



Programme syllabus

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Biblioteks- och informationsvetenskap, masterprogram, 120 högskolepoäng

Library and information science, Master Programme, 120 credits

Level

Second cycle

Date of Ratification

Approved 2024-06-11.

The programme syllabus is valid from spring semester 2025.

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for studies at the second level and specific entry requirements: Swedish 3 and English 6.

Description of Programme

The Master Programme in Library and Information Science is a two-year degree at advanced level. The programme aims to provide in-depth knowledge of administration, organisation and communication of culture, information and knowledge predominantly within libraries but also other conveyors of culture and/or knowledge intensive organisations and institutions such as museums and archives. The courses offered in this programme aim to clarify and critically discuss these agencies' social duty and are therefore permeated by scientific and methodological connections to current societal challenges.

The degree is characterised by a clear integration of theoretical and practical elements. The students apply analytical tools and develop their theoretical comprehension while simultaneously acquiring practical skills which prepare them for qualified work, management and organisational development of libraries and other conveyors of culture and/or knowledge intensive organisations and institutions such as museums and archives. The programme facilitates contact with current research, at both national and international level, as well as institutions in relevant professional fields. The programme grants eligibility for further studies at the third cycle, and offers connections to a leading research environment in Library and Information Science, and

a multi-disciplinary cultural scientific research context, which provides a stable foundation for third cycle research programmes.

Objectives

Qualification objectives according to the Higher Education Ordinance:

Knowledge and comprehension

To earn the Master's Degree Certificate the student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and comprehension within the main field of the programme, including a broad scope of knowledge within the field as well as substantial in-depth knowledge within certain areas of the field and in-depth insight into pertinent research and development, and
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of methodology within the main field of the programme.

Skill and ability

To earn the Master's Degree Certificate the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and manage complex phenomena, questions, and situations even with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate questions, to plan and with adequate methods conduct qualified assignments within given timeframes and thereby contribute to the knowledge development and to evaluate this work,
- demonstrate the ability to, by oral and written means in national as well as international contexts, clearly present and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments which constitute the foundation of those in dialogue with different groups, and
- demonstrate such competence required to participate in research and development or to independently work in another qualified establishment.

Judgement and approach

To earn the Master's Degree Certificate the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to, within the main field of the programme, make assessments with regard to relevant scientific, societal, and ethical aspects, and show awareness of ethical aspects in research and development,
- demonstrate insight into the opportunities and limitations of science, its role in society and the responsibility of humans in terms of how it is utilised, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for their cultivation of knowledge.

Programme-specific objectives

After completing the programme the student shall also be able to:

- display broad as well as substantial in-depth knowledge within Library and Information Science. This includes central themes and terminology, and how these can be applied and understood in current research and development, and in relation to individuals, groups and in various societal and organisational contexts.
- demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of general theory, use of terminology and knowledge of methodology equivalent to advanced level within

Library and Information Science, and in-depth knowledge of methodology within the thematic specialisation of the independent project (the Master's Thesis).

- assess and apply relevant scientific and societal aspects in their studies from library and information scientific perspectives, and show awareness of ethical aspects in the research process.
- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate questions, to plan and with methods relevant for Library and Information Science complete qualified assignments within given timeframes and thereby contribute to the development of knowledge and to evaluate this work.
- have acquired such competence required to participate and work independently in research and development within Library and Information Science and in libraries and other conveyors of culture and/or knowledge intensive organisations and institutions.
- demonstrate the ability to make assessments with regard to relevant ethical questions such as professional ethical dilemmas, questions of sustainability and political dimensions within library and information scientific research as well as work in libraries and other conveyors of culture and/or knowledge intensive organisations and institutions.
- demonstrate insight into the opportunities and limitations of science, its integrated role in society and the responsibility of humans in terms of how it is utilised, especially in light of library and information scientific studies.

Content

The main field of the programme is Library and Information Science. The programme consists of a total of two years of full-time studies or the equivalent. The programme is coordinated by a teacher responsible for the course who is responsible for quality assurance, development, and coordination of the programme. A programme council works for a long-term and strategic development of the programme. The teachers responsible for the courses are responsible for conducting a course evaluation at the end of the course and that the results of the evaluation is distributed to the students.

Programme overview

The Master Programme aims to broaden as well as deepen knowledge and skills acquired from previous university studies and possible professional experience. It constitutes a specialised study in the main field of Library and Information Science through choice of course literature and through more complex and analytically advanced examination assignments. The programme consists of four semesters (120 credits) during which the student takes mandatory courses. The opportunity to study a semester abroad within the framework of the programme is provided in the third semester.

