Name of course Technology, research and ethics I and II (Teknik- och naturvetenskaplig forskning och etik)

Omfattning (högskolepoäng) 2 + 3 ECTS credits

Tidsperiod 2013-2014
Course period

Antal platser Autumn 2013 (30 + 30) Spring 2014 (30 Technology, research and ethics I)
Maximum number of participants

Undervisningsspråk English
Language of instruction

Aim of course
Development and use of modern technology, for example IT, industrial applications, social media and biotechnology, affect people, organizations and society. Modern technology offers new possibilities and therefore causes new ethical issues. The way these issues are handled determines the effectiveness and usability of technology. There is a big risk that necessary and expensive technical systems or scientific findings may be abandoned or used sub-optimally because of ethical conflicts. People and organizations may be hurt when they doubt or refuse to adopt a certain technology. Considering ethical aspects significant to efficiency and effectiveness of technology and research demands personal skills, suitable cooperation and coordination processes, and access to ethical tools and methods. This has to be done early in research and the development process of technological systems as well as during installation and ordinary running of the systems. The course will offer knowledge in the areas of technology ethics and research ethics. Participants will train their ability to apply tools and methods in handling moral issues connected to project planning, project application, research activities, technology construction, implementation and use. Focus will be on methods and practical skills for researchers working with modern technologies.

Mandatory and optional parts
The first mandatory part I, 2 credit points, focuses mainly on research ethics, and works as an introduction to the follow-up optional part.

The second optional part II, 3 credit points, expands to philosophical theory, technology and natural science ethics, and to application of different methods to handle professional ethical issues. Participation in the first mandatory part is a requirement for this step.

Contents, study format and form of examination
Lectures, seminars, group discussions and group work with focus on technology ethics. Application and evaluation of special tools during research, development, deployment and running of scientific findings, applications and technology systems. Treatment of real-life technology ethical conflicts and problems to exercise and practice ethical competence.

Target group/s
Target group/s (specify, if possible, subject/specialization) and recommended background
All PhD students at the faculty. No particular prior knowledge.
Department with main responsibility
Information Technology

Contact person (name, e-mail address)
Iordanis Kavathatzopoulos, iordanis@it.uu.se

Application from course participants should be sent to
Iordanis Kavathatzopoulos (Autumn 2013)

Special admission (information will follow) (Spring 2014) Contact person: Karin Bremdal,
karin.berggren-bremdal@uadm.uu.se