



Programme syllabus

Faculty Board of Humanities and Social Sciences
School of Language and Literature

Nordiskt masterprogram i engelska eller tyska med inriktning mot undervisning i skolan, 120 högskolepoäng

Nordic Master Programme in English or German with Specialization in Education, 120 credits

Level

Second Level

Establishment of Programme

Established by Organisational Committee 2009-03-26

Date of Ratification

Approved by Organisational Committee 2009-09-15

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2010

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for studies at second cycle level together with specific entry requirements:

- a minimum of 80 credits in the chosen language (English or German)
- teaching degree (Bachelors degree in education) for teaching in secondary school with specialization in English or German
- Swedish B and English A, or equivalent.

Description of Programme

The programme is primarily directed towards students in Sweden or Norway who have a degree in education which includes one of the teaching languages English or German. The purpose of the programme is for students to develop subject didactics and practical qualifications within teaching in a foreign language. Students should acquire deeper knowledge in language and in different theories of language acquisition and learning, as well as obtain an international profile to their education.

Objectives

Central degree objectives in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance

Knowledge and understanding

For a Masters degree, the student should

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding within the main field of study including a comprehensive view of the field as well as deeper knowledge within specific areas of the field, in addition to insight in current work within research and development
- demonstrate deeper knowledge of methodology within the main field of study.

Skills and abilities

For a Masters degree, the student should

- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge as well as analyse, assess and work with complex facts, problems and situations, even with limited information
- demonstrate the ability to independently identify and formulate questions as well as plan and, using satisfactory methods complete advanced assignments within a given timeframe and thus contribute to the furthering of knowledge and evaluation of such work
- demonstrate the ability to, in national as well as international contexts, orally and in writing give a clear account of the student's own conclusions and be able to discuss the conclusions as well as the knowledge and arguments on which they are based, in dialogue with different groups
- demonstrate the proficiency necessary to participate in work within research and development or work within other advanced endeavours.

Judgement and approach

For a Masters degree, the student should

- demonstrate the ability to make judgements regarding relevant scholastic, societal and ethical aspects within the main field of study as well as show an awareness of ethical aspects of work within research and development
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of scholarship, its roll in society and humankind's responsibility for how it is used
- demonstrate the ability to identify the student's own requirements regarding further knowledge as well as take responsibility for his/her own knowledge development.

Programme-specific objectives

After completion of the programme, the student should

- have advanced knowledge within either English or German
- have advanced knowledge regarding teaching in a foreign language in school
- be able to adapt language education to students' various linguistic and cultural backgrounds
- have achieved linguistic and scholastic levels that allow the student to develop his/her role as teacher of a foreign language as well as acquired advanced knowledge in various theories of language acquisition and learning
- be able to utilize ICT (information and communication technology) as an integrated tool for all language education
- have developed and be able to communicate an understanding of how important knowledge of a foreign language is in a modern globalized society with regards to culture, democracy and mobility
- have developed a responsible attitude regarding the use of electronic information channels as well as be able to convey this attitude to the students.

Content

Organisation

The programme is offered in collaboration between three different institutes of higher education. Each institution is responsible for several courses within the programme. The collaborating institutions are, in addition to the School of Language and Literature at Linnaeus University (LNU), Østfold University College (HiØ), Norway, and University of Gothenburg (GU). The programme has a programme co-ordinator and a course co-ordinator. The programme board is comprised of the programme co-ordinator, representatives from the various subjects included in the programme, student representatives and at least one external member representing the educational system.

Programme overview

The programme is a two-year programme and is available as full-time/distance. During the first three semesters, students will study various advanced linguistic and language didactics courses (10 credits), which will be offered alternately by the three institutions. During the second semester, a methodological and project work (20 credits) is offered at the University of Gothenburg and during the fourth semester, a degree project specializing in either English or German (30 credits) is offered at Østfold University College or Linnaeus University.

Internet-based studies

The programme is organized so that studies are pursued using the Internet with a large part of teaching takes place via a so-called learning management system. Among other things, a virtual seminar will be arranged via the learning management system. Students will be provided with support by the participating institutions. The programme in full has a common home page where the students have access to relevant information regarding the respective institutions.

Actual classroom meetings

At the beginning of the first semester, a two-day seminar will be offered at one of the participating institutions for the courses available during the semester. During the seminar, students will receive a basic introduction to the entire programme and to the resources that will be used during the distance education. An important goal of the first meeting is that the students get to know one another. Each semester ends with a meeting that is coordinated with the starting seminar for the following semester. The meetings are organized as follows:

Semester 1: Two-day starting seminar and a two-day end-of-term seminar

Semester 2: Two-day meeting at the end of term

Semester 3: Two-day meeting at the end of term

Semester 4: Two-day meeting at the end of term

The starting seminar and the end-of-term seminar during the first semester as well as the two-day meeting in the fourth semester are mandatory for those students enrolled in the full programme.