The programme focuses on four comprehensive problem areas which are all studied in relation to current societal challenges:

1. Library and information scientific theory and methodology,
2. The social duty of libraries and other conveyors of culture and/or knowledge intensive organisations, institutions, and professions.
3. Communication and conveying of information, knowledge, and culture.

4. Organisation of knowledge and documents.

The structure of the programme is designed to create a clear progression where the student's knowledge, skills, and approach to the field and its research and areas of practice are gradually developed and specialised.

Semester 1

The programme begins with a basic introduction to Library and Information Science as a field of research, and relevant fields of profession and establishment, as well as an overview and an in-depth insight into the political frameworks and discourses associated with libraries but also other conveyors of culture and/or knowledge intensive organisations and institutions.

Semester 2

In semester two this knowledge is specialised in relation to both concrete applications and theoretical perspectives on communication and conveying of culture and information, to be subsequently synthesised and integrated in an independently formulated development project.

Semester 3

In the third semester of the programme, the focus is shifted from conveying to organisation of knowledge and information. The student broadens and deepens their knowledge of theory and methodology through the course Library and Information Scientific Theories and Methods, 10 credits.

Semester 4

The programme is completed by a degree project (30 credits) during the fourth semester.

Courses within the programme may be delivered in English.

Courses in the Programme

Semester 1

*Library and Information Studies: Profession, Sector, Research, 10 credits, AIN**

The aim of this course is to introduce the central terminology, theories, and methods of Library and Information Science and to put them in relation to the students' prior knowledge. In addition, during the course, the student develops basic knowledge about the librarian profession and the library as an establishment, with regard to administration, duty, and target groups, today as well as historically. Particular focus is given to critically discuss the social duty of the professions and establishments and how these approach current societal challenges.

*Library Policy, 10 credits, AIN**

The course addresses the political preconditions for libraries and other conveyors of culture and/or knowledge intensive organisations and institutions. Within the framework of the course, political notions, structures, and processes of culture, library, education, and information, and how they relate to library practices, are problematised. The duty and management of the library and its practices are also discussed from the perspective of democracy-theoretical models. Problematising the librarian's

professional role and its ethical dimensions in politically managed establishments is particularly emphasised.

*Promoting Reading and Literature, 10 credits, AIN**

The course addresses practices, notions, and political structures and processes that form the work of libraries by promoting reading and literature in relation to various user groups, today and historically. The student is introduced to pedagogical and didactic perspectives and methods for literature and reading promotion, and provided with opportunities to reflect over their applicability in library and information scientific research and in the practical library work. The course also touches on consequences of new literary formats and reading practices which have been made possible by digital advancements.

Semester 2

*Media and Information Literacy in Research and Practice, 10 credits, AI**

The aim of the course is for the students to cultivate knowledge about and critically discuss changes in the information infrastructure in society, due to the digitalisation of society. Focus is given to the consequences of the transformation for communication, and the search and conveying of information. Various aspects of the development of the digital information infrastructure, such as datafication, platformisation, sharing culture, algorithm society, and generative AI are problematised. Particular emphasis is put on critical questions and ethical dimensions connected to new needs of knowledge and source evaluation competence with various user groups, so called media and information literacy. Additionally, the course introduces the student to basic library and information scientific terminology and theories of relevance for media and information literacy as a field of research.

*Development, Leadership, and Project-Based Practice, 10 credits, AIN**

During the course, the students develop understandings of various forms of organisation and their application and problematise their use within library establishments from the approach of organisational theory and different perspectives on leadership. The students also cultivate skills and knowledge for the development, leading, and conducting of projects. The course includes independent development, formulation and presentation of a project idea with relevance to the development of a specific library establishment.

*Collections and Media, 10 credits, AIN**

The course addresses structures, processes, and conditions for the stand development and information management of libraries. Particular emphasis is put on the media technological development's significance for library collections, such as the development of digital media, digitalisation processes, and digital forms of distribution. Additionally, general structures for scientific communication are discussed with a focus on the development of publication strategies, and questions regarding open access. The student is introduced to bibliometrics as a theory and research evaluative practice.

Semester 3

*Organising Knowledge and Documents, 10 credits, AIF**

The course addresses questions about how knowledge and information is organised at libraries and in society today. The student is introduced to classification and subject indexing and is able to expand their knowledge regarding various ways of creating and using metadata to describe and organize knowledge, information and documents. The questions in focus are metadata management, including the significance of linked data and generative AI, for the library sector as well as for cultural heritage institutions in general.

