



## Programme syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Socionomprogrammet, 210 högskolepoäng  
Social Work Study Programme, 210 credits

### Level

First Level

### Date of Ratification

Approved 2009-06-17

Revised 2015-06-02 by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Social Sciences

The programme syllabus is valid from spring semester 2016

### Prerequisites

General entry requirements and Civics 1b / 1a1 + 1a2, Mathematics 2a / 2b / 2c or Civics A, Mathematics B (Field-specific entry requirements 5/A5). General entry requirements, plus Mathematics B, Social Sciences A or Mathematics 2a / 2b / 2c, Social Sciences 1b / 1a1 + 1a2 (field-specific entry requirements 5/A5).

### Description of Programme

The aim of the Social Work Study Programme is to educate qualified social workers as well as prepare them for further study. Social work forms the principal field and bases itself on knowledge and understanding about the interplay between people, the surrounding community and social interventions.

The Social Work Study Programme provides training in professional competence for the social welfare sector, under public, private and non-profit management, nationally and internationally. Social workers work with preventative social work, treatment, work with social change, case management, evaluation and development of social operations – often in collaboration with other organisations and professions. Personnel management and organisation of social operations are other tasks for social workers. Common working areas include social services, health and medical care, schools, treatment homes, social care work with older people and people with disabilities, treatment of offenders, social insurance, employment offices, migration agencies and other government authorities.

The Social Work Programme provides preparation for studies at second-cycle level.

### Objectives

The Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100) up until SFS 2008:944 states that in order to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the student shall have acquired the knowledge and practical ability required for social work at individual, group and society level

**Knowledge and understanding**For the Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the student shall:

- 1 show knowledge of the academic basis of the field and familiarity with current research and development work;
- 1 show knowledge and understanding of the interplay between individuals' and groups' social situations, living conditions, physical and mental health as well as the ability to function in relation to social and other underlying factors;
- 1 show knowledge of leadership within social work, and
- 1 show knowledge and understanding of a child's need and the conditions in society and within family relationships that affect the conditions for women and men.

**Skills and abilities**For the Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the student shall:

- 1 show the skills and abilities required to develop and conduct social work in different levels of society, cooperating with those people affected;
- 1 show the ability to apply the relevant legislation within the social area in particular;
- 1 show the ability to understand, investigate and analyse social processes and problems, and
- 1 show the ability to identify, structure, investigate and evaluate actions at individual, group and society-based levels.

**Evaluation ability and attitudes**For the Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the student shall:

- 1 show self-awareness and empathetic ability,
- 1 show the ability to conduct operational assessments with an overall view of the individual and based upon the relevant academic, social and ethical aspects, paying particular attention to human rights,
- 1 show the ability for professional approaches and attitudes,
- 1 show insight into the importance of team work and cooperation with other professions, and
- 1 show the ability to identify their need for further knowledge and continually develop their skills.

**Independent project (degree project)**For the Bachelor of Science in Social Work, the student shall, within the framework for the course requirements, have completed an independent project (degree project) worth a minimum of 15 credits.

**Programme-specific learning outcomes**In addition to the above-stated outcomes, the Social Work Study Programme at Linnaeus University has the following programme-specific learning outcomes: Upon completion of the programme, the student will

- 1 Show the ability to integrate knowledge of human rights, social rights and anti-discrimination into social work.
- 1 Show knowledge and the ability to critically analyse the professional conditions and development of social work, from a national and international perspective.

## Content

**Organisation**The Social Work Study Programme is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences and is given by the Department of Social Work.



The content, format, quality and progression of the course are frequently discussed in various forums with internal and external operators. The Social Work Study Programme coordinator participates in these forums together with representatives from social organisations, other departments at Linnaeus University, social work programmes around Sweden, student, user representatives, departmental tutors and social work educational representatives from foreign universities. Student influence is made possible through committees and other deciding bodies.

**Programme overview**The programme builds upon a theoretical understanding of a person's circumstances and the origin of social problems. In addition, the programme provides knowledge about the important legislation for practical social work and how knowledge is produced.

The Social Work Study Programme provides skills for investigating social needs and issues, evaluating social interventions and integrating theory-based knowledge into practical social work. Individual specialisation takes place via elective courses. Professional development permeates the entire programme. Specific components such as supervisions and reflection groups aim to develop the student's abilities for professional attitudes, empathy and cooperation. The programme includes field studies and work placement training worth 30 credits. The courses in the programme are studied in the order as follows.

