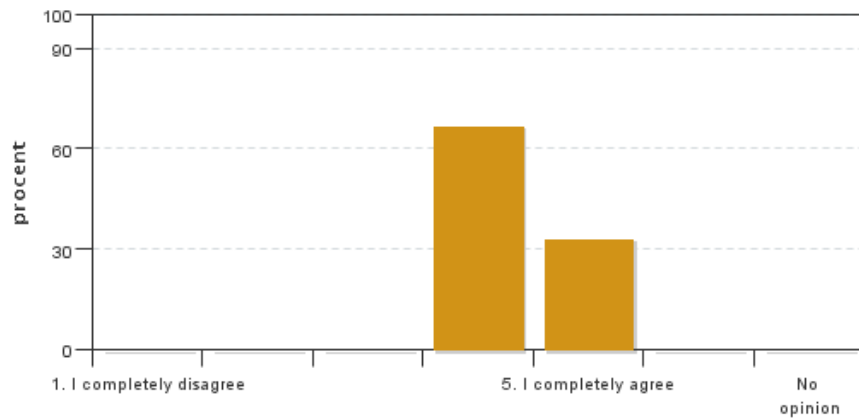
Answers: 3
 Medel: 4,5
 Median: 4

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 0
 4: 1
 5: 1



No opinion: 1

7. The physical learning environment (facilities, equipment etc.) has been satisfactory.

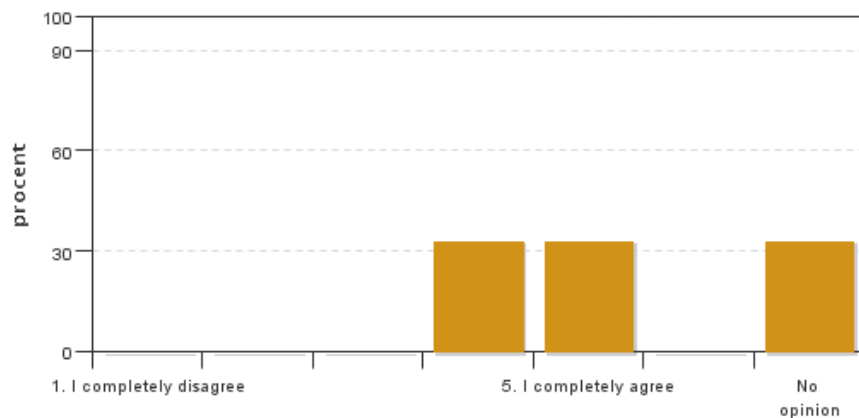


Answers: 3
Medel: 4,3
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 2
5: 1

No opinion: 0

8. The examination(s) provided opportunity to demonstrate what I had learnt during the course (see the learning objectives).

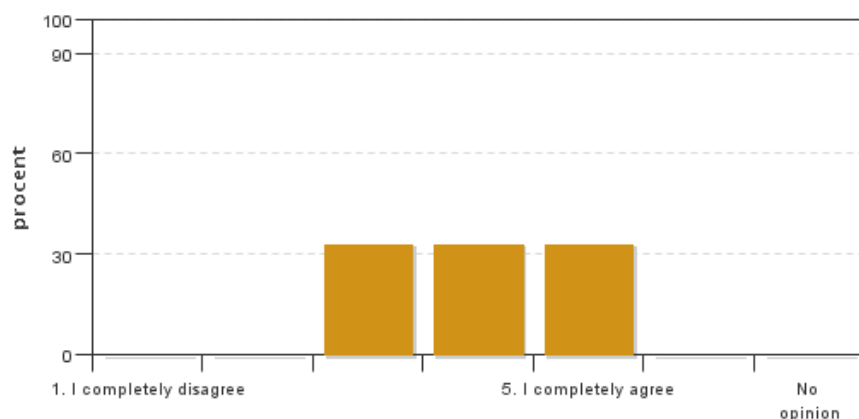


Answers: 3
Medel: 4,5
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 0
4: 1
5: 1

