



## Programme syllabus

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

Hälsövetenskap, masterprogram, 120 högskolepoäng

Health Science, Master Programme, 120 credits

### **Level**

Second Level

### **Date of Ratification**

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

Revised 2021-09-09

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2022

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies, plus specific entry requirements: English 6 or the equivalent.

## Description of Programme

The Health Science, Master Programme (the Programme) constitutes a qualified international course of education which provides for the understanding of and preparedness for improving human and non-human health. Throughout the Programme, a transdisciplinary approach is applied for the understanding, response to and treating of complex contemporary and future health situations. This implies the acknowledgement and integration of various disciplinary perspectives on health throughout the course of education. The Programme has a defined emphasis on the health consequences of climate change on human and non-human health. The language of instruction within the Programme is English, and students from different disciplinary backgrounds are welcomed. The course of education leads to a Master Degree in Health Science and prepares graduates for exploratory and developmental work within the private, public or non-profit areas of the health sector as entrepreneur, consultant or employee.

## 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

### Programme Overview

The Programme comprises of four terms (120 credits) full-time study. The first year has as its focus the provision of a common platform in Health Science at an advanced level, this, along with introducing a transdisciplinary perspective, as well as relevant scientific theory and methodology. In the second year, enhanced knowledge is sought through the completion of an independent degree project. The Programme offers optional courses (37.5 credits) related to the main subject area. In consultation with the Programme director, students choose courses in addition to the optional courses offered within the Programme. All Programme courses are provided in English, whilst some optional courses are available in Swedish.

### Courses in the Programme

#### Year 1

#### **Multidisciplinary Perspective on Human Health\***, 7.5 credits, Level A1N

Human health on an individual, societal and global level is both directly and indirectly affected by other organisms, materials, and global events. In order to understand the complexity of the situation affecting different health relationships, this course introduces various disciplinary theories and models. Scenario planning is presented and applied as a tool for the preparedness and management of future situations relevant to human and non-human health.

**Health Science Research Methods\***, 7.5 credits, Level A1N

The course presents assumptions and methods relevant to research with Health Science from human, social and natural scientific perspectives. Scientific research results are accessed reviewed, evaluated, and discussed in both oral and written forms. Research questions are formulated and ethical considerations with Health Science are presented and discussed.

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

The course focuses on health with a global perspective by means of the inclusion of climate, the environment, political and economic considerations, and of the global human health situation. Human rights and global justice as well as movements against these along with their various consequences regarding health are focused upon. These perspectives are studied in relation to global sustainability and to the existing knowledge and experiences regarding complex global health situations of the students attending the course.

**Transdisciplinary Perspective on Human Health\***, 7.5 credits, Level A1N

The objective of the course is to enable students to critically and systematically integrate various disciplinary perspectives on human health, this in order to facilitate independent analysis, assessment, and management of complex health issues and situations. Scenario planning is utilised as a tool for comprehension and preparedness.

**Planetary Health Geography**, 7.5 credits, Level A1N

The course provides an introduction to the central theories and concepts of Health Geography and includes a problematisation of the geographical and spatial aspects of health. Health is emphasised in relation to the planetary scale, opening up to the transdisciplinary field 'planetary health'. The relationship between the health of humans and the health of the planet in light of the climate and ecological emergency is addressed.

*One of the following courses:*

**Health Science Research Methods - Advanced Quantitative Methods\***, 7.5 credits, Level A1N

Quantitative research methods and scientific theories are presented in order to enhance in-depth knowledge and competence in quantitative analysis. Statistical hypotheses are formulated and tested. Additionally, different forms of selection methods and data collection, research ethics and result presentation receive focus.

*or*

**Health Science Research Methods - Advanced Qualitative Methods\***, 7.5 credits, Level A1N

The objective of the course is to provide knowledge of qualitative research methods and scientific theory for the enhancement of competence in qualitative analysis. Selection methods, generation of information/data collection, research ethics and result presentation are central to the course.

**Optional courses** of a total of 7.5 credits in year 1

Year 2

**Health Science, Degree Project\***, 30 credits, level A2E

The course implies independently planning, implementing, and presenting a self-chosen health-related project, as well as motivating its relevance based on current health science research. The project is also valued in relation to the health consequences of climate change.

**Optional courses** in total 30 credits in year 2

\*= course in the main field of study

#### Societal relevance

The program is highly relevant to our planet's current and future health situation, including humans and non-humans. Transdisciplinary health science provides an insight into the complexity of health situations, and an awareness of the health consequences of the ongoing climate change. The course of education, by means of e.g. scenarioplanning and research methodology, presents methods and techniques for preparedness and management of change as well as anticipated and unanticipated health situations. The Programme aims to offer prerequisites for graduates for dealing with and being able to act for the humans' and the planet's future health.

#### Internationalization

Internationalization in the program is planned and implemented preferably with the global sustainability goal on Climate Action in mind. The importance of international perspectives on health have been brought forward due to the present planetary climate emergency situation. An international perspective is thereby integrated in all courses with student and teacher experience within the international field central to debate and discussion. The Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Linnaeus University is party to a wide range of international agreements with international partner universities and students in the Programme have the opportunity to international study in the third and fourth semester of study. The Programme advocates international study from a sustainable perspective, within travelling distance by train from Linnaeus University.

#### Perspectives on the education

The programme has three core values: climate action, transdisciplinarity, and internationalisation. Through addressing the climate action perspective, the Programme provides focus on the planetary climate emergency and its current and future consequences for human and non-human health. The transdisciplinary and internationalisation aspects of the Programme enhance the dissemination of knowledge across disciplines and geographical borders. As such, they offer the prerequisites for the understanding, response to and management of complex health situations, within both contemporary and future settings.

#### Quality Development

This course of education is provided by the Department of Health and Caring Sciences, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, Linnaeus University. The Programme Director in cooperation with the Programme Advisory Board bears responsibility for the Programme's quality assurance and development. The Programme Advisory Board consists of representatives of teaching and student bodies, stakeholders and the Programme Director. The Programme exists within a system of continual evaluation as part of the Department's ongoing quality assurance measures. Students are provided with the opportunity to complete a course evaluation at the termination of each course; the findings and suggestions of these evaluations are then related back to the students. The Course Coordinator in cooperation with the Programme Director are responsible for course development. Course evaluations are archived and are available for perusal at

the administration office of the Department.

### **Degree Certificate**

After completion of studies that correspond to the requirements stated in the Higher Education Ordinance and those stated in the local degree ordinance at Linnaeus University, the student can apply for a degree. Those who have completed the programme Health Science, Master Programme (120 credits) can obtain the following degree:

Master of Science (Two years)

(Main field of study: Health Science)

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

### **Other Information**

Additional costs may be incurred by the student. Optional courses may be offered at more than one campus, by distance learning, and in Swedish. Courses provided in English are guaranteed to be available at the campus that announces the Programme.