



Programme syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Sociologiprogrammet, 180 högskolepoäng

Sociology Programme, 180 credits

Level

First Level

Date of Ratification

Approved 2009-09-15

Revised 2020-12-03 by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Social Sciences

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2021

Prerequisites

General entry requirements.

Description of Programme

The aim of the Sociology Programme is that students should acquire the broad sociological professional competence required to work with assignments such as business intelligence, organisational development, evaluations and similar tasks within public authorities, businesses and other organisations, wherever it is required to understand how individuals and groups work in harmony with each other and with society.

The programme is permeated by a problem-solving approach with extensive use of field exercises. This enables the student to acquire and develop new knowledge, and be able to change in response to new situations and demands. In addition, the programme will develop the students' ability to both cooperate and work independently.

Objectives

Qualitative Targets in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance

Knowledge and Understanding

In order to obtain a bachelor's degree, the student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding within the main field of study, including knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field and an understanding of applicable methodologies in the field, carry out specialised study in some aspect of the field as well demonstrate awareness of current research issues .

Competence and Skills

In order to obtain a bachelor's degree, the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to compile and critically interpret relevant information in their approach to a problem as well as critically discuss phenomena, issues and situations,
- demonstrate the ability to independently identify, define and solve problems as well as carry out assignments within a given time frame,
- both verbally and in writing, demonstrate the ability to present and discuss information, problems and solutions in dialogue with various groups,
- demonstrate the proficiency required to independently work within the field at which the education is aimed.

Judgement and Approach

In order to obtain a bachelor's degree, the student shall:

- within the main field of study, demonstrate the ability to make assessments with regard to relevant scientific, societal and ethical aspects,
- demonstrate an understanding of the role of knowledge in society as well as of the responsibility of the individual for how it is used,
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and to develop the individual competence.

Programme Specific Objectives

Knowledge and Understanding

After completing the programme, students shall be able to:

- identify and use sociological concepts,
- examine and compare the validity and relevance of various sociological perspectives,
- make independent and critical assessments of sociological research methods,
- use sociological theories in an analytical manner,
- justify and evaluate theoretical validity claims.

Competence and Skills

After completing the programme, students shall be able to:

- formulate and investigate sociologically relevant issues,
- conduct independent, critical assessments of sociological relevant information and knowledge,
- conduct oral and written reports detailing their knowledge,
- conduct scientifically relevant and critical evaluations,
- use their knowledge to solve problems in various areas of social life,
- use their knowledge in order to manage or contribute to quality assurance and development in the working life.

Judgement and Approach

After completing the programme, students shall be able to:

- search out, compare and evaluate scientific texts on the subject,
- demonstrate awareness of the ethical implications of scientific work,
- develop an ability to reflect on their own knowledge and its role in society.

Independent Project

After completing the programme, students shall be able to:

- independently carry out a sociological study and be able to apply advanced methods and theories,
- write an essay that meets the requirements of the scientific approach.

Content

Programme Overview

The programme consists of a basic study block with a progressive specialisation equivalent to 90 credits (semester 1, 2 and 6), one semester of courses in Sociology comprising 30 credits (semester 3) which very well may be carried out abroad, one programme specific semester comprising 30 credits within the main field of study Leadership and Organisation (semester 4), one semester of placement studies or optional courses comprising 30 credits (semester 5). This semester is suitable for studies abroad.

All courses are given as full-time study courses on campus. The language of instruction is mainly Swedish. The order of the courses given in one and the same semester may vary.

Programme Courses

(* = course within the main field of study)

Year 1

Semester 1, Sociology I, 30 credits (G1N)*

The aim of the the course in Sociology I given in the first semester is to provide basic knowledge of the theoretical, methodological and scientific conditions within the field. The course discusses a selection of concepts, theories and perspectives within the field of sociology. Examples of the applicability within various empirical fields of study are also given.

Semester 2, Sociology II, 30 credits (G1F)*

The continuation course in sociology in the second semester discusses theories, research ethical principles and relevant methodological and analysis techniques within the field of sociology. In the final part of the course, the students are given the opportunity to put this knowledge to use by writing an essay.

Year 2

Semester 3, Thematic Sociology, 30 credits (G1F)*

The aim of the third semester is to provide advanced knowledge of the diverse research fields in sociology. Such research fields may concern sociology of the family, educational sociology, economic sociology, medical sociology and urban/rural sociology. The courses can be studied within the field of sociology at Linnaeus university or at another higher education institution in Sweden or abroad.

Semester 4, Working Life and Organisation, 30 credits (G1F)

The fourth semester consists of a course in social sciences focusing on working life and organisation. Theoretical as well as practical knowledge of the working conditions and tasks of a social scientist is introduced and the course is also aimed at providing the students with knowledge of how the working life is organised and governed, as well as knowledge of the skills required for working in various public organisations.

Year 3

Semester 5, Placement Studies (G2F)/Optional semester, 30 credits

In semester 5, students choose to either plan and carry out placement studies comprising 30 credits, or to study optional courses comprising 30 credits. The aim of the placement studies is to strengthen the link to the working life by giving the student the opportunity to gain experiences of workplaces and tasks relevant to a social scientist. The optional courses given in the semester are aimed at broadening or deepening the subject knowledge. These courses can be studied at the Linnaeus university or at another higher education institution in Sweden or abroad.

