



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 2021-12-02 by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Social Sciences

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2022

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 within the field of social sciences or behavioural science.
- English A.
- A good command of the Swedish language is required.

Description of Programme

The master's programme in social work is a continuing professional development programme focusing on the link to current research into the field of social work and the professional role as a social worker. The programme prepares students for qualified social work as well as for third-cycle studies, with a clear awareness of the research and knowledge tradition they find themselves working within. The students will gain a deeper understanding of the professional role and what it entails in terms of pursuing knowledge-based social work. The master's programme also prepares the students for third-cycle studies and completed education provides the formal entry requirements required in order to apply for third-cycle studies in social work.

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, independently and creatively identify and define 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 holds the overall responsible for the administration, organisation and quality development of the programme.

Programme Overview

The master's programme comprises four semesters of full-time studies (the degree project in semester 4 may, however, be studied at a 50% pace if the student so wishes), alternatively eight semesters of studies at 50% pace with a somewhat different course of study than applied at full-time. The programme is given on campus and is concluded with a degree project. The studies are carried out at the second-cycle level and the language of instruction is both in Swedish and English. Some of the courses may be studied together with students in other programmes.

The course of study during the first two semesters follows two different routes depending on the student's academic background.

- Route I: The student has completed six semesters in the Social Work Study Programme and has applied for the award of degree of bachelor of science in social work or the equivalent. Semester seven in the social work study programme is also the first semester in the master's programme. The second semester in the master's programme is an introductory semester consisting of two compulsory courses in social work and two compulsory courses in methodology.
- Route II: The student has a degree of bachelor of science in social work or the equivalent. The first semester in the master's programme is an introductory semester consisting of two compulsory courses in social work and two compulsory courses in methodology. Semester two in the programme consists of two elective courses in social work, each comprising 15 credits.

For both route I and II, the following apply:

- Semester 3 is a specific reading course semester consisting of optional courses.
- Semester 4 is the semester in which the students write their degree project comprising 30 credits.

Programme Courses

(* = included in the main field of study)

Route 1

Semester 1

Semester 1 in the master's programme is semester seven in the social work study programme and consists of two courses, each comprising 15 credits.

*Professional Social Work, 15 credits (AIN)**

The course is related to the future professional practice of the social work students. The overall aim of the course is to support the students' preparation for becoming independent social workers by giving them the opportunity to integrate knowledge acquired in previous courses in the social work study programme and learn how to apply this in their individual work.

*Elective course in Social Work, 15 credits (AIN)**

Each semester, the department of social work offers a range of elective courses, which may vary from year to year. The courses given below are examples of courses that may be offered. The aim of these courses is to give the students the opportunity to acquire advanced knowledge within different fields of research in social work.

*Thematic Course; Organisation and Management in Social Welfare, 15 credits (AIN)**

The course highlights organisation and leadership theories and how these are applied in relation to actual organisational issues in the social welfare sector. The course also looks into issues on labour law, equality and diversity in the institutional context.

*Thematic Course; Disability Studies in the Welfare Society, 15 credits (AIN)**

The course highlights for instance current research into the field of disabilities. The course also includes theoretical perspectives and social, medical, developmental psychological, gender and cultural aspects on disabilities. Legislation on disability is also a major part of the course.

*Social Work with Children, Young People and Families, 15 credits (AIN)**

The course deals with social scientific theories concerning social work with children and families. The course also includes critical examination of current research into the field of social child welfare. Within the scope of the course, a professional approach in the treatment of children and families is also discussed, as well as supportive discussions with fictional families conducted under supervision.

*Thematic course; Violence across the Life Course, 15 credits (A1N)**

The course is an interdisciplinary course and violence is studied on the basis of a life course perspective, which entails different kinds of abusive relationships and contexts of violence. Early on in the course, the student shall choose a field for specialised study, such as violence against children, youth violence in context, violence against older people, men's violence against women or domestic violence.

Semester 2

Semester 2 consists of four compulsory courses each comprising 7.5 credits

*Social Work as a Scientific Discipline, 7.5 credits (A1N)**

The aim of the course is to provide a deeper understanding and knowledge of social work as a scientific discipline, nationally as well as internationally, and the features of this discipline in terms of topic, theories and methods.

*Critical Social Work and Social Change, 7.5 credits (A1N)**

The aim of the course is to provide the students with a deeper understanding and knowledge of the critical perspectives in relation to social work and change management, and deals with content such as social change, social justice, critical analysis of power and the ethical values of social work.

*Qualitative Methods in Social Science, 7.5 credits (A1N)**

This course looks into the key parts of the research process with the emphasis on qualitative methods: research ethics, problem definition, research design and choice of methods, analysis and presentation of results. The aim of the course is for students to acquire general as well as specialised knowledge of qualitative methods.

*Quantitative Methods in Social Science, 7.5 credits (A1N)**

This course looks into the key parts of the research process with the emphasis on quantitative methods: problem definition, research design and choice of methods, collection of data, analysis and presentation of results. The aim of the course is for students to acquire general as well as specialised knowledge.

Route II

Semester 1

Semester 1 is an introductory semester consisting of four compulsory courses each comprising 7.5 credits.

