



Programme syllabus

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

Hälsovetenskap, masterprogram, 120 högskolepoäng

Health Science, Master Programme, 120 credits

Level

Second Level

Date of Ratification

Approved by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences 2018-10-25

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2019

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies and specific entry requirements: English B/6 or the equivalent.

Description of Programme

The Master's program in Health Science aims to provide the student with a qualified and broad education adapted to the future needs within the health sector. The program has a transdisciplinary profile, which means that knowledge in health develops out of different academic perspectives, and understanding how these interface. Examples of such perspectives are global health, health geography, health psychology, sustainability and intercultural perspectives. The program, which is given in English, has an international profile and is aimed at both national and international students. The education leads to a master's degree in the main field of health sciences and is preparatory to qualified research and developmental work within the health sector e.g. as an entrepreneur, consultant or employee in the private or public sector, alternatively in nonprofit organizations, both locally as well as nationally and internationally.

Objectives

Outcomes in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work; and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information;
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously and creatively as well as to plan, and using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and so contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing both nationally and internationally to clearly report and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences; and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work;
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used; and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Content

The Department of Health and Caring Sciences is the hosting department for the program. The program director, together with the program council, is responsible for development and quality assurance of the program.

Programme overview

The program comprises four terms (120hp) full-time studies. The first year focuses on providing a common platform in the main field of health science at advanced level, understanding of the transdisciplinary perspective as well as scientific theory and methodology. During the second year, knowledge will be deepened through, among other things, an independent work and possibility for internship that can be placed nationally or internationally. The program includes optional courses (37.5 credits) that will relate to the main subject area. Students will be able to choose courses in addition to the optional courses offered within the program in consultation with the program director. All program courses are given in English but single optional courses can be given in Swedish.

Courses in the program

Year 1

Multidisciplinary Perspective on Human Health (Part 1) 7.5 credits, Level A1N

The course aims at providing knowledge and understanding of situations relevant to health, today and in the future viewed from an individual, social and global perspective. The course also deals with health theories and health models, the impact of different factors on health among individuals and groups, and health science as an academic subject.

Health, Human Rights and Global Justice 15 credits, Level A1N

In the course, knowledge is developed regarding concepts and theories related to ethics, science theory, scientific criticism and global health. The course also includes how different perspectives, such as diversity, gender and other power relations are linked to health and global justice.

Health Science Research Methods 7.5 credits, Level A1N

The course provides a basic knowledge and understanding of different scientific methods in the main field of health sciences. These include the formulation of scientific issues and research issues, which form the basis for the future degree project.

Transdisciplinary Perspective on Human Health (Part 2) 7.5 credits, Level A1F

The course aims at developing the ability to critically and systematically integrate different perspectives on human health in a transdisciplinary context for independently analyzing, assessing and managing complex phenomena and issues.

One of the following courses:

Health Science Research Methods - Advanced Quantitative Methods 7.5 credits, Level A1F

The course aims to develop in-depth knowledge of methods for quantitative data analysis and use of statistical software (SPSS). The course develops the ability to formulate and test statistical hypotheses. The course also broadens the knowledge regarding different forms of selection, data collection and analysis methods.

or

Health Science Research Methods - Advanced Qualitative Methods 7.5 credits, Level A1F

The course aims to develop in-depth knowledge of methods for analyzing qualitative data. The course also deals with different research efforts, data collection methods, analysis methods and result descriptions.

Optional courses of a total of 15 credits during year 1

Year 2

Degree project in health sciences 30 credits, level A2E

The course aims to independently plan, implement and report in writing a scientific work within the main field of health sciences.

Entrepreneurial and collaborative processes from a health science perspective - Part 1 7.5 credits, level A1F

The course aims at developing the ability to critically and creatively identify problems and solutions that impact human health. Awareness of ethical aspects of development work in both national and international contexts is emphasized. The course consists of both theory and practical internship.

Optional courses in total 22.5 credits in year 2.

Societal relevance

Health science can contribute to knowledge development about the complexity of health within and between different arenas such as industry, cultural institutions and the public sector. Within the main field of health sciences, different societal challenges and situations are linked, creating prerequisites for an holistic perspective and development of new knowledge and problem solving that corresponds to future societal needs. Students can be invited to participate in ongoing research projects conducted at Linnaeus University or in collaboration with the surrounding society. During the program the students' internship can be accomplished at workplaces or in private, public or in Non-Governmental Organizations.

Internationalization

The programme has an international profile and is formed to attract students from all over the world. The students' different backgrounds will be actively used in lectures and seminars, e.g. as a starting point for discussions on different perspectives on health. Linnaeus University and the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences offer a wide range of agreements with partner universities that the students may use. Either the third or fourth semester are recommended as first choice for studies abroad. During the fourth semester, the degree project is to be executed, which makes it possible to accomplish parts of the project in another country. Studies abroad should be planned in cooperation with the programme coordinator and the faculty's international coordinator.

Perspectives on the education

A clear perspective in the program is the transdisciplinary approach in which knowledge develops and deepens cross-borders and between disciplines. Health science is studied on the social, ecological and economic dimensions of sustainable development. Entrepreneurial and collaborative processes are emphasized in the program with particular focus on ethics, gender, equal conditions and cultural affiliation.

Quality Development

The Master Programme will be continuously evaluated and improved as part of the institution's quality work. The students are invited to participate in course evaluation after completion of each course. Results and suggestions for changes shall be returned to the students. In addition to course evaluation, there are regular meetings between program managers and student representatives. At these meetings, the quality of education and quality development measures are discussed. The course coordinator and program director are responsible for the course development. Compilations of evaluations are archived and are available at the department's office.

The program council consists of members from the main field of health sciences, a student representative and a professional representative, and works with continuous program development to meet the demands of the students and the world's future needs. The names, scope and order of the courses in the program may therefore, to some extent, change during the programme.

Degree Certificate

After completed studies with the objectives specified by the Higher Education Ordinance and the Linnaeus University Degree Ordinance, the student can apply for a degree certificate. Those having completed the Health Science, Master Program (120 credits) can receive the following degree:

Master of Science (Two years)
(Main field of study: Health Science)

The diploma is bilingual (Swedish/English). Students are to receive a diploma and a Diploma Supplement (English).

Other Information

For the student, some additional costs may occur within the education framework e.g. travel expenses in connection with internship. Optional courses can be given at different campus, at a distance and in Swedish, but there is always one option in English at the campus where the program is declared.