



## Programme syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Socionomprogrammet, 210 högskolepoäng

Social Work Study Programme, 210 credits

### **Level**

First Level

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved 2013-05-30

Revised 2013-05-30 by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Social Sciences

The programme syllabus is valid from spring semester 2014

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements and Civics A, Mathematics B or Civics 1b / 1a1 +1a2, Mathematics 2a / 2b / 2c. General entry requirements for first cycle level study and Social Sciences A and Mathematics B

## Description of Programme

The aim of the study programme is to educate qualified social workers and to prepare students for further studies. Social Work is the programme's main field of study and is founded on knowledge about and understanding of the interaction between an individual, society and social interventions.

The Social Work Study Programme educates students to gain a professional qualification in the public, private and voluntary social welfare sectors, both nationally and internationally. Social workers work with preventive social work, treatment, social change, case processing, evaluation and development of social services, often in collaboration with other services and professions. Management and organization of social services are other work opportunities for social workers. The common workplaces for social workers are the social services, healthcare services, schools, treatment units, social care of the elderly and functionally impaired, correctional treatment, social welfare office, employment agency, immigration services and other state authorities.

The Social Work Study Programme prepares students for further studies at the second cycle level.

## Objectives

In accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance:

In order to gain a Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student has to demonstrate the knowledge and ability that is necessary for independently carrying out social work at individual, group and society levels.

### ***Knowledge and Understanding***

In order to gain a Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student is to:

- demonstrate knowledge of the subject's scientific basis as well as being acquainted with the current research and development work in the field,
- demonstrate knowledge about and an understanding of the interaction between individuals and groups' social situation, life conditions, physical and mental health as well as their ability to function in relation to societal and other background factors,
- demonstrate knowledge about management in the social work field, and
- demonstrate knowledge about and an understanding of the needs of children and of societal and family circumstances that can affect the life conditions of women and men.

### ***Skills and abilities***

In order to gain a Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student is to:

- demonstrate the skills and abilities that are necessary to develop and perform social work at different levels in society together with those concerned,
- demonstrate an ability to apply relevant legislation in particular in the social work field,
- demonstrate an ability to understand, investigate and analyze social processes and problems, and
- demonstrate an ability to identify, organize, investigate and evaluate services at individual, group and societal levels.

### ***Judgement and Approach***

In order to gain a Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student is to:

- demonstrate self-awareness and an empathic ability,
- demonstrate an ability to make assessments on services needed from the basis of relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects with particular consideration of human rights whilst maintaining a holistic view on mankind,
- demonstrate an ability to have a professional approach and attitude,
- demonstrate an insight into the importance of teamwork and cooperation with other professions, and
- demonstrate an ability to identify own needs for greater knowledge and for ongoing development of competence.

### ***Degree project paper***

In order to gain a Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student is to have completed a degree project paper comprising at least 15 credits.

### ***Programme-specific objectives***

Furthermore the Social Work Study Programme at Linnaeus University has the following programme-specific objectives:

The student will after completing the programme be able to:

- have knowledge of human rights and have the ability to counteract discrimination
- demonstrate knowledge about and analyze the conditions for professional social work and its development, nationally and internationally
- critically examine and apply methods for the joint development of knowledge between users, the study programme, research and the social services

## **Content**

### ***Organization***

The Social Work Study Programme is part of the Faculty of Health, Social Work and Behavioural Science and is given at the School of Social Work. The programme comprises 210 credits, of which 180 credits are on the first cycle level and 30 credits on the second cycle level.

There is a study programme coordinator for the Social work Study programme. Furthermore there is a study programme advisory board for the content and development of the programme, with representatives from the social services, other schools, students, user groups, teachers and a representative from a university in another

country.

### ***Programme Overview***

The programme is founded upon a theoretical understanding of a human being's life conditions and the origins of social problems. Furthermore the programme provides knowledge of legislation relevant for the social work field and how knowledge is generated.

The Social Work Study Programme trains the student in the ability to investigate social needs and issues, to evaluate social interventions, and to integrate scientific knowledge in the practical social work field. Students can gain more in-depth knowledge of specific areas through optional courses. The student's professional development permeates the whole programme and the aim of specific parts of the programme such as participation in supervision and reflection groups is to develop the student's ability to have a professional approach, empathy and be able to co-operate. Field studies and practical studies in the social work sector (30 credits) are a part of the programme. The courses in the programme are to be studied in the following order:

#### *1st Term*

The programme commences with a basic course about social work as subject, science and profession. The course contains theories in the social sciences, concepts in the theory of sciences, ethics and a professional approach. This is followed by studies of the organization of the welfare state and major socio-political principles. The course covers the growth and development of the Swedish welfare state and its organizational function in the Swedish society.

#### *2nd. Term*

The first course in the second term concerns relevant legislation for the social work field. The course provides an introduction to the legal system and knowledge about civil law and criminal law, as well as social law and international conventions about human rights. Theories within the sociological, socio-psychological and psychological fields of relevance for social work are studied in the second course.

#### *3rd. Term*

Skills in counselling, communication and approach in relation to individuals and groups with special needs, both from a management and user perspective, are studied and trained in the third term. The course contains knowledge of management of various types of services and at different levels within the social work field. The second course in the third term contains legislation with a focus on administrative law and methods for investigating and case processing.

