Strategy and guidelines for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) at KI

Vision
KI’s Massive Open Online Courses contribute with knowledge which in a clear manner helps to improve human health globally while renewing and strengthening development of the University’s regular activities.

Purpose and objectives
The purpose of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) at KI is to convey knowledge and to develop the skills and collaboration of employees on digitalised teaching, examination and infrastructure. Thus the activities of MOOCs have the potential to renew and develop KI’s educational programmes in an increasingly digitalised, open and knowledge-oriented surrounding community. At the same time the activities of MOOCs should contribute to KI’s ambitions of serving as a medium to disseminate knowledge on health-related issues globally.

The objectives of the activities of MOOCs are to:

- be used within KI’s regular educational activities and to contribute to the educational activities maintaining a high teaching and digital quality
- disseminate and make available knowledge on medicine and health issues globally
- contribute to making KI’s educational programmes and research more widely known
- contribute to further increasing KI’s appeal.

Strategy
The afore-mentioned objectives are attained by the activities of MOOCs being:

- managed in close collaboration with other educational activities at KI
- managed in accordance with the following guidelines
- marketed nationally and globally through websites and the MOOC platform edX
- provided mainly in English.
Guidelines for the activities of MOOCs at KI

Supply
In order to attain the afore-mentioned objectives, KI’s supply of MOOCs should be determined by the Board of Higher Education (US) in order to connect with the regular supply of educational programmes and be based on one or several of the following principles:

- satisfy global knowledge requirements and the demand within medicine and health
- meet national and international demand within subject-specific fields of competence which exist at KI
- be able to be used as educational modules in existing courses
- contribute to the development of digital teaching at KI’s educational programmes
- contribute to the fulfilment of KI’s need of knowledge within general skills such as, for example, sustainable development, equal conditions and ethics
- meet the need of research teams to disseminate research results.

Responsibility, financing and administration
KI’s MOOCs should, to the greatest extent possible, be managed in line with the regular course activities. This means that all MOOCs should have a Department at the university which is responsible for implementation, quality and course updates (this applies to both live courses and self-paced courses).

US decides on the design and financing of the activities of MOOCs in accordance with the present strategy, the edX agreement (the current agreement is valid until May 2019) and national directives (the Swedish Higher Education Authority, UKÄ has proposed a specific regulation on MOOCs). US’ financing should cover, or co-finance, the costs of:

- Technology and means of production (during utilisation within regular courses, this is co-financed by departments which provide MOOCs following agreement with US).
- Teacher participation (during utilisation within regular courses, this is co-financed by Departments which provide MOOCs upon approval by US).

The Board of Doctoral Education (FUS) and Board of Research (FS) may finance MOOCs for own initiatives in accordance with upcoming guidelines and national directives.

KI also encourages external financing and cooperation in which different stakeholders cooperate on MOOCs in collaboration with the University. Even if a MOOC is managed and financed by another stakeholder, US has the overall responsibility for the courses published on edX under KI’s name. All initiatives for new MOOCs should be prepared and determined by US. “External” MOOCs should also be organised by a university department in line with current guidelines. External financiers can order and produce MOOCs by means of agreements with the Executive and Professional Education Unit. Preparation and decisions thus take place in accordance with how executive and professional education are handled at KI in general.
Quality and development

Quality work for development of KI’s activities of MOOCs should be conducted within the framework of the coherent system of quality which is being developed at KI. From a quality perspective, MOOCs should be evaluated and developed in accordance with Guidelines for quality evaluation for first and second level studies/education programmes.¹ The Departments’ MOOC activities should be reported to US together with the reporting of the educational assignment, as well as be part of the analysis of the Department’s quality plan. Thus US is responsible for evaluation and quality assurance of all activities of MOOCs at KI.

Educational research and assessment of qualifications

There is vast potential for new research on the large amount of data which is generated from the activities of MOOCs. This research is making significant progress internationally. KI encourages research on phenomena related to MOOCs which should be conducted in accordance with the guidelines determined by respective faculty boards. KI is also of the opinion that work on development and implementation of MOOCs should constitute educational qualifications, for example, in readership applications and during recruitment.

¹ https://internwebben.ki.se/sv/node/35578