



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg.no. HS 2025/355

Programme in Business and Economics

Programme Code:	SACEK
Programme Title:	Programme in Business and Economics Civilekonomprogrammet
Credits:	240
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 3 March 2025 and is in effect as of the autumn semester of 2025.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish and English
Education Cycle:	Second (Master's)
Degree Type:	Professional
Entry requirements	General entry requirements, plus Mathematics 3b or 3c, Social Studies 1b or 1a1 + 1a2, and English 6/B.

Introduction

The degree programme comprises four years of study and leads to a Degree of Master of Science in Business and Economics. It provides a broad foundation of knowledge, allowing students to develop skills in analysing and solving complex economic problems from a business perspective as well as acquiring expertise in one of the five specialisations offered (see below). All of the specialisations enable the students to develop their ability to take responsibility for sustainable development and gender equality.

Enrolling in the Programme in Business and Economics at Karlstad Business School is an investment for the future. By offering an environment characterised by world-class research, international contacts and collaboration with both the public and private sector there are great opportunities for a successful career. In addition to acquiring academic knowledge, students also develop practical knowledge and skills in working with authentic case studies and being offered the option of a practical placement course.

Economists are active in a wide variety of sectors. Many find work in the private sector, but also in public agencies, regional councils, municipalities and other types of organisations. Typical professional roles are controller, auditor, accountant, consultant, analyst, key account manager, business manager and marketing manager. Many economists also choose to run their own business.

Programme outcomes

For a Degree of Master of Science in Business and Economics the student shall demonstrate the knowledge and skills required for advanced and autonomous work in the field of business and economics, pursuant to the Higher Education Ordinance.

National outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master of Science in Business and Economics the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of and proven experience in his or her chosen field of business and economics as well as insight into current research and development work,
- demonstrate both broad knowledge of the field of business and economics as well as a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas in his or her chosen field of business and economics,
- demonstrate specialised knowledge of theories and methodology in his or her chosen field of business and economics, and
- demonstrate knowledge of relevant national and international regulatory systems in his or her chosen field of business and economics.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master of Science in Business and Economics the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and also to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues in business and economics independently as well as to plan and use appropriate methods to undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability to present his or her conclusions in speech and writing to different audiences in both national and international contexts, 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 Science in Business and Economics the student shall

- demonstrate the ability in his or her chosen field of business and economics to make assessments informed by relevant disciplinary and social considerations such as human rights and ethical issues as well as awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work,
- demonstrate insight into the significance of leadership and the exercise of leadership, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and undertake ongoing development of his or her skills.

Independent project (degree project)

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Master of Science in Business and Economics is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 30 credits.

Programme Structure

In the first three semesters, students take the same courses to ensure that programme graduates from Karlstad Business School have a common broad base in the fields of business administration and economics. In the fourth semester, students choose either business administration or economics as their degree major. In the fifth semester, business majors

choose to specialise in *marketing, accounting and control*, or *management*. Economics majors choose to specialise in *financial economics* or *economics*. In the final semester, students write their degree project in their chosen field. Students follow a set study route to ensure that programme objectives are met. The programme structure also allows students to study abroad for a semester.

Instruction is in the form of lectures and exercises as well as laboratory exercises and case studies presented orally and in writing by the students. Through these different types of teaching formats, the students take an active role in the learning process. Throughout the programme, students are given the opportunity to make useful contacts with future employers through guest lectures and other engagements with companies and public agencies.

Programme curriculum

In the first four semesters, students take a number of courses with the aim of providing a broad foundation of knowledge in the economic sciences as well as basic knowledge of relevant national and international regulatory systems in the field of business and economics. Note that titles and order of programme courses may vary from the list below. Master's level courses are often taught in English as well as some of the undergraduate courses. A practical placement course is offered as an elective or optional course as part of all specialisations.

