



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology

PROGRAMME STUDY PLAN

Biology programme

Programme Code	NGBIO
Programme Title	Biology Programme
Programme Approval	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Health, Science and Technology on 1 February 2018 (Reg.no. HNT 2018/48) and is valid from the autumn semester of 2018, Rev. 1 Dec. 2022.
Credits	180 ECTS cr.
Language of Instruction	Swedish and English
Degree Level	Bachelor's
Degree Type	General qualifications
Prerequisites	General admission requirements and Biology 1, Chemistry 1, Mathematics3b/Mathematics 3c/Mathematics C

General Information

The Biology Programme provides basic education and upon completion, students are awarded a Bachelor's degree with a major in biology. Students start with three terms of basic biology courses before taking one or several specialisation courses, primarily in ecology, conservation biology and evolution.

In addition to studies in biology, students may broaden their qualifications by taking courses in GIS, jurisprudence, environmental science, political science, or subjects.

Upon completion of the Bachelor level programme, students can continue studying towards a Master's degree with a major in biology. Graduates are eligible for doctoral studies.

Aims

The *Higher Education Ordinance*, annex 2 Qualification Ordinance stipulates the following national aims and objectives for a Bachelor's degree (SFS 2006:1053):

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field, knowledge of applicable methodologies in the field, specialised study in some aspect of the field as well as awareness of current research issues.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to search for, gather, evaluate and critically interpret the relevant information for a formulated problem and also discuss phenomena, issues and situations critically
- demonstrate the ability to identify, formulate and solve problems autonomously and to complete tasks within predetermined time frames
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss information, problems and solutions in speech and writing and in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required to work independently in the main field of study.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues
- demonstrate insight into the role of knowledge in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and ongoing learning.

Independent project (degree project)

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Bachelor is that students complete an independent project (degree project) of at least 15 credits in the main field of study.

Programme Structure

The programme comprises 6 semesters. In the first three semesters, students study basic courses in biology (90 ECTS cr). In the fourth and fifth semesters students are offered specialisation courses of 60 ECTS cr., and students can choose to specialise further in an area of biology by taking one or more 15 credit-courses. The concluding semester comprises elective courses and a Bachelor degree project, which requires at least one specialisation course from semesters 4 or 5.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, seminars, laboratory experiments, group projects and excursions. A practical placement course is included. Distance students are required to attend mandatory laboratory and/or field study components at Karlstad University. Students are notified of the dates well in advance of course start.

Programme Curriculum

The programme includes one mandatory subject, biology, which is the degree major. The biology programme comprises at least 120 ECTS cr in biology, the main field of study. The courses deal with botany, cell biology, ecology and zoology, including basic biological methods and statistics.

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

- basic studies 1-90 ECTS cr.
- specialisation studies 90-120 ECTS cr.

Mandatory courses

Basic courses in biology 90 ECTS cr.

Bachelor degree project 15 ECTS cr.

Optional courses

Specialisation courses in biology, each of 15 ECTS cr.

Elective courses

In addition to the courses in biology required for a Bachelor' degree, the programme allows students to add elective courses in other subjects than biology.

Degree Title

Degree of Bachelor of Science. Major: Biology

Credit Transfer or Course Replacement

Students may transfer credits from previously completed university courses in Sweden or abroad, or replace a course, subject to approval in accordance with current regulations.

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.