



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Master's Degree Programme in Working Life Science

Programme Code:	SAABV
Programme Title:	Master's Degree Programme (one year) in Working Life Science Magisterprogram i arbetsvetenskap
ECTS credits:	60
Approval:	The programme study plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 9 February 2017 and is valid from the autumn term of 2017.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish, some components may be offered in English
Degree Level:	Master's (one year)
Degree Type:	General
Prerequisites:	Bachelor's degree of at least 180 ECTS credits in Working Life Science, or equivalent. Upper secondary level Swedish 3 or B, or Swedish as a Second Language 3 or B, or equivalent. Upper secondary level English 6 or A, or equivalent.

General Information

Working Life Science deals with the characteristic forms and processes of work in contemporary society and its emergence in a national and international perspective. It includes the impact of work on people, social relations and activities in a broad sense. The overriding aim of the programme is that students develop the scientifically based knowledge and skills necessary to deal with issues related to the organisational and labour market levels in a national and international perspective. A recurring perspective in the courses is also the problems of combining demands of economic efficiency with

demands of social responsibility, individual job satisfaction, professional development and self-fulfilment.

A Master's degree in working life science gives qualifications for development work in national and international organisations as well as for investigation and evaluation work in companies, public agencies and non-profit organisations. A Master's degree in working life science also gives eligibility for doctoral education in working life science.

Learning Outcomes

The programme follows the national objectives for the Degree of Master of Arts/Science (60 credits)

National objectives

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master of Arts/Science (60 credits) students shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both an overview of the field and specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master of Arts/Science (60 credits) students 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 independently 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 their 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 of Arts/Science (60 credits) students 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 their ongoing learning.

Programme Structure

This one-year Master's level programme of 60 ECTS cr. in Working Life Science comprises the following four courses:

- Organisational and management trends from a sustainability perspective (15 ECTS cr.) (offered by the University of Borås)
- The labour market from a Swedish and international perspective (15 ECTS cr.) (offered by Gothenburg university)
- Research methods (15 ECTS cr.) (offered by Karlstad University)
- Degree project (15 ECTS cr.) (offered by Karlstad University)

The programme is offered in conjunction by the universities in Borås, Gothenburg and Karlstad. Each institution is responsible for one of the courses and for degree supervision. This means that some lectures and seminars will take place in Borås and Gothenburg and a substantial part of the programme is offered in the form of distance education. Karlstad University students are admitted as programme students in Karlstad, but take courses at the other institutions during the autumn term and at Karlstad during the spring.

Programme Curriculum

The first course, *Organisational and management trends from a sustainability perspective (15 ECTS cr.)*, deals with the way in which different organisational and leadership models are spread, adopted and implemented nationally and internationally. Different organisational and leadership models are problematised in terms of economic efficiency and social sustainability for companies and individuals.

The second course, *The labour market from a Swedish and international perspective (15 ECTS cr.)*, deals with the effects of globalisation and societal transformations on work in the twenty-first century. The global context of these changes is discussed to give the students the opportunity to acquire a basis for assessing current trends. Employment Relations/Industrial Relations and labour market modes of operation, its actors and institutions of wage settings and other terms of employment are analysed from different perspectives.

Classic Employment Relations/Industrial Relations theories are compared with new ways of viewing terms of employment and industrial relations. The roles of the unions, employer federations and the state are presented on the basis of the Swedish and Scandinavian industrial relations model. The course maps out labour market and employment policy along with its effect on rate of employment and unemployment.

Different ways of organising industrial relations are described, especially those of Great Britain, the USA, France, Germany, the Scandinavian countries, East Asia and Eastern Europe. The role of multinational corporations is treated and so are new ways of dealing with employment, for instance Human Resource Management (HRM) and Corporate Social Responsibility.

The second term starts with the course *Research methods (15 ECTS cr.)*, focusing on theory of science and qualitative and quantitative methods. These areas are analysed with regard to their importance for the research process and results. There are practical components of applying qualitative and quantitative methods, and theoretical and analytical discussions of methodological approaches. Great emphasis is placed on

relating these areas, thus creating a broader and deeper understanding of a central part of working life science knowledge production.

The programme concludes with the *Degree project (15 ECTS cr.)*, which means that students, under supervision, independently plan and carry out an empirical study and present the result in the standard academic form. Students are also required to defend their work and to critically review the work of others.

Degree Title

Degree of Master of Social Science (60 credits)

Major: Working Life Science

Filosofie magisterexamen

Huvudområde: Arbetsvetenskap

Transfer of Credits

According to the Higher Education Ordinance Ch. 6 Sec. 6–8 students have the right to transfer credits from other universities upon approval.

Additional information

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

Previous revisions of the programme study plan:

10 June 2008, valid from the autumn semester of 2008