



Faculty of Social and Life Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Master's Degree Programme on Region Building

Programme Code	SAREG
Programme Title	Master's Degree programme on Region Building
Credits/ECTS:	120
Programme Approval	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board for Social and Life Sciences on 15 December 2010 and is valid from the autumn term of 2011 at Karlstad University.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish
Degree Level:	Master's (60/120 ECTS cr)
Degree Type:	General
Prerequisites	General admission requirements for studies at Master's level. Special requirements: Swedish B/Swedish 2 B. For the chosen Major: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- History: Bachelor's Degree of 180 ECTS credits with a major in history, or equivalent.- Human Geography: Bachelor's Degree of 180 ECTS credits with a major in human geography, tourism studies, environmental science, or a professional engineering degree in GIS, or equivalent. The major in tourism studies, environmental science and GIS must have a social science basis.- Political Science: Bachelor's Degree of 180 ECTS credits with a major in political science, or equivalent.- Social Work: General or professional Bachelor's Degree of 180 ECTS credits with a major in social care or social work, or equivalent.- Sociology: Bachelor's Degree of 180 ECTS credits with a major in sociology or social psychology, or equivalent.

Introduction

Increasingly, regions are responsible for managing societal issues in a globalised world, which involves approaching complex regional community building from different perspectives. The Region Building programme centres on different regional life environments, organisation and development in a comparative perspective and in relation to different levels of society. Region building associates with a constructive and developmental approach, which concerns many areas of society, for example politics, economy and social, cultural and physical conditions.

Several Bachelor-level degrees provide a suitable study background for the Master-level region-building programme, which is professionally oriented as well as preparing for doctoral studies and conveying a broad understanding of the complexity of region building. The programme opens several professional opportunities in areas such as investigation, evaluation, development, planning and project work in public agencies and other national or international organisations. Students develop skills in presenting issues of region building in dialogue with different actors orally and in writing nationally and in international contexts. Students also earn general eligibility for the research school on region building (see prerequisites).

Aims and Learning Outcomes

Education at Master's level must build on the knowledge required at undergraduate level or equivalent, and entail a deepening of knowledge, skills and abilities in relation to previous studies. In addition it should

- further develop students' ability to independently integrate and apply knowledge,
- develop students' ability to handle complex phenomena, issues and situations,
- develop students' capacity for occupations requiring a high degree of independence or for research and investigative work.

(Ch. 1 §9 Higher Education Law 1992:1434)

The Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100) further stipulates the general requirements for various Degree types and the local institution's right to add specific requirements.

National Objectives for the 60 ECTS cr Master's Degree:

Knowledge and understanding

To earn a 60 ECTS cr Master's degree, students should be able to demonstrate

- knowledge and understanding of the main field of study, including a broad command of the field and deeper knowledge of selected areas, as well as insight into current research and development, and deeper knowledge of the methodology of the main field of study.

Skills and abilities

To earn a 60 ECTS cr Master's degree students should be able to demonstrate

- the ability to integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, problems and situations, even when having access only to a limited amount of information,
- the ability to independently identify and formulate problems and the ability to plan and carry out advanced tasks and assignments within a given deadline,
- the ability to communicate and interact with various groups in presenting and discussing information and conclusions and the knowledge and argument on which these are based both orally and in writing, and
- the skills required to take active part in research and development or to work in other qualified areas.

Judgement and approach

To earn a 60 ECTS cr Master's degree, students should be able to demonstrate

- the ability to make appropriate judgements in the main field of study with respect to relevant scientific, societal and ethical aspects, and an awareness of ethical issues in research and development,
- insight into the possibilities and limitations of scientific research, the role of science in society, and our responsibility for its use,
- the ability to identify their own need for further knowledge and training and take responsibility for updating it.

Local Objectives for the 60 ECTS cr Master's Degree Programme Region Building at Karlstad University:

In addition to the national objectives for the One-Year Master's Degree, students should also be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- knowledge and understanding of the various meanings and changes taking place over time in region building,
- knowledge of the basis and conditions for region building,
- knowledge of methods applicable to problem inventory analysis in the region building area,
- knowledge of cross-sector approaches to region building,
- understanding of theory of science, research ethics and research methodology.

Skills and abilities

- ability to identify and describe different conditions and objectives of region building and how these are related,
- ability to identify factors in society affecting region building,
- ability to give an account of actors and their roles and responsibilities with regard to region building,
- ability to collaborate cross-sectorally,
- ability to identify, assess and evaluate issues regarding region building,
- ability to investigate and evaluate issues pertaining to region building,
- skills in planning and conducting development work in region building.

