



Faculty of Life and Social Sciences

**PROGRAMME STUDY PLAN**  
**Community Planning: Project Management and Sustainable Environment**

<b>Programme Code</b>	SGSAM
<b>Programme Approval</b>	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Life and Social Sciences on 10 December 2008 (Reg.no. FAK3 2008/337) and is valid from the autumn semester of 2009 at Karlstad University. Revised 2009-10-01, 2011-08-25 valid from 2010, 2012-01-26 valid from autumn semester 2012.
<b>Programme Title</b>	Community Planning
<b>Credits</b>	180 ECTS cr.
<b>Language of Instruction</b>	Swedish
<b>Degree Level</b>	Bachelor's
<b>Degree Type</b>	General degree
<b>Prerequisites</b>	General admission requirements, plus either - field-specific eligibility A5 (Mathematics 2a or 2b or 2c, Social science 1b or 1a1 + 1a2) or - field-specific eligibility 5 (Mathematics B and Social science A).  Elective programme courses may have different admission requirements.

**General Information**

The study programme Community Planning is offered as part of the social science field. It is based on the disciplines human geography, political science and sociology,

which means that students can major in one of these subjects. There are also broader multidisciplinary aspects, which add a dimension of sustainability to the problem area. Students acquire broad and deepened knowledge relevant to public and private sector planning. They are prepared for the roles of community planner and project manager in different areas. Examples of areas covered are societal development and implementation, organising and managing implementation, the potential of community planning in local and regional development, democratic and social processes from a citizen and power perspective, and the planning and developing of sustainable environments.

### **Aims and Learning Objectives**

The educational aims are constituted by the national objectives of first level higher education and of the specific local programme objectives.

#### National objectives

Chapter 1, § 8, of the *Higher Education Act* (SFS 2006:173) states that first (Bachelor) level students are expected to

- develop their ability to make independent and critical assessments,
- develop their ability to define, formulate and solve problems, and
- develop their ability to deal with changes in working life.

In the field of study, students should, beyond the knowledge and skills required, also develop their ability to

- seek and assess scientific knowledge,
- follow the knowledge development, and
- exchange information with non-experts in the field.

The *Higher Education Ordinance* lists the following national aims and objectives for a Bachelor's degree (SFS 2006:1053):

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a degree of Bachelor students must

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the main field of study, including knowledge of the scientific basis of the field,
- knowledge of applicable methods in the field,
- in-depth knowledge of some part of the field and a general sense of current research issues.

#### *Skills and abilities*

For a degree of Bachelor students must

- demonstrate the ability to seek, gather and critically interpret information that is relevant to a problem and to critically discuss phenomena, issues and situations,
- demonstrate the ability to independently identify, formulate and solve problems and to perform tasks within specified time limits,
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss information, problems and solutions in dialogue with different groups, orally and in writing, and,

- demonstrate the skills required to work independently in the field that the education concerns.

#### *Assessment abilities and attitude*

For a degree of Bachelor students must

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in their main field of study, taking into account relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects,
- demonstrate insight into the role of knowledge in society and people's responsibility for how knowledge is used, and
- demonstrate ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to upgrade their capabilities.

#### Local objectives

In addition to the national objectives, community planning students at Karlstad University should acquire the knowledge and skills required to work independently with community planning in developmental and economic organisations, defining, formulating and solving problems and developing the ability to adapt to changes in working life.

Upon completion of the Community Planning Programme at Karlstad University, students should be able to demonstrate

- knowledge and understanding of the basic contexts of human geography, political science, sociology and multidisciplinary,
- knowledge of the role of organisational planning in society and of current research issues in the chosen area of specialisation,
- ability to independently identify, organise, analyse, critically evaluate and interpret social phenomena from a human geographical, sociological and political science perspective taking into account relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects,
- ability to find creative solutions to community planning problems,
- ability to apply basic gender analytical concepts and methods to the field,
- ability to apply different perspectives in assessing and solving community planning problems,
- ability to present and discuss, orally and in writing, their knowledge with experts as well as non-experts,
- ability to work independently and in conjunction with others in the field.

Students should also have completed an independent project of 15 ECTS cr. in the main field of study.

Upon completion of the Community Planning Programme at Karlstad University, students should be able to demonstrate

- solid qualifications for professional work with current planning issues in the public and private sector, and organisations,
- familiarity with the conditions and contexts of development and planning locally and internationally with an emphasis on the European arena,

- skills in applying a gender perspective to community planning and projects,
- ability to analyse knowledge processes objectively,
- investigative competence
- a professional identity as a community planner with the tools to act and plan for a sustainable society.

