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The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Programme Syllabus

Reg.no: 2022/1025

### Master Programme in English

**Programme Code:** HAEENG

**Programme Title:** Masterprogram i engelska  
Master programme in English

**Credits:** 120

**Programme Approval:** The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Science on 2022-10-11, and applies as of the autumn semester of 2023.

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Degree level:** Master

**Degree Type:** General Degree of Master (120 ECTS Credits) with the possibility of a Degree of Master (60 ECTS Credits)

**Qualification requirements** A Degree of Bachelor with at least 90 credits in English, or equivalent, including a degree project/essay of at least 15 credits at G2E level or equivalent. Upper secondary level English 6/B.

### Introduction

English is one of the most important languages on the global stage, with a dominating presence in both public life as well as in many people's personal lives. Consequently, studying the English language and its cultural expressions is distinctly relevant, with many potential applications in several domains, such as education, academia, politics, media and business. The Master Programme in English offers specialised knowledge in the main field of study, specialising in linguistics or literary studies. Courses from both of these specialisations can also be combined within the chosen programme.

The programme specialisations are all connected through the joint theme of "English in contemporary life". The linguistic specialisation comprises courses that concern different areas

of applied linguistics, with a general focus on perspectives and methods for studying and understanding language use as social interaction, cognition, text and discourse. The literary specialisation comprises courses that, in various ways, concern cultural and literary negotiations of contemporary life, with an emphasis on historical and geographical contextualisations as well as critical perspectives. The program's courses highlight contemporary language use and materials, as well as contemporary theories and methods, and are closely connected to research conducted within the discipline. The courses do not merely concern the English language and English literature, but also how linguistic and literary perspectives can shed light on societal phenomena, issues, and developments.

The Master Programme in English is for students interested in understanding the world through language and literature, as well as understanding the role of the English language in the world. The programme aims to prepare students for third-cycle studies, but it also provides skills in analytical and critical research and development work, which can be applied in any domain where language, culture, and communication are central.

## **Programme Outcomes**

### National Degree of Master (120 credits) outcomes

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate deepened methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

#### *Competence and skills*

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously and creatively as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and so contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work,
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing both nationally and internationally to clearly report and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity.

#### *Judgement and approach*

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

#### *Independent project*

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Master (120 credits) is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) of at least 30 credits in the main field of study. The degree project may comprise less than 30 credits, but no less than 15 credits, if the student has already completed an independent project in the second cycle worth at least 15 credits in the main field of study or the equivalent from a study programme outside of Sweden.

### National Degree of Master (60 credits) outcomes

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate deepened methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

#### *Competence and skills*

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues autonomously as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to report clearly and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or employment in some other qualified capacity.

#### *Judgement and approach*

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

#### *Independent project*

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Master (60 credits) is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) of at least 15 credits in the main field of study.

### **Programme Structure**

The programme follows one of two specialisations, linguistic or literary specialisation, with the option to combine courses from both specialisations. The first semester comprises mandatory courses. After that, the study route is based on the elective courses offered within the programme, as well as optional courses at Karlstad University or other universities in Sweden. During the third semester (or later for part-time students), students have the option to study abroad. Beyond the mandatory introduction course and degree project of the respective specialisations, the exact study route will depend on the pace of study and the year of admission as well as individual choices.

The mode of study is distance education, with the possibility of supervised study activity on campus to some extent in certain courses. Teaching within the programme consists mainly of lectures, seminars and group work. Examinations mainly consist of individual, written assignments and oral presentations, but other forms may occur, as stated in each course syllabus. The programme is available as both full-time study and half-time study.

### **Programme Curriculum**

The programme structure is open, which allows for significant student customisation in terms of profile and study rate. Described below is the expected study route in full-time studies. Which courses are mandatory for the first semester and which elective courses are available the following semesters depends on the pace of study and the year of admission, since the courses follow a rotating schedule. Course selection and study planning is done in consultation with the

study and career counsellor or the programme coordinator. Note that the programme courses can have other titles and be offered in a different order than listed below.