#### Semester 1

The programme begins with a basic course in social work as a subject, science and profession. The course contains theories from the social sciences, terms from the theory of science, ethics and professional attitudes. After this, the organisation and central socio-political principles of the welfare state are studied. The course explores the growth and structure of the Swedish welfare system and its organisation and function in Swedish society.

#### Semester 2

The first course in semester 2 focuses on the relevant laws for the main area of social work. The course provides an introduction to the legal system and knowledge of civil and criminal law, social law and international conventions on human rights. The second course studies sociological, socio-psychological and psychological theory formulation important to social work.

#### Semester 3

Semester 3 studies and practises interview skills, communication and attitudes in relation to people and groups with specific needs, from both a user and leader perspective. The course includes information about leadership of individual operations and at different levels of social work. The second course of semester 3 examines law, focusing on administrative law as well as case management and investigation methods.

#### Semester 4

At the start of the fourth semester, deeper knowledge will be obtained regarding people's vulnerability and mutual and specific living conditions. Moreover, the course focuses on the knowledge of preventative social work, work methods and interventions in social work on individual, group and society-based levels. The second course practises academic writing skills for a paper /project area focusing upon vulnerability and social interventions. Semester 4 concludes with a course about models for scrutinising and evaluating social interventions, in addition to studies about what knowledge-based social work entails.

#### Semester 5

The work placement training (VFU) takes place in semester 5. During the teaching period, the social practice is scrutinised and problematised based on theoretical knowledge and abilities under supervision. The course contains components where the aim is to develop a reflective attitude and professional career identity. It is possible to spend the entire or part of the semester studying abroad.



#### Semester 6

Semester 6 expands upon knowledge about research and development within social work. The first course provides the students with current research and deepens their knowledge within the theory of science and research methodology. The second course applies methodological skills, analytical ability and aspects of research ethics to an independent project/degree project.

#### Semester 7

Semester 7 begins with an elective specialisation course at advanced level. Examples of elective courses include: Social work with children, young people and families, The living conditions of the elderly, Disabilities in a welfare society, Organisation and leadership in a welfare society and International social work. Elective courses can change from semester to semester and can be chosen from either the Kalmar or Växjö campuses. There is no guarantee that students will be admitted to their first choice of course. The other course provides deeper knowledge about professional social work, focusing on professionalisation processes and the specific skills of social workers regarding evaluation and intervention from knowledge-based social work. The course also studies the cooperation with other professions. It is possible to spend the entire or part of the semester studying abroad.

The above-stated courses in the Social Work Study Programme are compulsory for the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work unless otherwise stated above, as is the possibility to study abroad or elective courses.

#### Courses in the programme SEMESTER 1 Social work

Social work as subject, science and profession, 15 credits G1N  
Welfare State Organisation and Principles of Social Policy, 15 credits G1N

#### SEMESTER 2 Legal/Social work

Introduction to the Legal System and Social Law, 15 credits G1N  
Social and behavioural science perspectives in Social work, 15 credits G1N

#### SEMESTER 3 Social work/Law

Communication, approach and management, 15 credits Law and investigative methodology, 15 credits G1F

#### SEMESTER 4 Social work

Vulnerability, conditions and interventions on individual, group and society level, 15 credits G2F  
Paper/project work, 7.5 credits G2F  
Evaluation in social work, 7.5 credits G2F

#### SEMESTER 5 Social work

Work placement training (VFU), 30 credits G2F

#### SEMESTER 6 Social work

Research in social work, theory of science and research methodology, 15 credits  
Degree project, 15 credits G2E

#### SEMESTER 7 Social work

Elective advanced course in social work, 15 credits A1N  
Professional Social Work, 15 credits A1N

G1N first-cycle level, only has upper-secondary level entry requirements  
G1F first-cycle level, less than 60 credits from first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, G2F, minimum of 60 credits from first-cycle course/s as entry requirements  
G2E first-cycle level, minimum of 60 credits from first cycle course/s as entry requirements, includes degree project for Degree of Bachelor  
A1N second-cycle level, only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements, A1E second-cycle level, includes degree project for Degree of Master (60 credits)

Work placement training and external contacts

The Social Work Study Programme cooperates with user organisations and organisations that run and develop social work for the social welfare area of Kalmar and Kronoberg county. Semester 5 includes work placement training within the field of social work with a professional supervisor. Repeated field-based studies at the workplace relevant to social work recur throughout the course. User and organisational

### 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).