



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology  
Biology

# Syllabus

## Master thesis in biology

<b>Course Code:</b>	BIAD17
<b>Course Title:</b>	Master thesis in biology <i>Masteruppsats i biologi</i>
<b>Credits:</b>	30
<b>Degree Level:</b>	Master's level
<b>Progressive Specialisation:</b>	Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of Arts/Master of Science (120 credits) (A2E)

**Major Field of Study:**  
BIA (Biology)

### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Health, Science and Technology 2019-09-11, and is valid from the Spring semester 2020 at Karlstad University.

### Prerequisites

First-cycle qualification in Biology, equivalent to 180 ECTS credits, including 15 ECTS credits in Ecology, and 30 ECTS credits in Biology at the second-cycle level

### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- critically and independently identify and formulate research questions, and critically evaluate and specify adequate methodological choices for biological investigations,
- carry out literature searches and data collection, when relevant, and analyse data using appropriate statistical methods,
- reflect upon and assess ethical aspects related to research questions and research projects in biology,
- describe and explain methods, results, analyses, and conclusions in a written thesis and evaluate this

work, and

- orally present and defend their own thesis, and perform an independent critical review of another student's thesis in biology.

### **Content**

Instruction is in the form of supervision and seminars.

The course comprises an individual research project, which students select in consultation with the examiner. The thesis builds on and constitutes a specialisation in relation to their previous studies in biology. In addition to the individual research project, students complete a literature study.

### **Reading List**

See separate document.

### **Examination**

Assessment is based on an independently written thesis, oral presentation and defence of the thesis, a written hand-in assignment based on five scientific seminars, and peer review of another student's master thesis, including aspects of research ethics.

The presentation, including the defence and the peer review and examination, take place at Karlstad University.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to special pedagogical support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

### **Grades**

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

### **Quality Assurance**

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

### **Course Certificate**

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

### **Additional information**

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.