



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 2017-12-07 by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Social Sciences

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2018

Prerequisites

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

- 90 credits in Social Work including a degree project comprising at least 15 credits, or equivalent education.
- Swedish B and English A.

Description of Programme

The programme prepares students for qualified social work as well as for third-cycle 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, people with disabilities, gender and violence, migration and social work, and evaluation of social interventions. The programme also provides advanced academic knowledge in the theory of science and research methodology.

Objectives

Qualitative Targets in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance

Knowledge and Understanding

For a Degree of Master, students shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including general knowledge of the field as well as specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field, and insight into current research and development work,
- demonstrate advanced knowledge of methodology within the main field of study.

Competence and Skills

For a Degree of Master, students shall:

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, evaluate and handle complex phenomena, issues and situations, also with limited information available,
- demonstrate the ability to critically, autonomously and creatively identify and formulate problems as well as plan and complete advanced tasks by the use of adequate methods and within given time frames, and thereby contribute to the knowledge development as well as evaluate this work,
- in national as well as international contexts, demonstrate the ability to orally as well as in writing clearly account for and discuss their conclusions as well as the knowledge and reasonings on which they are based, in dialogue with various groups,
- demonstrate the skills required to participate in research and development work, or skills required for employment in some other professional practice.

Judgement and Approach

For a Degree of Master, students shall:

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study with regard to relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues, and demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects on 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,
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and to develop the individual competence.

Content

The programme is organised by the Faculty of Social Sciences, and has an appointed programme coordinator who is responsible for the overall administration, organisation and quality development.

Programme Overview

The master programme comprises four semesters of full-time studies and is concluded with a degree project. The organisation of the programme provides opportunities for individual choices of courses at the second-cycle level within different fields of social work. The choice of courses reflects the research domains at the department. The programme includes two compulsory courses in the theory of science and in qualitative and quantitative methods, comprising a total of 15 credits, these courses are given in English.

Students may choose intermediate exit point with a Degree of Master (60 credits), provided that the associated requirements are fulfilled.

Programme Courses

There are entry requirements applied for each course, which are specified in the course syllabuses.

Year 1

The first year of study includes compulsory courses comprising 15 credits in the theory of science and in qualitative and quantitative methods at the second-cycle level. The remaining 45 credits during the first year are comprised of courses at the second-cycle level in social work, such as the courses Organisation and Management in Social Welfare, 15 credits; Social Work with Children, Young Persons and Families, 15 credits; Social Science Theories and Social Work, 15 credits; Disability Studies in the Welfare Society, 15 credits; Social Work in Times of Migration: Perspectives on Policies, Institutions and Practices, 15 credits. There is also the opportunity to study other corresponding relevant courses within the field of social sciences. These courses are applied for in consultation with the programme coordinator.

Year 2

During the second year of study, a variety of courses at the second-cycle level are given within the field of social work, comprising 30 credits. Students may also choose to study one or several of the faculty's range of courses offered at the second-cycle level. Students may also choose to study one or several courses at an optional level. The year is concluded with a degree project comprising 30 credits within the main field of study Social Work.

The programme gives the students the opportunity to study the courses in an optional order, but is to be concluded with a degree project. In order to qualify for the degree project course, it is required that the student first passes the compulsory courses in the theory of science and qualitative and quantitative methods. For a Degree of Master in Social Work, it is required that at least 90 credits are obtained in second-cycle studies and at least half of the courses must belong to the main field of study Social Work.

The following shall be included in a Degree of Master in Social Work:

1. 45 credits at the second-cycle level (of which at least 15 credits shall be comprised of the main field of study Social Work).
2. 15 credits in compulsory courses in the theory of science and in qualitative and quantitative methods at the second-cycle level (included in the main field of study Social Work).
3. 30 credits at optional level.
4. A degree project comprising 30 credits at the second-cycle level within the main field of study Social Work.

Societal Relevance

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 field at a local, national and at an international level.

Internationalisation

Students are given the opportunity to carry out a part of their studies abroad during the programme. 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 programme coordinator and the international coordinator. The international perspective of the programme is particularly focused on the consequences of globalisation and migration on social work.

Programme Perspectives

Sustainable development

The Social Work Master Programme (120 credits) has a focus on social change and innovative social work with the aim of counteracting discrimination, promoting equal rights and opportunities as well as creating a long-term sustainable social development and professional practice.

Equal terms

Diversity is a focal point throughout the programme. The term diversity entails gender, age, culture, social class, ethnicity, sexuality and disability with different types of marginalization. The teaching is based on actively preventing discrimination and has an ethical focus, in relation to the content of the teaching as well as in relation to the aim of having an equal, tolerant and inclusive educational environment.

Broadened knowledge perspective

The programme offers the students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge perspective and develop a critical and ethical approach within the field of social work and social sciences, by engaging in current social scientific research and theories as well as classics, and by placing social work in relation to the international scientific context.

Entrepreneurial Approach

The studies prepare the students for the development of an entrepreneurial approach in the organisational development of their future professional practice. The aim of the teaching and the course content is for students to develop knowledge of social work and social entrepreneurship that promotes professional development in the form of responsibility, curiosity and initiative.

Quality Development

The board of the Faculty of Social Sciences holds the overall responsibility for the quality of the education and the systematic quality assurance in terms of follow-up of the programme as a whole and the progression of the studies, and shall develop the relevance to people representing outside interests and the relation to current research. The programme assures student participation and leverage through systematic implementation of written evaluations of each course and the programme, and through student representation in the faculty board, working committee and programme council (or the equivalent). The students' views are used as a basis for the board's quality assurance. Compilations of various evaluations are accessible through the university.

Degree Certificate

After completed studies in accordance with the objectives specified by the Higher Education Ordinance and the Linnaeus University System of Qualifications, the student can apply for a degree certificate. Those having completed the Social Work Master Programme (120 credits) can obtain the following degree:

Master of Science (120 credits)
(Main field of study: Social Work)

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

Other Information

Information about teaching and examination is provided in the respective syllabuses of the courses included in the programme.

A Degree of Master of Science comprising 60 credits in the main field of study Social Work can be obtained in accordance with the system of qualifications. At least 45 credits shall be comprised of second-cycle studies and at least half of the courses shall be comprised of courses within the main field of study Social Work, of which 15 credits shall comprise a degree project at the second-cycle level in Social Work, and 15 credits shall be comprised of courses in the theory of science and in qualitative and quantitative methods at the second-cycle level.