Judgement and approach

- ability to analyse and assess the quality of key components and the totality of region building,
- ability to assess research methods and results, their potentials and limitations in the area of region building,
- awareness of the ethical aspects of research and development work.

National Objectives for the 120 ECTS cr Master's Degree:

Knowledge and understanding

To earn a 120 ECTS cr Master's degree, students should be able to demonstrate

- knowledge and understanding of the main field of study, including a broad command of the field and deeper knowledge of selected areas, as well as deep insight into current research and development, and
- deeper knowledge of the methodology of the main field of study.

Skills and abilities

To earn a 120 ECTS cr Master's degree students should be able to demonstrate

- the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, problems and situations, even when having access only to a limited amount of information,
- the ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate problems and carry out and evaluate advanced tasks and assignments using appropriate methods within a given deadline, thus contributing to knowledge development,
- the ability to communicate and interact with various groups in presenting and discussing information and conclusions and the knowledge and argument on which these are based both orally and in writing, and
- the skills required to take active part in research and development or to work independently in other qualified areas.

Judgement and approach

To earn a 120 ECTS cr Master's degree, students should be able to demonstrate

- the ability to make appropriate judgements in the main field of study with respect to relevant scientific, societal and ethical aspects, and an awareness of ethical issues in research and development,
- insight into the possibilities and limitations of scientific research, the role of science in society, and our responsibility for its use,
- the ability to identify their own need for further knowledge and training and take responsibility for updating it.

Local Objectives for the 120 ECTS cr Master's Degree Programme Region Building at Karlstad University:

In addition to the national objectives for the 120 ECTS cr Master's Degree, students should also be able to demonstrate:

Knowledge and understanding

- deepened knowledge and understanding of different perspectives of region building regarding basis, objectives and changes over time,
- deepened knowledge of the basis and conditions for region building,
- deepened knowledge of the scientific method generally,
- deepened knowledge of the theory of science, research ethics and research methodology.
- deepened knowledge of the methodology in the field of region building.

Skills and abilities

- ability to plan and develop and actively participate in and evaluate region building,
- ability to collaborate with different professional actors,
- ability to identify and assess possibilities for to be taken in region building,
- ability to initiate and support processes involving mobilizing individual resources to manage region building,
- ability to critically and ethically examine their own work in the field of region building.

Judgement and approach

- ability to assess ethical problems and argue for and against different issues in the field of region building,
- ability to analyse and assess quality and effect in region building from a broad societal perspective,
- ability to assess research methods and results, potentials and limitations in relation to region building issues.

Programme Structure

The programme comprises 120 ECTS credits and runs over two years, full-time. Throughout the programme, two courses are offered parallel at half speed, providing the chance to study part-time. After the first year, students may conclude the programme and settle for a one-year Master's degree.

In addition to a methodology course of 15 ECTS cr, methodological issues are integrated in all courses.

Students are offered opportunities to gain working experience in connection with the independent projects.

Independent project (Degree project)

For a Degree of Master (60 ECTS cr) students must have completed an independent project (degree project) worth at least 15 higher education credits (ECTS) in their main field of study.

For a Degree of Master (120 ECTS cr) students must have completed an independent project (degree project) worth at least 30 higher education credits (15+15 ECTS cr) in their main field of study.

Programme Content

Region Building is a multidisciplinary programme, which means that complex societal problems are addressed from several perspectives, thus creating public benefit as well as new academic approaches. The Master's programme comprises the following disciplines: history, human geography, social work, sociology and political science. Programme courses are thematically designed to incorporate the disciplines to varying degrees.

<u>Courses</u>	<u>ECTS cr</u>
Term 1:	
Local and regional development	7.5
Disciplinary perspectives on region building	7.5
Glocal relations	7.5
Mobilities	7.5
Term 2:	
Power and forms of governance	7.5
Sustainable regions	7.5
Independent project in Region Building I	15
Term 3:	
Theory of science	7.5
Regional organisation in time and space	7.5
Identities and cultures	7.5
Welfare and illfare	7.5
Term 4:	
Methodology	15
Independent project in Region Building II	15

Course descriptions

Terms 1 and 2

Local and regional development

Issues of changes in society are identified and problematised in terms of society as a complex phenomenon in continuous process of development in different spheres over time. The course provides perspectives on local and regional development in an international context.

Disciplinary perspectives on region building

The programme disciplines give their knowledge and research perspectives on region building. The course concludes with a synthesis discussion of the perspectives.

Glocal relations

States of dependency in the global and local relation are treated. Understanding local tendencies requires understanding of their links to global trends and changes in modern times. This relationship is often referred to as a 'glocal' relationship in which political, economic, social, cultural and ecological changes are important aspects.