### **Programme Structure**

The Community Planning Programme with an emphasis on project management and sustainable development offers students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor's degree of 180 ECTS cr. including electives of 30 ECTS cr. The programme has a social science perspective integrating social, economic, ecological and physical aspects on community planning. Instruction is to a certain extent carried out in the form of projects and pays attention to group project management, critical reflection and analysis. It is a three-year, full-time study programme. Students have the opportunity to study the professional field through projects and to study or practise abroad in the elective term. Instruction takes a variety of forms: lectures, seminars, laboratory work, excursions and individual study. Excursions may entail extra costs for the students. There are also guest lecturers from the community planning field. Examination is in the form of written exams, seminar and laboratory assignments, individually and in groups.

The core of the studies has its basis in human geography, sociology and political science, comprising 60 ECTS cr. that is, the first two terms. In terms three and four there are courses with elements of international and European planning together with hands-on community planning. The third term includes courses in europeanisation, regional development processes, international planning and methods. In the fourth term students concentrate on project management, methods of communication, GIS, and projects/field studies. In the fifth, elective, term students can choose studying abroad, practical training or courses with international focus offered at Karlstad University, Swedish universities or abroad. Subject to approval, credits can be transferred from studies abroad to make up the elective term. The sixth term, which concludes the course of study, comprises specialisation in one of the fields human geography, sociology or political science and includes a degree project of 15 ECTS cr.

Students are offered many opportunities to make contact with future employers through guest lectures, field trips/excursions and through the contact they are expected to establish to solve examination tasks.

### **Programme Curriculum**

The programme includes the three fields of human geography, sociology and political science. These are thematically interwoven in the area of community planning and management, which constitutes the content for two years (terms 1-4). In the last term students specialise in one of the fields human geography, sociology or political science, which will then be the degree major. There is also one term of electives.

The programme includes a number of courses, the progression of which is indicated as follows:

- basic studies 1-90 ECTS cr. (terms 1-4)
- specialisation studies 90-120 ECTS cr. (term 6)

Programme courses are described in the following survey of term content.

### Term 1

*Introduction: Community Planning and Project Management, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

The aim of the module is to introduce the students to the role of community planner and project manager and make them familiar with the situations and problems that a community planner might encounter. The aim is also to introduce the students to the different programme areas through contact with municipal staff a real project which is studied from different perspectives and provides insight into the complexity of community planning, solutions and required competencies. Group processes and group dynamics are treated.

*Community Planning, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

The history of ideas related to community planning are treated, in particular concepts, theories and methods based in human geography. The importance of spatial processes in understanding community planning in different cultures, in urban and rural areas, and the basic conditions of demography, mobility, employment, and the relation between family and work and how this impacts on constructions and infrastructures. The emergence of the modern welfare state as a result of a long political process which required extensive economic, social and physical planning, is treated. Industrialisation and its population relocation required infrastructures, housing and service. In an age globalisation national ideals and solutions must be seen in relation to the surrounding world from a historical perspective, today and the future. A historical perspective on family and work and different social, sociological and political contexts are treated as are gender analysis and perspectives which are integrated in the study of the modern welfare state and its development along with cultural material and immaterial environment issues.

*The Political Frames of Community Planning, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

The political perspective on community planning is developed. The political context is treated with regard to the role of the planner and the questions of how community planning is incorporated in political programmes, how issues are politicised and related to power in the process. The distribution of roles between politicians and public servants and the terms of working in a politically governed organisation are constantly in focus. The theoretical tools for understanding public organisation, sectorisation and multilevel problems are also treated.

*The Sociological Context of Community Planning, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

Sociological and socio-psychological theories of the relations between the individual, different groups and society are treated. Special attention is paid to understanding humanity in its social contexts as a gregarious being. A central theme is the way people's options and preferences are conditioned by the cultural and social environment, such as class, ethnicity and gender. The module also provides understanding of today's society in terms of integration and inclusion and segregation and exclusion.

## Term 2

*Community Planning II: Sustainable Development – Individual, Society and Technology, 15 ECTS cr.*

Different areas of community planning are treated, such as ground utilisation, sustainable development and physical planning. This includes industry development, strategic environment assessment, sustainable water supply and some energy issues. The legal perspective is central as is societal regulations and control of planning, for instance, construction permission, environment legislation, planning and construction law, the heritage and environment law. Also local and regional development is treated. Useful tools of planning related to conditions, methods and consequences are treated in close contact with professionals. The relation between demographic development and community planning is dealt with, as well as the last decades' negotiation economy and the increasing importance of global resources and environmental issues. Issues of power, integration, environment, sustainable development, health, risk and safety, gender, art and media are also central.

*Project Work and Methods, 15 ECTS cr.*

The project is linked to the introductory course and community planning II. The students work with concrete, realistic issues from different perspectives, i.e. individual, society and environment, and in terms of the disciplinary perspectives of human geography, geography, political science, sociology, gender studies, art studies, visual culture and construction engineering. Students also acquire basic understanding of social science methods.