Programme courses

The programme includes eight mandatory courses offered by the participating institutions as following:

Semester 1

- Communication, 10 credits, A1N level (LNU)
- Intercultural education, 10 credits, A1N level (HiØ)
- Focus on form in education, 10 credits, A1N level (GU)

Semester 2

- Literature in teaching I, 10 credits, A1N level (LNU)
- Methodology and project work, 20 credits, A1N level (GU)

Semester 3

- Language analysis of pupils, 10 credits, A1N level (HiØ)
- Literature in teaching II, 10 credits, A1N level (HiØ)
- Changing language, 10 credits, A1N level (HiØ)

Semester 4

- Degree project, 30 credits, A2E level (HiØ/LNU)

GU: Gothenburg University is responsible for offering the course; HiØ: Østfold University College is responsible for offering the course; LNU: Linnaeus University is responsible for offering the course. All courses are at the advanced level.

Each course includes three components: theory, methodology and practical application, where aspects of language proficiency are integrated in each course. The student chooses specialization in either English or German. Each course component, including “Degree project”, includes a general segment comprising three credits that is taught in one of the Scandinavian languages, and a specialized segment where the teaching is conducted in the chosen language of specialization. The entire course thus includes 93 credits that are language specific (specializing in either English or German). All of the participating institutions contribute resources for supervision of examination assignments.

Progression in the programme takes place as follows: The introductory courses Focus on form in education, Intercultural education, Communication and Literature in teaching I constitute the basis for Methodology and project work as well as the three advanced courses during the third semester. The course Methodology and project work prepares the student for the Degree project to be completed during the final semester. This course aims to provide the student with a sound knowledge of relevant research methods and with those theoretical tools as a starting point be able to independently plan, conduct and, in the target language, present a project that sheds light on aspects of foreign language learning within the framework of schools. The Masters programme includes, in addition to this course, which explicitly focuses on scientific theory and methods, such a sufficient amount of research literature that the connection with research is very clear. After completing the course, students will be eligible and well prepared for research courses and study programmes (third-cycle level) within English and German with specialization in both linguistics and language didactics. Choice of theme for the project work should be made in keeping with the choice of subject for the following degree project in order to insure good progression and completion of the work.

Practical studies / Community contacts

Close contact with activities in schools takes place in connection with the project work and degree project.

Studies abroad

Students may take one or more of the courses at an institution of higher learning in a region of the chosen language (English-speaking or German-speaking country). The participating institutions have cooperation agreements with institutions in other countries; however, students are themselves responsible for organizing potential studies abroad. Studies abroad should always be planned in consultation with the programme co-ordinator, who is responsible for approving the choice of courses if they are to be included in the programme.

During an exchange period abroad of at least three months, the student may complete their degree project under supervision from Linnaeus University, Østfold University College or the University of Gothenburg. In such case, the degree project should be completed to the fourth semester of the programme.

Scope of the programme

Aspects of gender equality will be taken into consideration when choosing course literature, case studies and examples. A gender perspective as well as various aspects of sustainable development will be considered throughout the different courses. During the programme, special attention is given to understanding ethnic and cultural diversity among pupils in schools. Gender equality, diversity and sustainable development are also encouraged by the course format, distance study, since this allows for a greater number of student categories to participate as well as allowing some of the material to be

distributed online instead of using paper. These perspectives, together with students being provided with information about generation-specific forms of communication (chat, blog, sms, etc.) will characterize the programme.

The programme provides a unique insight regarding teaching in a foreign language in Scandinavia, both comparatively and specifically. In addition, both a European and global perspective on teaching in a foreign language will be integrated in all of the courses in the programme.

The programme in itself is an international collaboration and the international aspects permeate the entire course of study. Besides being taught in several Scandinavian languages, students will meet other students and teachers from several different countries. Students will also participate in educational activities in both Sweden and Norway.

Quality Development

Course evaluations are conducted after each course and a programme evaluation is conducted at the end of the programme. Evaluation reports are filed and stored by the institutions. Student representatives participate in the compilation of the evaluation reports as well as in discussion of them at the programme board meetings. The evaluation reports are also available to the other students.

Degree Certificate

Following completion of studies fulfilling the requirements as stated in the Higher Education Ordinance degree ordinance and the local degree ordinance for Linnaeus University, the student can apply for the award of the degree. The student who has pursued studies in Nordic Masters Programme in English or German, may obtain the following degree:

Master of Arts (Two Year) Specialization in Education

Main field of subject: English or German

Masterexamen med inriktning undervisning i skolan

Huvudområde: Engelska eller Tyska

The degree certificate is bilingual (Swedish/English). The degree certificate will be accompanied by a Diploma Supplement (English).

Other Information

Since the programme is offered as a distance programme and all activities, except for the programme's mandatory classroom meetings, occur via various websites, access to a computer with at least 1 GB free space on the hard disk is required. The computer must also be equipped with a headset and Internet.

Students must themselves finance the costs that occur in connection with the mandatory meetings (travel, lodging and meals).

Type of instruction

The courses begin with a common comparative segment in a Scandinavian language. Thereafter, the students are divided into groups that are given language-specific instruction adapted to the language of specialization and their traditions and requirements. Students who do not speak a Scandinavian language will be offered an adapted version of the introductory segments in English or German. The languages of instruction are partly the Scandinavian languages and partly English or German.

Examination format

Within the programme, several different examination formats are used; for example, written take-home tests, project work, oral reports and degree projects. Examination formats will be described in further detail in the respective course syllabi.