Mobilities

The consequences of different types of 'mobilities' for society and welfare are addressed, such as mobility and region enlargement, tourism and leisure travelling, the 'high mobility' occasioned by ICT, migration and multicultural societies, and the impact of mobility on risk society.

Power and forms of governance

Old and new forms of power and governance are discussed. A central aspect is power and the contemporary development of governance in complex environments and networks. Power is related to societal structures of social groups and geographical environments and the ethical issues of region building are discussed.

Sustainable regions

Sustainable region building integrating ecological, social, democratic and economic dimensions for current and future needs is problematised. There are contradictory approaches to the realization of sustainable development, which in this course is regarded as a field of tension between different actors at regional and local levels. Actual examples of local and regional processes for creating sustainable development are studied.

Independent project in Region Building I

The independent project must treat some aspect of region building and result in an individually planned, performed and presented project in the form of a thesis (15 ECTS cr.) The thesis must be firmly related to theory and science. Students may complete their first year with a Master's degree in their respective major. Students who choose to go on towards a 120 ECTS cr Master may use the thesis as an introductory part of problem formulation, research survey and method proposal for carrying out an empirical study in the course Independent project in Region Building II. The project can be carried out in conjunction with a future employer.

Terms 3 and 4

Theory of science

The aim of the course is that students acquire familiarity with theory of science issues and with the main features of the current debates and eagerness to be a knowledge-seeking person and researcher. Theoretical science aspects and traditions in region building are also treated.

Regional organisation in time and space

The course deals with societal forms of organisations in time and space with a focus on contemporary socioeconomic and political perspectives on regionalism and regionalisation. The perspective is mainly European. The relation between national and subnational levels is developed in relation to a number of economic, social and political trends. Regional economies are studied in terms of their links to, historically speaking, the development of specific social and political patterns locally. Such aspects are central to the understanding of current relations between region, nation and supranational actors like the EU.

Identities and cultures

The course centres on identity and identity-making and on the importance of cultural knowledge for region building, especially of lived culture or lifeworlds, traditions and lifestyles. Students study how the special features of places and regions, constructions and places and their respective links to material conditions are used in development efforts. Also studied is the importance of culture, art and the creative industries to regional development.

Welfare and illfare

The focus is on conditions for life quality and a sustainable society. The development of the concept welfare in conjunction with demographic, political, social and economic changes has placed great demands on the meaning of life quality. Equality, equal treatment and justice as well as marginalisation and alienation, or the challenges to welfare society, and ways of solving welfare issues are central course components.

Methodology

The course consists of four components, which are advanced methodology in the social sciences and region building. The social science research process is treated in terms of methodology and methods. This is followed by an examination of social science methods, qualitative and quantitative. The third component concerns the structure of an academic report. Finally, the methodology and methods treated are summarised and concluded.

Independent project in Region Building II

Students individually plan, perform and present a project in the form of a thesis firmly based on theory and science. The project can be in the form of a separate thesis worth 15 ECTS cr or a thesis of 30 ECTS cr which develops and completes the plan proposed in the course Independent project in Region Building I. The project can be carried out in conjunction with a future employer.

Examination

Examination formats are specified in each syllabus.

Degree Title

Upon completion of the programme, students are awarded a Master of Science in their chosen Major.

Master of Science (120 ECTS credits). Major: History

Master of Science (120 ECTS credits). Major: Human Geography

Master of Science (120 ECTS credits). Major: Social Work

Master of Science (120 ECTS credits). Major: Sociology

Master of Science (120 ECTS credits). Major: Political Science

It is also possible to earn a Master of Science Degree of 60 ECTS credits if the following requirements for studies at Master's level are met: at least 30 ECTS cr, including a degree project of 15 ECTS cr in the Major and/or included course in research methodology of at least 7.5 ECTS cr.

Transfer of Credits

Students have the right to transfer credits from other universities in Sweden or abroad. The recognition of previous education as credit for part of a course is subject to approval by the examiner. The recognition of previous education as credit for an entire course is subject to approval by Student Centre officers.

Additional Information

Students who enrolled before 1 July 2007 will complete their studies in accordance with the requirements of the earlier admission. Upon completion students may request degree and course certificates to be issued under the current ordinance if they meet its requirements.

The scope of the programme is specified in terms of a number of higher education credits. Full-time study in an academic year of 40 weeks corresponds to 60 higher education credits (ECTS cr).

Students must meet the special requirements for admission to the programme courses of their choice. Special requirements are specified in the respective syllabus.

Local regulations for the Bachelor's and Master's level at Karlstad University stipulate the rights and obligations of staff and students.