Linguistic specialisation

**Degree of Master (120 ECTS credits)**

*Semester 1*

- Theories and methods in Language Research, 15 credits (mandatory)
- Second Language Learning: Social Perspectives, 7.5 credits *or* Talk and Social Interaction, 7.5 credits, depending on the year of admission (mandatory)
- Language and Social Media, 7.5 credits *or* Bilingualism, 7.5 credits, depending on the year of admission (mandatory)

*Semester 2*

- Elective courses in English linguistics, 15 credits
- Optional courses, 15 credits

*Semester 3*

- Elective courses in English linguistics, 15 credits
- Optional courses, 15 credits

*or*

- Studies abroad, 30 credits

*Semester 4*

Degree project in English linguistics (Master) 30 credits (mandatory)

**Degree of Master (60 ECTS credits)**

*Semester 1*

- Theories and methods in Language Research, 15 credits (mandatory)
- Second Language Learning: Social Perspectives, 7.5 credits *or* Talk and Social Interaction, 7.5 credits, depending on the year of admission (mandatory)
- Language and Social Media, 7.5 credits *or* Bilingualism, 7.5 credits, depending on the year of admission (mandatory)

*Semester 2*

Degree project in English linguistics (Master) 15 credits (mandatory)

- Optional courses, 15 credits

Elective courses in English linguistics offered within the programme

- Second Language Learning: Social Perspectives, 7.5 credits
- Using Corpora for Language Research 7.5 credits
- Critical approaches to language and discourse 7.5 credits
- Language and Gender, 7.5 credits
- Language and Social Media, 7.5 credits
- Language and Thought, 7.5 credits
- Statistics in Language Research, 7.5 credits
- Talk and Social Interaction, 7.5 credits
- Bilingualism, 7.5 credits
- Research Internship: English Linguistics, 7.5 credits

Optional courses

The student can choose from the elective courses in English linguistics, the elective courses in English literary studies or choose other courses at Karlstad University or any other Swedish university.

Literary specialisation**Degree of Master (120 ECTS credits)***Semester 1*

- Theoretical perspectives on literary and cultural negotiations, 15 credits (mandatory)
- Dystopia and Apocalypse, 7.5 credits, Women Writers' Science Fiction and Fantasy, 7.5 credits or Science Fiction and Intercultural Encounters, 7.5 credits, depending on the year of admission (mandatory)
- African American Women's Novels, 7.5 credits, African Popular Literature, 7.5 credits or Negotiating the Autobiographical I, 7.5 credits, depending on the year of admission (mandatory)

*Semester 2*

- Elective courses in English literary studies, 15 credits
- Optional courses, 15 credits

*Semester 3*

- Elective courses in English literary studies, 15 credits
- Optional courses, 15 credits
- or
- Studies abroad, 30 credits

*Semester 4*

Degree project in English literary studies (Master) 30 credits (mandatory)

**Degree of Master (60 ECTS credits)***Semester 1*

- Theoretical perspectives on literary and cultural negotiations, 15 credits (mandatory)
- Dystopia and Apocalypse, 7.5 credits, Women Writers' Science Fiction and Fantasy, 7.5 credits or Science Fiction and Intercultural Encounters, 7.5 credits, depending on the year of admission (mandatory)
- African American Women's Novels, 7.5 credits, African Popular Literature, 7.5 credits or Negotiating the Autobiographical I, 7.5 credits, depending on the year of admission (mandatory)

*Semester 2*

- Degree project in English literary studies (Master) 15 credits (mandatory)
- Optional courses, 15 credits

Elective courses in English literary studies offered within the programme

- African Popular Literature From the Postcolonial Novel to Contemporary Comics, 7.5 credits
- Negotiating the Autobiographical I: American Women's Autobiographies 1968-2020, 7.5 credits
- Dystopia and Apocalypse, 7.5 credits
- Women Writers' Science Fiction and Fantasy, 7.5 credits
- African American Women's Novels, 7.5 credits
- Science Fiction and Intercultural Encounters, 7.5 credits

Optional courses

The student can choose from the elective courses in English literary studies, the elective courses in English linguistics or choose other courses at Karlstad University or any other Swedish university.

**Title of Qualification**

Filosofie magisterexamen

Huvudområde: Engelska

Degree of Master of Arts (60 credits)

Major: English

Filosofie masterexamen

Huvudområde: Engelska

Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits)

Major: English

**Transfer of credits**

According to the Higher Education Ordinance Ch. 6 Sec. 6–8 students have the right to transfer credits and have prior learning recognised upon approval.

**Additional Information**

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

A previous version of the programme syllabus has been approved:

28 October 2021, Reg.no HS 2021/848, valid from the autumn semester of 2022