Semester 6, Sociology III (G2E), 30 credits*

During the sixth and final semester in the programme, the advanced course in Sociology III is given. The aim of the course is for students to considerably enhance their scientific and methodological proficiency in examining and analysing complex social phenomena. This is done by providing advanced knowledge of various analysis techniques as well as theory application and development. The course also includes an independent project at the first-cycle level.

All courses are full-time study courses given on campus. The main language of instruction is Swedish. The order of the courses given in the programme during a semester may vary.

Societal Relevance

The knowledge provided in the sociology programme contributes to the students developing the ability to handle challenges in society, development of society and take an active part in the public debate on problems of modern society. The students in the programme acquire the skills required in order to by a critical approach collect, systemize, analyse and communicate complex information in different contexts. Skills of this kind are in demand within the organisations in the various social sectors. This may concern tasks that involve business intelligence, strategy development, evaluation, investigation, organisational development or administration within public as well as non-profit organisations and private businesses.

Internationalisation

The sociology programme has an international profile, at the local level and through the exchange programme as well as through competence development for teaching personnel. Internationalisation at the local level entails that international perspectives are included in the course literature (related to content as well as writers from around the world), and through external lecturers being invited as well as special seminars on global issues being held. Studies abroad may be carried out during semester 3 or 5.

Perspectives in Education

Sustainable Development

The programme discusses theories and methods, by the use of which students can analyse social phenomena relevant to an ecologically, economically and socially sustainable development, including issues on resources, allocation of resources and inequality.

Equal Terms

At Linnaeus University, "equal terms" are used as an administrative general concept referring to diversity, equality, equal opportunities, equal treatment and accessibility. These aspects concern issues on social categories and social stratification. Sociology as a subject looks into, as one of the key study areas, the causes and effects of such levels of social stratification, at the local level as well as at the global level. The programme discusses the conceptual, theoretical and methodological tools required in order to discover, understand and be able to explain categorical forms of social stratification and exclusion. The perspective of equal terms is also part of the concrete educational activities and the organisation of the same. The perspective of equality means for instance that students meet both men and women during lectures, as well as both men and women being the writers of the course literature. Another such example is that students, specifically those of foreign origin, are encouraged to write papers and essays in English (if they have limited knowledge of Swedish).

Broadened Knowledge Perspective

The sociology programme is based on and conveys a broadened knowledge perspective in two main ways; both are related to the traits of sociology as a subject and a disciplinary domain of science. Sociology includes several different knowledge perspectives and areas of application, which touch upon or overlap other disciplinary domains of science. Sociology has a living relation to the standard issues of social science and social philosophy, and the programme thus gives the students the opportunity to, alongside the studies of current research and scientific experience, also study classical works within and outside the more limited contemporary discipline of sociology.

Entrepreneurial Approach

The concept of "entrepreneurial approach" is included in the programme as a potential field of study, and is also part of the conditions and structure of the programme. The latter applies specifically to the placement studies and the other field exercises included in the programme, where qualities such as initiative, responsibility and creativity are both assumed and encouraged. In terms of studying the concept itself, students in the programme are provided with the tools and opportunities required to be able to reflect on how an entrepreneurial approach and the institutionally related conceptions of the same affect the professional practice and society in general.

Quality Development

There is a programme coordinator appointed and a council consisting of student representatives, and a programme council. The student council shall ensure student influence in the programme and consists of students from all three classes in the programme and the programme coordinator. The programme coordinator arranges a meeting with the student council once every semester, in order to review compilations of the course evaluations and to gather additional student views and experiences from the previous semester. Course evaluations are carried out after each completed course and are followed up by the faculty staff. Reports on course evaluations are filed at the faculty of social sciences. There is also a programme council put together by the programme coordinator, consisting of some of the teachers in the programme and student representatives. If required, representatives from the working life and alumni are also invited. The programme council meets once every academic year, or more frequently if required. The programme council's assignments include for instance:

- Promote the development of the programme, for instance based on outside interests, requirements and needs.
- Function as a forum where the students' experiences, interests and requirements are expressed and looked after accordingly.
- Follow up the development of the programme and thus take part in, or receive information about the evaluations carried out in the programme.
- Function as a forum for the continuous development work within the programme.

Programme council meetings are also held more regularly with a smaller group consisting of the programme coordinator and some of the teachers in the programme and/or the course coordinators. The aim of these meetings is to discuss issues related to the programme content, structure and development. Development activities in the programme are documented and subsequently filed at the department.

Degree Certificate

After completed studies in accordance 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 Sociology Programme can obtain the following qualification:

Bachelor of Science
Main field of study: Sociology

The degree certificate is written in Swedish and English. The degree certificate also comes with a Diploma Supplement (in English).

Course previously given within the same programme code, SGSOC, may also be included in the degree and will then replace course with equivalent content.

Other Information

Some courses/components are studied together with students in other programmes/courses.

Field work is conducted during several semesters.

Any travel expenses that may arise in connection with placement studies and field exercises are paid for by the students themselves.

The students are responsible for arranging a suitable placement themselves.