*Searching and Systematising Knowledge, 10 credits, AIF**

In the course, the students theoretical and practical knowledge within the library and information scientific research field information retrieval is cultivated. Methods and models for representation, matching, ranking and presentation of documents and search formulations are introduced and trained in elements of practical information search. These skills are cultivated and specialised by the student independently searching, systematising, and in written form compiling and presenting knowledge in the form of a research overview of a chosen partial area within Library and Information Science.

*Library and Information Scientific Theories and Methods, 10 credits, AIF**

The course introduces scientifically theoretical questions and terminology, and provides an overview of central methodological traditions within Library and Information Science. The student cultivates their understanding of the relationship between scientific questions and choices of methodological approaches through the development of a research plan. In addition, research-ethical principles and their application in the scientific process are presented and discussed.

Semester 4

*Independent Project (Master's Thesis) in Library and Information Science, 30 credits, A2E**

The course includes planning, designing, and conducting all components of the master's thesis with the support of a supervisor. Argumentation in the role as opponent and as respondent is cultivated. The course results in an independent project.

*= course in the main field.

Societal relevance

The content of the programme actualises and problematises the local and global societal challenges of today through scientific questions. The course content offers the opportunity to critically discuss the social duty of libraries and also other conveyors of culture and/or knowledge intensive organisations and institutions and connects to societal questions such as democracy, social sustainability, and civic engagement. The programme prioritises the interaction between sector, profession, and education and offers continuous elements of practical relevance. The course content is consistently connected to specialised profession components, through e.g., field study assignments and opportunity to collaborate with the library and information sector and profession. Within the framework of these assignments, the students are provided with the opportunity to meet the practical activities and to apply methodological and theoretical perspectives on problems associated with the organisation's practices.

Internationalisation

Library and Information Science has a broad international basis within research as well as teaching. Within the framework of the programme, it aims for inclusion of international perspectives in both course content and course literature. The students are also provided with the opportunity to study abroad in the third semester of the programme, via the university's full range of agreements with international institutions and the range of agreements within the faculty. The studies abroad should represent the main field of the programme. The programme content also offers the opportunity to critically discuss international societal challenges with the help of scientific perspectives. The teachers of the programme contribute with international competence and the students' network of international contacts benefit from the teachers' scientific network.

Sustainable societal development

The programme poses questions related to sustainable societal development with a focus in various fields, particularly through themes connected to social sustainability such as equality, diversity, and gender. Significant emphasis is placed on facilitating opportunities for the students to develop based on their personal circumstances with regard to e.g., gender, ethnic and social background, and disability. Questions regarding sustainable societal development is also discussed based on the duties of libraries and other conveyors of culture and/or knowledge intensive organisations and institutions with a focus on how these agencies contribute to sustainable societal development.

Quality Development

The programme continuously works on development to reach pedagogical and societal goals and is directed by a teacher responsible for the programme who is responsible for quality assurance, development and coordination of the programme. A programme council including external members from the sector works for a long-term and strategic development of the programme. Questions of programme development are also discussed at subject and teacher meetings where all teachers participate. The teachers responsible for the courses are responsible for conducting a course evaluation at the end of each course and that the results of the evaluation is distributed to the students, and to prospective students in the form of a course evaluation report. The course evaluation report describes pertinent measures for improvement and is archived by the institution for further review. Course evaluation reports from previous years are available through the university. The programme aims for continuous integration of student dialogue in all courses, as well as the programme in its entirety.

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities has a quality system for further review and development of its programmes. A programme council prepares programme syllabi and other matters concerning questions of quality such as degree-awarding powers and range of programmes before decisions are made by the faculty board. Revised and new course syllabi are prepared in a course syllabus committee before decisions about approval are made by the head of department.

A review of the range of programmes is regularly conducted within the framework of the faculty's systematic quality assurance procedures.

Degree

After having completed their studies in accordance with the requirements stated in the Qualification Ordinance of the Higher Education Ordinance and in Linnaeus University's local qualification ordinance, the student may apply for the award of a qualification. Students who have completed the programme Library and Information Science may obtain the following qualification:

Degree of Master of Arts in Library and Information Science

Main Field of Study: Library and Information Science

Filosofie masterexamen i biblioteks- och informationsvetenskap

Huvudområde: Biblioteks- och informationsvetenskap

The degree certificate is issued in two languages (Swedish and English) and is accompanied by a diploma supplement in English.

Other Information

The student is personally responsible for potential costs associated with field study assignments, e.g., travel costs.

In case of possible discrepancies between the Swedish and English versions of this programme syllabus, the Swedish version is superordinate.