No opinion: 1

9. The course covered the sustainable development aspect (environmental, social and/or financial sustainability).

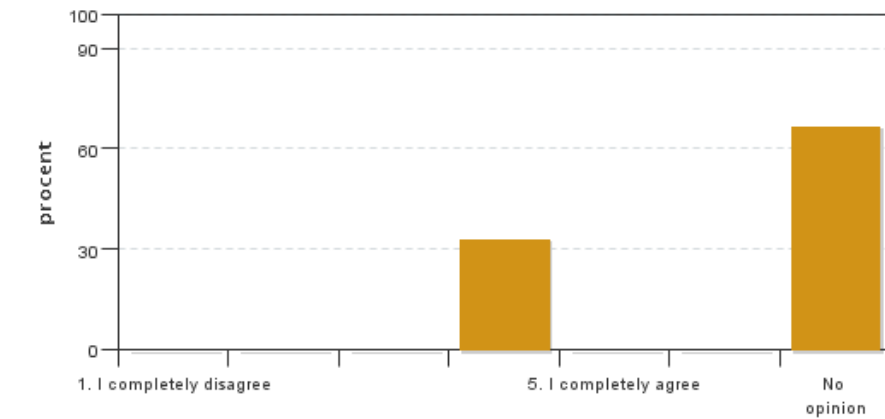


Answers: 3
Medel: 4,0
Median: 4

1: 0
2: 0
3: 1
4: 1
5: 1

No opinion: 0

10. I believe the course has included a gender and equality aspect, regarding content as well as teaching practices (e.g. perspective on the subject, reading list, allocation of speaking time and the use of master suppression techniques).

