



Programme syllabus

Faculty Board of Health, Social Work and Behavioural Sciences
School of Social Work

Socialt arbete, internationellt masterprogram, 120 högskolepoäng
Social Work, International Master Programme, 120 credits

Level

Second Level

Establishment of Programme

Established by Organisational Committee 2009-03-26

Date of Ratification

Approved by Committee for First and Second Cycle under the Faculty Board of Health, Social Work and Behavioural Sciences 2011-01-19

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2011

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies and specific entry requirements:

- 90 credits in Social Work or the equivalent.
- English B/6 or the equivalent

Description of Programme

The programme prepares students for qualified professional work in the development of social work in a global market. The labour market includes the public, private and voluntary sectors within nations and in a global perspective. Great emphasis in the programme is put on an international perspective and international comparisons. The programme prepares students for qualified jobs in social work as well as for PhD studies. The programme provides greater knowledge in the theory of science and research methodology. The organization of the programme provides opportunities for individual choices of courses at the second cycle level within different social work fields.

Objectives

The core aims in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance are:

Knowledge and Understanding

In order to gain a Master of Science the student is to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study for the programme, including both a broad knowledge of the field and significantly greater knowledge in some parts of the field of study as well as a greater insight into the current research and development in that field, and
- demonstrate greater knowledge of methodology in the main field of study for the

programme.

Skills and abilities

In order to gain a Master of Science the student is to:

- demonstrate an ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyze, assess and handle complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information,
- demonstrate an ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate questions and issues, to plan and by using adequate methods carry out qualified assignments within a given period of time and thus contribute to the development of knowledge as well as an ability to evaluate this work,
- demonstrate an ability, both orally and in writing in both national and international contexts, to give an account of and discuss one's conclusions and the knowledge and reasoning that form the basis for these in a dialogue with various groups, and
- demonstrate the skills that are necessary to participate in research and development work and to independently work in other qualified work situations.

Judgement and Approach

In order to gain a Master of Science the student is to:

- demonstrate an ability to make assessments in the programme's main field of study with regard to relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects as well as demonstrating an awareness about the ethical aspects of research and development work,
- demonstrate an insight about science's possibilities and limitations, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used, and
- demonstrate an ability to identify one's need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for one's development of knowledge.

Specific programme objectives

After completing the programme the student will, based on a global perspective and the conditions prevalent in different countries, be able to demonstrate greater knowledge about:

- social work in a global perspective

Content

There is a study programme coordinator who has the overall responsibility for the International Master programme.

Programme overview

The master programme comprises four terms of full-time studies. The organization of the programme provides opportunities for individual choices of courses at the second cycle level within different social work fields. All of the optional courses are based on conditions in Swedish society but puts these in relation to an international context. The courses provide good opportunities for students to be able to make comparisons between different countries. The fields that are optional are social work with children, young people and families, with the elderly, with persons with functional impairments as well as management and evaluation. The order in which the optional courses may vary in the programme.

All teaching is carried out in the English language.

Programme Courses

First term

The Swedish perspective on welfare, health, health care and social work, (A1N)*, compulsory, 15 credits.

The course contains knowledge about Swedish society, its welfare system and how national and international structural changes influence and create social problems. The Swedish health care system, legislation in health care and social work, health and health problems in the Swedish population and how the health services and the social services co-operate and interact within certain areas are covered in the course. The development of the Swedish health services, social services and health/health problems is illustrated in an historical perspective.

Theories and scientific methods in social work A1N, compulsory, 15 credits. The course contains greater knowledge of quantitative and qualitative research methods, data collection, study design as well as data analysis.

Second term

Optional course in social work, 15 credits A1N*

Optional course in social work, 15 credits A1N*

Third term

Management in the welfare sector, 7.5 credits A1N* or other course that is chosen in consultation with the study programme coordinator.

