



Programme syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Socialt arbete, masterprogram, 120 högskolepoäng

Social Work, Master Programme, 120 credits

Level

Second Level

Date of Ratification

Approved 2010-12-20

Revised 2014-12-04 by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Social Sciences

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2015

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second cycle level study and specific requirements:

90 credits in Social Work including a degree project paper, at least 15 credits, or equivalent education.

Swedish B and English A.

Description of Programme

The programme prepares students for qualified jobs in social work as well as for PhD studies. The Master programme in Social Work provides a professional education within for example, social work with children, young people and families, with the elderly in the welfare state, inter-professional collaboration and evaluation of social interventions. The programme provides greater knowledge in the theory of science and research methodology. The structure of the programme provides optional choices of courses at the second cycle level within different spheres of the social work field.

Objectives

In accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100):

Knowledge and Understanding

In order to gain a Master of Science, 120 credits, 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, 120 credits, 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, 120 credits, 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

- demonstrate a good ability to carry out advanced investigative and evaluation work in the field of social work.

Content

There is a study programme coordinator with the overall responsibility for the programme. Furthermore there is a study programme advisory council which consists of study programme coordinators, representatives from the teachers, students, social services, as well as the head of department and a research leader.

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. The choice of courses reflects the research focus at the school.

Programme Courses

The first term includes an optional course at the second cycle level in social work, 15 credits, A1N* and also a second optional course at the second cycle level in social work, 15 credits, A1N*.

The second term includes a compulsory course in scientific theory and research methodology, 15 credits, A1N*, as well as an optional course at the second cycle level in social work or its equivalent, 15 credits, A1N*.

The third term includes two optional courses at the second cycle level in social work, 15 credits each, A1N*. The opportunity for further studies in the core fields of social work is given here, for example, children, young people, families; the elderly in the welfare state as well as inter-professional collaboration.

The fourth term includes an independently written degree project paper, 30 credits, A2E*.

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

Optional courses are a feature of the programme. In the recommended course structure as presented above all the courses are in the main field of study and at the second cycle level. There are also possibilities to study a small proportion of courses other than those that are suggested. In order to attain a Master of Science (120 credits) in the main field of study of social work at least 90 credits have to be at the second cycle level and at least half of the courses from the main field of study, social work.

Community contacts

The Social Work Master Programme (120 credits) has close contacts with social services in the counties of Kalmar and Kronoberg. Representatives from both the users and the profession participate continuously in the programme. There is continuous collaboration with research and development units in the counties in development and research projects. The programme is part of a number of international networks, which entails an active international exchange for teachers, students and the social services. The student can link his/her degree project paper to the development of knowledge in the social work sphere at a local, national and at an international level.

Studies Abroad

Students who wish to carry out a part of their studies in a foreign country can do this during the second course in the second term and during the third term. The students are offered the possibility to make use of the various contracts that Linnaeus University has with foreign universities. Studies abroad are always to be planned in consultation between the school's programme coordinator and the international coordinator.

Scope of the programme

The Social Work Master Programme (120 credits) 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 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 120 credit 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 Social Work Master Programme (120 credits) 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.