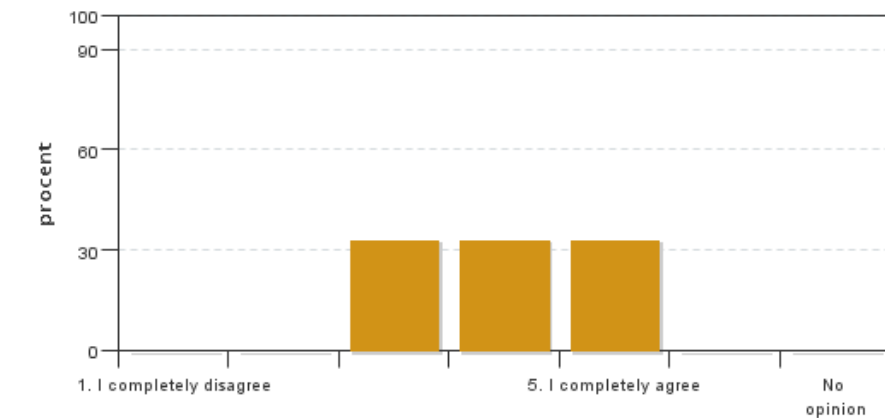


Answers: 3
 Medel: 4,0
 Median: 4

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 0
 4: 1
 5: 0

No opinion: 2

11. The course covered international perspectives.

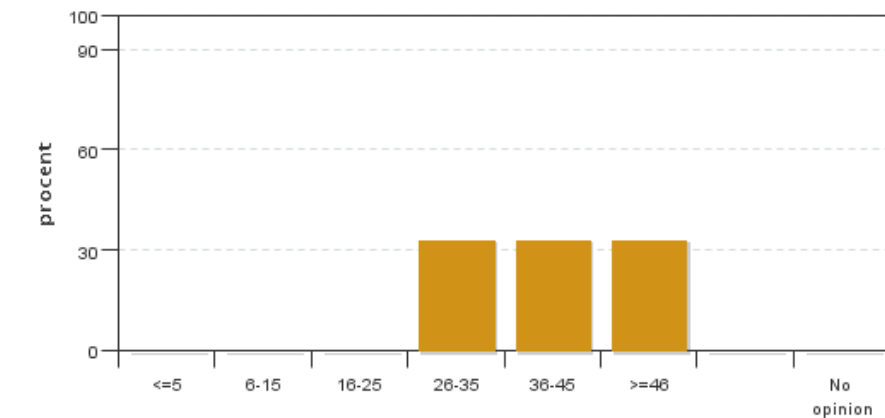


Answers: 3
 Medel: 4,0
 Median: 4

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 1
 4: 1
 5: 1

No opinion: 0

12. On average, I have spent ... hours/week on the course (including timetabled hours).

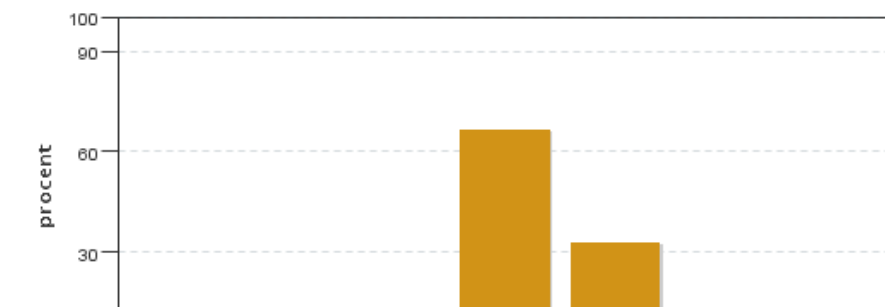


Answers: 3
 Medel: 38,7
 Median: 36-45

≤5: 0
 6-15: 0
 16-25: 0
 26-35: 1
 36-45: 1
 ≥46: 1

No opinion: 0

13. What is your overall experience of participating in all or part of your course online?



Answers: 3
 Medel: 4,3
 Median: 4

1: 0
 2: 0
 3: 0
 4: 2
 5: 1

No opinion: 0



14. Please share what worked well when participating in teaching on distance

15. Please share what worked less well when participating in teaching on distance

Course leaders comments

The course is continuously offered, in all course periods (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5). As only few students can provide evaluations each period, student representatives earlier suggested to compile student evaluations of the series to obtain a clearer overall picture. This is a short analysis of the course since I took it over as course leader in 2020 (status July 2021).

Of the courses that started since 2020, 17 of 20 students finalized their projects and passed the course while three students are still in the process of submitting the final report. The 20 students did their practical projects in four different departments at the LTV faculty where they were supervised by experienced researchers: 7 students at the Dept of Plant Breeding, 11 students at the Dept of Plant Protection Biology, 1 student at the Dept. of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management and 1 student at the Dept of Biosystems and Technology.

The few student evaluations that we received were in favor of the course ("The overall impression of the course was very positive") and that concurs with the obtained verbal feedback. For receiving a more representative feedback students will be further encouraged to fill in their evaluations in Evald. Some students took this course as preparation for subsequent independent projects and thesis work and expressed that the course was helpful in the process of getting practical work experience in a research team.

One aspect that was mentioned and should receive more attention is that a few students did not manage to finalize their projects (mainly submission of final report) within the course period of ca. 10 weeks. Stricter implementation of the project plans should be emphasized during the introduction and follow-up in future courses.

With the beginning of the covid-19 pandemic, carrying out of practical research became more challenging. We followed the regulations and guidelines by the Public Health Agency of Sweden. Projects only were carried out after approval by the responsible person of the respective institutions where projects were supposed to be performed (typically head of department) under consideration of work security. A few students cancelled their course registration before starting the work due to difficulties in performing their projects (e.g. to avoid commuting with public transport) under consideration of the guidelines.

Course development:

An introductory seminar was introduced to the course where participating students get to know each other (mostly virtually due to covid-19) and where general course information is communicated.

The course syllabus was slightly adjusted and the discussion of the research outcomes in the project report obtains more emphasis as a key element of scientific publications.

More attention will be paid on a stricter implementation of realistic project plans. Individual project plans are developed by student and project supervisor together at beginning of the project.

A document will be developed for student supervisors, emphasizing key information to support the student during the course (e.g. importance of the project plan).

Student representatives comments

The course was nice. One of the good thing with the course is that it is open for all students that have required merits, not just for SLU students. The course met the expactations for the participants. The experience if the project was apapted to be manageable for this 10 week period varied. Some students found it very well, considered the time planning, some found it a little to large compared to the given time. The supervising was very qualified and the students felt that the supervisors where very much engaged in the projects. Some experienced that they knew the methods they applied on the project, since earlier and it had been nice to learn more new things, but is also understandable that there has to be limitatations, due to the researchers ongoing scientific projects. The students has experienced that it was a very safe environment to work in their departments and it was really good that responsible persons went through the safety precautions connected to the laboratory work. The covid situation was also handled in a safe matter in the departments. There was one misunderstanding situation that one student was told to leave the building, since students should not be in the department, but it was easily solved. Some things is also a little hard to do on zoom, but it has been given oportunitys to meet supervisors in a covid safe manner. It has also been good to have a responsible engaged responsible course giver, that have gone through the projects and

clarified everything, when there has been questions. Also nice with the start of the course to know a little about the other students and their projects. Very nice and interesting course seminar at the end of the course. The students had get the information of the course through differnt channels; antagning.se, after meeting a person at the department and on sl.u.se. The last comment is that it is really good that SLU is connected to the enterprise world and some of the students has actually found some work, through their connections with the department during the project period, to be able to get more practical experience. Thank you Paul for a very good job as responsible course leader.

Kontakta support: it-stod@slu.se - 018-67 6600