Optional course, 15 credits, A1N*

Theory of science and research methodology, 7.5 credits, compulsory, A1N*

Based on earlier courses in the theory of science and research methodology the student plans his/her degree project paper. The student carries out a literature study related to the focus chosen for the degree project paper and formulates and presents the background, aim and methods for the study. The design of the degree project paper is to include a description and discussion of issues in the theory of science that are relevant for the paper.

Fourth term

Degree project paper, 30 credits, compulsory, A2E*

The student is to write a degree project in the form of an independently performed study that is presented as a paper.

*= course in the main field of study, social work

There are options available to the students in the programme. In order to gain a Master's degree in social work at least 90 credits are to be on the second cycle level and at least half of the courses are to be in the main field of study of social work. The following optional courses are provided by the School of Social Work. The range of courses available may vary between terms.

Optional courses

Health and the elderly in social work, 15 credits, A1N*

The course content covers the fields of health, health development and health promotion activities with a focus on the aging/elderly individual. Important aspects of the course include what aging means, the conditions for elderly people in different types of society, what is experienced as health and how health can be measured. Furthermore the course focuses on the health development of the elderly over time and which services the community can provide to promote the health and health development of the elderly. Social work with the elderly nationally and internationally is also covered in the course.

A multicultural perspective on disability, 15 credits, A1N*

The course covers functional impairments with a focus on understanding similarities and differences between the meaning of this in various cultures. Joint international policy documents, discourse development, history, categorization and diagnosing are studied and analyzed in the course as well as society's services for people with different functional impairments.

Social work with children, young people and families, 15 credits, A1N*

The course covers how systematic and knowledge-based methods in professional social work with children, young people and families can be used. The course also includes counselling techniques and the development of a professional approach for investigating, analyzing and studying services for families.

Evaluation and evidence-based practice in social work, 15 credits, A1N*

The course covers evaluation theories and methods for evaluating in the social work field. The course also covers the concept of evidence in relation to knowledge of the social work field. Planning an evaluation of a social service is also included in the course.

Management in the welfare sector, 7.5 credits, A1N*

The main focus of the course is organization, management, professions and the work environment. A major part of the course includes a critical review and analysis of phenomena and processes related to the welfare sector.

Welfare and social politics in Sweden, 15 credits, A1N*

The Swedish welfare system with a focus on its historical development and structure are discussed in the course. Furthermore it focuses on and closely studies the development and structure of social politics. The Swedish welfare systems are highlighted and analyzed from the perspective of international comparisons.

Community contacts

Contacts with services in social work and social care are arranged in relation to the specific content of the courses and the students' learning. During the student's work with the degree project paper there are possibilities to carry out empirical studies with data collection within the social services.

Studies Abroad

In order to strengthen the international perspective in the programme the students have the possibility to study abroad. The planning for this is carried out in consultation between the school's international coordinator and the programme coordinator.

Scope of the programme

The international Master programme in Social Work has a focus on social change and global social work with the aim of counteracting discrimination, promoting equal rights and opportunities as well as creating a long-term sustainable social development. Diversity is a focal point throughout the programme. The term diversity entails gender, age, culture, social class, ethnicity, and disability with different types of marginalization. The teaching is based on actively preventing discrimination and has an ethical focus. Social work is placed in an international perspective in which in particular issues of globalization and migration are focused on.

Quality Development

An evaluation is carried out after each course, which forms the basis for the development of the quality of the programme. The evaluation takes place in the form of dialogues with students in accordance with the School's guidelines for quality assurance. Evaluation of the whole programme takes place in the study programme advisory council as well as through following up students who have completed the master programme.

Degree Certificate

After completing the programme studies that correspond to the requirements stated in the Higher Education Ordinance system of qualifications as well as to Linnaeus University's local system of qualifications the student can apply for a degree certificate. Students who have completed the programme can receive the following degree:

Master of Science (120 credits)

Main field of study: Social Work

The degree certificate is bilingual (Swedish/English). A Diploma Supplement in English is provided together with the degree certificate.