



## Programme syllabus

School of Business and Economics

Corporate Governance - Accounting and Finance, magisterprogram, 60 högskolepoäng

Corporate Governance - Accounting and Finance, Master Programme (one year), 60 credits

### Level

Second Level

### Date of Ratification

Approved 2017-10-25

Revised 2017-10-31 by the Faculty Board within the School of Business and Economics

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2018

### Prerequisites

General entry requirements for studies on advanced level as well as specific entry requirements:

- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration or Economics with at least 90 credits in the main field of study, Business Administration or equivalent. Within the main field of study, a thesis/independent work consisting of 15 credits should be included.
- At least 15 credits in Statistics or equivalent
- At least 15 credits in financial accounting, or alternatively at least 15 credits in financial economics, or the equivalent
- English B/6 or equivalent

### Description of Programme

The programme offers an education that provides a foundation for students with a future career within accounting/auditing, bank and finance or within research within these areas. A future professional career within these areas demands independence, analytical ability, ability to write reports and hold presentations, as well as the ability to make rational decisions. Another important objective of the education, apart from thorough knowledge of the subject, is to develop students' skills within these areas.

### Objectives

*Central degree objectives in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance*

### Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master (One Year) students must

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in their main field of study, including

- demonstrate a broad command of the field and deeper knowledge of certain parts of the field, together with insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate deeper methodological knowledge in their main field of study.

### **Skills and abilities**

For a Degree of Master (One Year) students must

- demonstrate an ability to integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, even when limited information is available,
- demonstrate an ability to independently identify and formulate issues and to plan and, using appropriate methods, carry out advanced tasks within specified time limits,
- demonstrate an ability to clearly present and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them, in dialogue with different groups, orally and in writing, and
- demonstrate the skill required to participate in research and development work or to work in other advanced contexts.

### **Judgement and approach**

For a Degree of Master (One Year) students must

- demonstrate an ability to make assessments in their main field of study, taking into account relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects, and demonstrate an awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work,
- demonstrate insight into the potential and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used, and
- demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.

### *Programme specific objectives*

For a Degree of Master (One Year) with specialization in corporate governance students must be able to:

- collect and evaluate information pertaining to specific corporate governance issues and carry out a presentation of this information in a pedagogical manner
- generate well-argued conclusions using theory and empirical material of relevance for corporate governance

## **Content**

### *Organisation*

The Programme is placed and taught at the School of Business and Economics.

The Programme has a programme coordinator who has overall responsibility for the Programme, who serves as representative and coordinates programme-related issues. The coordinator is responsible for the Programme's content and development and works actively for good relationships and communication. This takes place with teachers teaching the Programme by means of continuous dialogue, with programme students through a programme council and with working life through collaboration with trade and industry and interaction with other relevant partners.

### *Programme Overview*



The programme begins with a semester providing an integrated perspective on corporate governance where all students participate (below named: mandatory). Thereafter, the students are given the opportunity for specialisation by elective half-time courses over a half a semester (below named: elective). The programme concludes with a thesis that is connected to the student's profile area. All courses are on advanced level and are given in English.

*Programme courses*

Semester 1:

- Corporate governance, 30 credits, A1N (mandatory)\*,

The course aims at giving the student an integrated understanding of systems of corporate governance, which components this consists of and how they are related to each other. The course also aims at training the students in relevant practical skills, such as report writing and oral presentation using a suitable pedagogical approach.

Semester 2:

- The intellectual foundations of financial reporting, 7,5 credits, A1N (elective)\*,

The course aims at equipping the student with understanding of the thought traditions that have affected the development of financial accounting throughout history and what relevance these have for understanding modern accounting.

- The corporation in society, 7,5 credits, A1N (elective)\*,

Corporations exist in relation to the society in which it operates. This course aims at exploring issues pertaining to this relation: the corporation and the corporate form; law and regulation; corporate social responsibility; industrial relations; shareholders and financialization.

- Financial institutions and markets, 7,5 credits, A1N (elective)\*,

The course aims at giving the student knowledge about how financial institutions such as banks are governed and what role they play on financial markets and in the economy.

- Degree project, 15 credits, A1E (mandatory)\*,

In the course the student carries out an independent degree project which is reported in a thesis, with the aim that the student shall develop specialised knowledge about a delimited subject and practice general skills in research method and project management.

Some of the courses on the Programme are studied together with students from other programmes and single subject courses, and may be taught in another order.

\* course in the main field of study

A Master's programme of 60 credits must, in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance, contain at least 30 credits of specialised study in the main field, of which a degree project of at least 15 credits. At least 45 credits should comprise courses at second cycle in accordance with the local rules (Ref. no. 2014/442-1.1).



### *Societal relevance*

the programme has a close connection to the business world, partly through regular course development in cooperation with people active in the accountancy sector and/or the financial sector, and partly through guest lecturers from business and the public sector who lectures at the programme's courses, especially in the first semester.

### *Internationalization*

Since the development of corporate governance, financial accounting and financial markets to a large extent takes place on the international arena, the programme for natural reasons largely adopts an international outlook.

There is no option of exchange studies within the framework of the programme.

### *Scope of Programme*

The programme contains a number of themes where questions on cultural differences and the influence of these on corporate governance are raised. The programme also recurrently raises questions about gender and diversity, especially in teaching about the accountancy profession, boards and management in bigger companies. Ethical issues of relevance for corporate governance are regularly discussed during the programme. Questions that concern sustainable development from business and investor perspectives are raised in the programme, especially in connection with discussions about the impact of businesses on stakeholders and their accountability to these, but also in discussions about business risks.

## Quality Development

Continuous evaluation and improvement of the Programme takes place, among other things, through the University's course evaluations, where the results are handled by the programme coordinator and programme council and feedback is then provided to students and archived. Programme students actively participate in the follow-up and development of the programme through the programme council and through student representatives in the faculty-wide Education Council. All programmes of the School of Business and Economics also undergo quality analyses based on standards of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), and quality evaluations are conducted for all main subjects through the national quality assurance system, with the help of UKÄ (Swedish Higher Education Authority). The School of Business and Economics' faculty-wide quality plan governs, among other things that a recurrent programme analysis is conducted and that course evaluations are monitored. As a part of the annual university-wide survey, the Linnaeus barometer, all final year students are asked about their experience of their education related to different quality aspects.

## Degree Certificate

After completing their studies which correspond to the requirements stated in the Higher Education Ordinance and in Linnaeus University's local Degree Ordinance, students may apply for a degree. Students, who have completed the Corporate Governance – Accounting and Finance, master programme (one year), 60 hp Programme, can obtain the following degree:

Students from first cycle with a Bachelor of Science, main field of study: Business Administration, may obtain the following degree:

*Master of Science (60 credits) in Business and Economics with specialisation in corporate governance (Main field of study: Business Administration)*

Students with another qualifying degree than the afore-mentioned may obtain the following degree:

*Master of Science (60 credits) with specialization in corporate governance (Main field of study: Business Administration)*

The degree certificate is bilingual (Swedish/English). A Diploma Supplement (English) will be provided along with the degree certificate.

### Other Information

In order to be admitted to the courses on the programme, the specific entry requirements stated in each course syllabus must be fulfilled by the start of the course.