



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg.no. HS 2022/24

Master Programme in Subject-Specific Education

Programme Code: SADID

Programme Title: Master Programme in Subject-Specific Education

Magister-/masterprogram i ämnesdidaktik

ECTS Credits: 60/120 ECTS credits

Programme Approval: The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Science on 3 February 2022, and applies from the autumn semester of 2022.

Language of Instruction: Swedish

Education Cycle: Second

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

Qualification requirements Bachelor of Arts/Science in Education of at least 180 credits. Upper secondary school level Swedish 3 or B, Swedish as a Second Language 3 or B, or equivalent. Upper secondary school level English 6 or B, or equivalent.

General Information

The programme is designed for professional teachers in all school forms, who are interested in developing subject-specific teaching and leading subject-specific school development. The focus is on leading development at the school level on the basis of research and proven experience. The approach is to cover subject-specific teaching as the science of selecting and transforming the content of a subject into teaching, and to also provide specialisation and application in specific subjects, regardless of whether this is a theoretical subject, an artistic and practical subject or a vocational subject. The programme is based on the close connection between profession and research in subject-specific teaching. Subject-specific teaching is treated in a broad perspective, with specialisation within the teachers' own subjects, as well as professional application. The programme is designed based on a close collaboration with schools.

The programme comprises two parts. The first part concludes with a degree project for a Degree of Master (60 credits). It covers practice-oriented subject-specific school development, where the students apply subject-specific education research with a critical approach. The second part prepare the students for research studies and concludes with a degree project for a Degree of Master (120 credits). This part focuses on practice-oriented subject-specific education research, with a clear goal of creating new empirical and theoretical knowledge within the field of subject-specific teaching.

The programme provides eligibility for doctoral studies in subject-specific teaching or pedagogical work.

Programme Outcomes

The aim of the programme is that students meet the national as well as the local outcomes required for a Degree of Master (60/120 credits).

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 of at least 15 credits in the main field of study.

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 of at least 30 credits in the main field of study. The degree project may comprise less than 30 credits, however no less than 15 credits, if the student has already completed an independent project in the second cycle for at least 15 credits in the main field of study or the equivalent from a programme of study outside Sweden.

Local outcomes

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

- demonstrate broad knowledge of theoretical and practical aspects of subject-specific school development, and specialised knowledge of teaching within a specific subject, and
- demonstrate the ability to find, apply and critically analyse the application of research and proven experience within subject-specific education, and the ability to share these experiences through peer-based professional learning

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

- demonstrate specialised knowledge of theoretical and practical aspects of subject-specific school development, and significant knowledge of teaching within a specific subject, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify critical issues within subject-specific school development and to find solutions by applying adequate scientific methods

Programme Structure

The programme offers two possible outcomes. The student can pursue a Degree of Master (60 credits), or a Degree of Master (120 credits). Degree of Master (60 credits), is a step towards a Degree of Master (120 credits). For a Degree of Master (60 credits), students complete an independent project of 15 credits. For a Degree of Master (120 credits), students complete another independent project of 15 credits.

Beyond the degree projects, the programme comprises courses of 7.5 credits. All courses are mandatory, except for an elective course when studying for a Degree of Master (60 credits) and another elective course during the further studies towards a Degree of Master (120 credits). All courses provide specialised knowledge in your own subject. The elective courses provide eligibility for doctoral studies in subject-specific teaching within your subject. The elective courses are chosen in consultation with the discipline in question.

The programme is given as distance studies at 50 percent pace. The studies comprises seminars, lectures, independent study and practice-oriented projects that can be conducted within the students' own teaching context.

The part leading up to a Degree of Master (60 credits) comprises courses that provide:

- An overview of subject-specific education as a discipline,
- Specialisation within subject-specific education related to your subject,
- Specialisation within your subject,
- Perspectives on subject-specific school development, in close collaboration with stakeholders,
- Perspectives on leading peer-oriented development work in subject-specific education, in close collaboration with stakeholders,
- Scientific method focused on research-based methods for the development of teaching,
- Master's (60 credits) thesis (15 credits) focused on development work with a basis in research, in order to connect subject-specific education and school development.

The second part of the programme, after the Degree of Master (60 credits) and leading up to a Degree of Master (120 credits), comprises the same components as the first part of the programme, but more in-depth and with a clearer focus on practice-oriented subject-specific education research. Scientific method on masters level comprises two courses. One is focused on methods for data gathering and the other on methods of analyses. A course on theory of knowledge is included, with epistemological and ontological approaches in relation to subject-specific education research. The course also covers analysis of teaching based on various scientific perspectives.

The progression within the programme is expressed by the first part, for Degree of Master (60 credits), being focused on school development and applying research, while the second part, leading up to a Degree of Master (120 credits), is more focused on developing research. This progression is visible in both the content of the courses and the learning outcomes. The programme has a clear profession-oriented focus, where the course assignments are conducted by participating in school activities supported by research and theory. This means that the students can participate in shaping their own learning process. Subject-specific school development is related to a wider perspective on society and the content of the courses will cover central social issues such as gender equality and sustainable development.

Programme Curriculum

Note that the titles and the order of the programme courses may vary.

Semester 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject-Specific School Development: Introductory Course, 7.5 credits • Subject-Specific Specialisation I: Specialisation in Subject-Specific Education. 7.5 credits
Semester 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject-specific school development in close collaboration with schools, 7.5 credits • Leading peer-based subject-specific development work I, 7.5 credits
Semester 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialisation in subject-specific education, in collaboration with the university's disciplines I (elective), 7.5 credits • Method I, 7.5 credits

Semester 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Project for a Degree of Master (60 credits), 15 credits
Semester 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject-Specific Specialisation II: Specialisation in Subject-Specific Education. 7.5 credits Philosophy of Science, 7.5 credits
Semester 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leading peer-based subject-specific development work-II, 7.5 credits Specialisation in subject-specific education, in collaboration with the university's disciplines II (elective), 7.5 credits
Semester 7:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Method II - Data Gathering, 7.5 credits Method III - Analysis, 7.5 credits
Semester 8:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent project for a Degree of Master (120 ECTS credits), 15 credits

The curriculum is preliminary and could be subject of change. The programme will, however, include the above components and will not be longer than eight semesters.

Title of Qualification

Degree of Master of Social Science (60 credits)

Main field of study: Subject-Specific Education in Arts and Social Sciences

Degree of Master of Social Science (120 credits)

Main field of study: Subject-Specific Education in Arts and Social Sciences

Degree of Master of Social Science (60 credits)

Main field of study: Subject-Specific Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology

Degree of Master of Social Science (120 credits)

Main field of study: Subject-Specific Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology

Credit Transfer

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.