## Term 3

*Europeanisation Processes, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

The effects of EU-membership on community planning is studied. The starting-point is EU as a political system and students are provided with a broad survey of political processes, institutions and structures. EU membership and its impact on national, regional and local administrative levels are studied, such as different level changes in attitudes and identities and the effects on Swedish legislation. Comparisons between different regional and local solutions are made.

*Regional Development Processes, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

The module treats the region as an increasingly important political and administrative level. Regional responsibility for the planning of sustainable regional growth is emphasised. The new regional policy has developed special concepts, processes and forms of control. Regional growth programmes, innovation systems, partnership and clusters are some examples. The effects of the new regional policy on different geographical environments are studied. In this context methods of evaluation are discussed.

*International Aspects of Community Planning, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

The basic conditions for community planning are problematised through a comparison of Sweden and other countries. Students acquire further knowledge of planning and

organisation theory in their study of international examples and applications. Special attention is paid to global development planning. The requirements of successful community planning is made clear with an emphasis on aspects of safety, cultural clashes and democratic control systems. International trends in the areas of art, architecture and design are treated.

*Community Planning Methods, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

The course deals with hands-on issues related to the different political, social, ecological, technological and economic dimensions of community planning. Examples are drawn from real projects at different levels and in different environments, such as city construction, landscaping, infrastructuring. Methods of citizen influence and communication are discussed as are the principle of public right to access information, prognosis, scenario methods and future models. Legislation, construction processes, real estate economy, and planning nature resources are treated. Special attention is paid to issues of sustainability, gender, diversity and integration.

Terms 4

*Project Management and Methods of Communication, 10 ECTS cr.*

The course deals with the planning, carrying out and presenting of research projects together with project management methods, including presentation techniques, oral presentation, visual presentation, IT-design, IT visualisation, project management and coordination. Aspects of image communication are treated and students learn to use different methods and tools to create informative material aimed at specific target groups.

*GIS, Community Planning and Project Management, 20 ECTS cr.*

An important instrument in community planning today is GIS, because it makes it possible in planning to use and analyse located data in different layers. This is especially useful in infrastructuring, landscape inventory, environment analysis. Students learn how to use GIS, digital maps and GIS standards and apply methods and GIS to other specific perspectives such as gender and integration issues.

Term 5

*Electives, 30 ECTS cr.*

The fifth term can be devoted to practical training, university courses in community planning abroad or courses/projects with an international focus offered at Karlstad University, Swedish universities or abroad. Students can choose courses in law, gender studies or visual art.

Term 6

*Specialisation, 30 ECTS cr.*

The sixth term, which concludes the course of study, comprises specialisation in one of the fields of human geography, sociology or political science and also includes a degree project of 15 ECTS cr. in the community planning area.

**Examination**

The form of examination varies and is specified in each course syllabus.

**Degree Title**

Degree of Bachelor of Science.

Major: Human Geography or Political Science or Sociology.

**Credit Transfer**

According to the *Higher Education Ordinance* (Ch 6, §§ 6.7.8), students may transfer credits from previously completed university courses subject to approval of the receiving university.

**Additional Information**Course prerequisites

For admission to programme courses, students are required to meet the prerequisites of each course. Prerequisites are specified in each course syllabus.

Attendance

Components in the form of seminars, laboratory work and excursions are mandatory. Further information about mandatory components and scope is available in the course syllabi.

Admission priority

Programme students have priority access to courses offered at Karlstad University.

Study at other university or institution of higher education

Students studying at other institutions in Sweden or abroad do this on their own accord.

Electives

Only elective courses which do not in any way overlap with programme courses can be included in the degree.

Local regulations

The local regulations for first and second level studies at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

**Programme Overview: Community Planning 180 ECTS credits****Termin 1**

*Introduction: Community Planning and Project management, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

*Community Planning, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

*The Political Frames of Community Planning, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

*The Sociological Context of Community Planning, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

**Termin 2**

*Community Planning II: Sustainable Development – Individual, Society and Technology, 15 ECTS cr.*

*Project Work and Methods, 15 ECTS cr.*

**Termin 3**

*Europeanisation Processes, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

*Regional Development Processes, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

*International Aspects of Community Planning, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

*Community Planning Methods, 7.5 ECTS cr.*

**Termin 4**

*Project Management and Methods of Communication, 10 ECTS cr.*

*GIS, Community Planning and Project Management, 20 ECTS cr.*

**Termin 5**

*Electives, 30 ECTS cr.*

**Termin 6**

*Specialisation, 30 ECTS cr. including degree project in human geography, sociology or political science.*