#### *4th. Term*

The fourth term commences with studies of people's marginalization, common and specific life conditions and knowledge about preventive social work, and work methods and interventions in social work. The second course is optional. Examples of the courses to choose from are: social work with children, social work with the elderly, social work and disabilities, social work and criminality, social work and sport, social change and mobilization. In the third course the student's ability in academic writing is trained in a project paper with a focus on marginalization and social interventions. The fourth term finishes with a course on models for the study of and evaluation of social interventions and on what a knowledge-based social work entails.

#### *5th. Term*

The practical studies in the social work sector are carried out in the fifth term. During the course social work practice is critically studied in terms of theoretical knowledge and skills, this is done with the help of a supervisor. The course contains items where the aim is to develop a reflective approach and a professional identity. There are opportunities to carry out a part of or the whole of the term's studies in a foreign country.

### *6th. Term*

Greater knowledge of research and development work in the social work field is studied in the sixth term. In the first course the student gains knowledge of current research and further knowledge of the theory of science and scientific methodology. In the second course methodological skills, analytical skills and research ethical aspects are applied in an independently written degree project paper.

### *7th. Term*

The seventh term starts with in-depth studies of an optional subject on the second cycle level. Examples of such courses are: Social Work with children, young people and families, Life conditions for the elderly, Functional impairments and Disability in the welfare society, Youth culture, prevention and drugs; Organization and management in the welfare society and International social work. The number of optional courses can vary between terms and can be chosen in Kalmar or Växjö. The second course provides greater knowledge of professional social work and focuses on professionalization processes and the specific qualifications for social workers concerning assessment and interventions in knowledge-based social services. Collaboration with other professions is also studied in the course. There are opportunities to carry out a part of or the whole of the term's studies in a foreign country.

### ***Programme Courses***

#### **1st Term Social Work**

Social Work as a subject, a science and a profession, 15 credits G1N

The organization and socio-political principles of the welfare state, 15 credits G1N

#### **2nd. Term Legislation/Social Work**

Introduction to the legal system and social law, 15 credits G1N

Social science and behavioural science perspectives in social work, 15 credits G1N

#### **3rd. Term Social Work/Legislation**

Communication, approach and management, 15 credits G1N

Administrative law and methods for investigations and case processing, 15 credits G1N

#### **4th. Term Social Work**

Marginalization, life conditions and interventions, 7.5 credits G2F

Optional course in Social Work, 7.5 credits G2F

Project paper, 7.5 credits G2F

Evaluation and inspection, 7,5 credits G2F

#### **5th. Term Social Work**

Practical studies in the social work sector, 30 credits G2F

#### **6th. Term Social Work**

Research into social work, theory of science and research methodology, 15 credits G2F

Degree project paper, 15 credits G2E

#### **7th. Term Social Work**

Optional in-depth studies in social work, 15 credits A1N

Professional social work, collaboration and change, 15 credits A1N

G1N – first cycle level, entry requirements - only upper secondary school credits

G1F – first cycle level, entry requirements - less than 60 credits at first cycle level

G2F – first cycle level, entry requirements – at least 60 credits at first cycle level

G2E – first cycle level, entry requirements – at least 60 credits at first cycle level, contains degree project paper

A1N – second cycle level, entry requirements – only course(s) on first cycle level

A1E – second cycle level, contains degree project paper for 1st year master degree

### *Practical Studies and Community Contacts*

The Social Work Study Programme has close contacts with social services in the counties of Kalmar and Kronoberg. The students in the fifth term have a placement in the social work sector with professional social workers as supervisors, who receive training in supervision from Linnaeus University. The students have field studies in relevant workplaces throughout the course of the programme. Representatives from both the users and the profession participate continuously in the programme. Furthermore there is collaboration with research and development units in the counties in issues that concern the programme's practical studies.

The teachers in the Social Work Study Programme are members of a number of international networks, which entails an active international exchange for both teachers and students. The students are, via Linnaeus University, offered the opportunity to participate in voluntary social work activities.

### *Studies Abroad*

Students have the opportunity to carry out a part of their studies in a foreign country. This can preferably take place in the fifth or seventh terms but there are also possibilities for studying abroad during other terms. 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 Study Programme is founded upon national and international, ethical principles about human rights and social justice as a basis for the development of a socially sustainable society. The Social Work Study Programme is focused on social change and innovative social work with the aim of counteracting discrimination, promoting equal rights and opportunities and creating a long-term sustainable social development.

A perspective on diversity is a major theme throughout the programme. The teaching is founded upon an active process of counteracting discrimination and has an ethical perspective.

Social work is placed in an international context. Issues concerning globalization and migration have a particular focus in the international perspective.

## Quality Development

Each course is evaluated and the evaluation forms the basis for the development of the quality of the programme. Evaluations take place continually in a dialogue with the student representatives in the programme advisory board, whose main assignment is concerned with quality assurance. The views of students, teachers and the programme advisory board contribute to the development of the programme. Students can also exert influence through taking part in other boards and decision-making bodies. The whole programme is continually evaluated by students as well as among alumni. The course and programme evaluations are compiled and retained by the school.

## 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 Study Programme can receive the following degree:

### *Bachelor of Science in Social Work*

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

## Other Information

The student who has completed six terms of the Social Work Study Programme (180 credits) can apply for a Bachelor of Science (main field of study: Social Work).

After completion of the programme a student can study a further term at the second cycle level in order to be able to apply for a one year Master degree (main field of study: Social Work).