

Establishment of a joint Nordic course in qualitative methodology

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Introduction/Background: With the development of social pharmacy and clinical pharmacy, research on qualitative aspects of patients and our profession emphasize the need to develop courses on qualitative methodology. This would include methods such as single interviews, focus group interviews, observational studies and document analysis. A unique chance has arisen to develop a new course in qualitative methodology bringing together PhD-students and their supervisors from the different Nordic countries in social and clinical pharmacy. Hence, drawing on resources from the Norwegian PhD School of Pharmacy, which aims to increase cooperation across national and international pharmacy institutions, and promote the exchange of ideas among PhD candidates and researchers, financial means are now in place to develop a new joint Nordic course in qualitative methodology. The aim of the course will be to strengthen the skills of PhD-students in qualitative research methods as well as to strengthen research collaboration between the students and supervisors in the Nordic countries. The first course is expected to run in Oslo at the Norwegian PhD School of Pharmacy in 2016 and run on a biannual basis.

Aim: We invite established researchers, supervisors and PhD-candidates in the Nordic countries with particular interest in qualitative social science methodology to take part in this workshop to develop the preliminary program for the first Nordic qualitative method course in social and clinical pharmacy.

Topics to be addressed: The workshop will start with a short presentation highlighting the background and purpose of the workshop. Participants will be divided in smaller groups with the aim of:

- identifying the needs of PhD-students within the methodological area,
- determining the overall content of the joint Nordic course in qualitative methods,
- defining inclusion criteria for participating in the joint Nordic course,
- discuss possible pedagogic methods,
- suggest methods to increase research interaction between the different students and supervisors during the course,
- identify researchers who are interested in teaching at the course.

Workshop leaders will then facilitate a discussion between the groups and decide time-plans regarding the establishment of the first Nordic collaborative course in qualitative research methodology.

Learning outcomes: How to facilitate Nordic research collaboration by the establishment of a joint Nordic course in qualitative research methodology.

Reading suggestions: Pope C, Mays, N. (1995). Qualitative research: Reaching the parts other methods cannot reach: an introduction to qualitative methods in health services research.