*Social Work as a Scientific Discipline, 7.5 credits (A1N)**

The aim of the course is to provide a deeper understanding and knowledge of social work as a scientific discipline, nationally as well as internationally, and the features of this discipline in terms of topic, theories and methods.

*Critical Social Work and Social Change, 7.5 credits (A1N)**

The aim of the course is to provide the students with a deeper understanding and knowledge of the critical perspectives in relation to social work and change management, and deals with content such as social change, social justice, critical analysis of power and the ethical values of social work.

*Qualitative Methods in Social Science, 7.5 credits (A1N)**

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*Quantitative Methods in Social Science, 7.5 credits (A1N)**

This course looks into the key parts of the research process with the emphasis on quantitative methods: problem definition, research design and choice of methods, collection of data, analysis and presentation of results. The aim of the course is for students to acquire general as well as specialised knowledge.

Semester 2

Semester 2 is a semester consisting of a range of elective second-cycle courses, which may vary from year to year. The courses below are examples of courses that may be offered. The aim of these courses is to give the students the opportunity to acquire specialised knowledge within various fields of research in social work.

*Thematic Course; Organisation and Management in Social Welfare, 15 credits (A1N)**

The course highlights organisation and leadership theories and how these are applied in relation to actual organisational issues in the social welfare sector. The course also looks into issues on labour law, equality and diversity in the institutional context.

*Thematic Course; Disability Studies in the Welfare Society, 15 credits (A1N)**

The course highlights for instance current research into the field of disabilities. The course also includes theoretical perspectives and social, medical, developmental psychological, gender and cultural aspects on disabilities. Legislation on disability is also a major part of the course.

*Thematic course; Social Work with Children, Young People and Families, 15 credits (A1N)**

The course deals with social scientific theories concerning social work with children and families. The course also includes critical examination of current research into the field of social child welfare. Within the scope of the course, a professional approach in the treatment of children and families is also discussed, as well as supportive discussions with fictional families conducted under supervision.

*Thematic course; Violence across the Life Course, 15 credits (A1N)**

The course is an interdisciplinary course and violence is studied on the basis of a life course perspective, which entails different kinds of abusive relationships and contexts of violence. Early on in the course, the student shall choose a field for specialised study, such as violence against children, youth violence in context, violence against older people, men's violence against women or domestic violence.

Routes I and II

Semester 3

Semester 3 is a semester consisting of optional reading courses. The courses can be studied within the field of social work or within another main field of study, at whatever level the students themselves choose and at Linnaeus University or at another higher education institution in Sweden or abroad. The aim of this semester is to give the student the chance to adopt a specific profile in their studies.

Semester 4

Semester 4 consist of writing a degree project on 30 credits.

*Degree Project, 30 credits (A2E)**

The main element of the course is carrying out an independent project/degree project of a scientific nature, comprising 30 credits in social work.

Societal Relevance

The Social Work Master Programme (120 credits) has close contacts with social services in the counties of Blekinge, Kalmar and Kronoberg. This deals with monitoring current social work in the field and relevant links to research based on the events and changes taking place in the surrounding society. Research into the field of social work has a natural connection with social work in practice and the surrounding society. Representatives from both the users and the profession participate continuously in the programme.

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 agreements that Linnaeus University has with foreign universities. Studies abroad are always to be planned in consultation between the programme coordinator and the international coordinator, and students are encouraged to make use of international platforms in terms of knowledge exchange. The international perspective of the programme is particularly focused on the consequences of globalisation and migration for social work.

Sustainable development

Linnaeus University is committed to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Sustainable development is a key feature within the field of social work, focusing on people's living conditions and social change. The approach is in Swedish called green social work and deals with ecological, economic and social justice. Ecological sustainability deals with the human impact on climate and environment in relation to their living conditions. Global warming and climate change affect the poor people the most in terms of marginalised groups' health, welfare and opportunities in life. Economic sustainability can be related to issues on sustainable welfare and a just allocation of resources based on the human needs. Social sustainability is of crucial importance to the democratic society and most necessary in a social economic perspective. The recognition of the idea that all human beings are equal in dignity and rights is of great importance to sustainable social work. Social sustainability may also be related to a professional approach where the treatment is permeated by a sense of trust, assurance and confidence and where the preventive structural work is developed and given the space required.

Quality Development

The programme assures student influence through implementation of written evaluations after each course, where the results are followed up on by the faculty staff. Programme evaluations are conducted through the evaluation tool Linnébarometern. Compilations of various evaluations are accessible through the university. Students are represented in the faculty board, working committee and programme council (or the equivalent).

Degree Certificate

After completed studies in accordance with the objectives specified by the Higher Education Ordinance System of Qualifications and the Linnaeus University Local System of Qualifications, the student may apply for a degree. 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).

Courses previously given within the same programme code, VASA2, may also be included in the degree and will then replace courses with equivalent content.

Other Information

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

Any additional costs that may arise in connection with studies at another higher education institution in semester 3, are paid for by the students themselves.

In order to apply for a Degree of Master of Science in Social Work, a completed degree project comprising 15 credits in semester 2 in the programme is required.