➤ *Semester 1*

Business administration I (30 credits)

➤ *Semester 2*

Economics (30 credits)

➤ *Semester 3*

Introduction to commercial law (15 credits) and Statistics (15 credits)

➤ *Semester 4*

(students choose to major in Business Administration or Economics)

Business Administration Major

- Business administration II (30 credits)

Economics Major

- Economics - continuation course (30 credits)

Business Administration Major

- *Semester 5-8 (students follow the study route of one of the specialisations marketing, accounting and control, or management)*

Specialisation: Marketing

➤ *Semester 5-6*

- Marketing strategies (15 credits)
- Optional courses (15 credits)
- Statistics - continuation course for economists (15 credits)
- Research methods in business administration (15 credits)

➤ *Semester 7*

- Consumer research in marketing (7.5 credits)
- Business-to-Business marketing (7.5 credits)
- Responsible management and leadership (7.5 credits)
- Elective course selected from the course offering of the current semester (7.5 credits)

Specialisation: Accounting and Control

- *Semester 5-6*
 - Management control II (7.5 credits)
 - Financial accounting III (7.5 credits)
 - Taxation law I (15 credits)
 - Commercial law (15 credits)
 - Research methods in business administration (15 credits)
- *Semester 7*
 - International financial accounting (7.5 credits)
 - Auditing (7.5 credits)
 - Responsible management and leadership (7.5 credits)
 - Elective course selected from the course offering of the current semester (7.5 credits)

Specialisation: Management

- *Semester 5-6*
 - Service management (15 credits)
 - Optional courses (15 credits)
 - Statistics - continuation course for economists (15 credits)
 - Research methods in business administration (15 credits)
- *Semester 7*
 - Innovation through service design (5 credits)
 - Strategies for value creation (5 credits)
 - Servitization in theory and practice (5 credits)
 - Elective course selected from the course offering of the current semester (15 credits)

All specialisations

- *Semester 8*
 - Business administration: degree project (30 credits)

Economics Major

- *Semester 5-8 (students follow the study route of one of the specialisations financial economics or economics)*

Specialisation: Financial Economics

- *Semester 5-6*
 - Quantitative methods for financial economics (7.5 credits)
 - Applied econometrics (7.5 credits)
 - Research methods in economics (15 credits)
 - Portfolio analysis (7.5 credits)
 - Financial accounting II (7.5 credits)
 - Corporate finance (7.5 credits)
 - Financial risk management (7.5 credits)
- *Semester 7*
 - Behavioural economics (7.5 credits)
 - International macroeconomics (7.5 credits)
 - Elective course selected from the course offering of the current semester (15 credits)

Specialisation: Economics

- *Semester 5-6*
 - Applied econometrics (7.5 credits)
 - Financial markets, risk and insurance (7.5 credits)

- Research methods in economics (15 credits)
- Environmental and natural resource economics (7.5 credits)
- Labour economics (7.5 credits)
- Economic growth/macroeconomics (7.5 credits)
- Public economics and politics (7.5 credits)

➤ *Semester 7*

- Behavioural economics (7.5 credits)
- Economic policy evaluation (7.5 credits)
- Causal inference (7.5 credits)
- Optional course (7.5 credits)

Both specialisations

➤ *Semester 8*

- Economics: degree project (30 credits)

Title of qualification

Depending on the choice of specialisation, students will be awarded one of the following qualifications:

- Degree of Master of Science in Business and Economics Marketing
- Degree of Master of Science in Business and Economics Accounting and Control
- Degree of Master of Science in Business and Economics Management
- Degree of Master of Science in Business and Economics Financial Economics
- Degree of Master of Science in Business and Economics Economics

Credit transfer

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

Further information

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

After consultation with the programme director, students can choose to graduate after three years with a Degree of Bachelor, if they wish.

Previous versions of the programme syllabus have been approved:

5 March 2012, reg.no. FAK1 2012/15, applies from the autumn semester 2012

14 April 2014, reg.no. FAK1 2014/248, applies from the autumn semester 2014

7 February 2018, reg.no HS 2018/64, effective from the autumn semester of 2018

8 December 2022, Reg.no HS 2022/1135, valid from the autumn semester of 2023

8 February 2024, Reg.no HS 2024/124, valid from the autumn semester of 2024