



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg.no. HS 2023/35

Master Programme in Subject-Specific Education

Programme Code:	SADID
Programme Title:	Master Programme in Subject-Specific Education Magister-/masterprogram i ämnesdidaktik
Credits:	60/120 credits
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Science on 9 February 2023, and applies from the autumn semester of 2023.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish
Education Cycle:	Second
Degree Type:	General Degree of Master (120 credits) with the possibility of a Degree of Master (60 credits)
Entry requirements	Degree of Bachelor or Degree of Master of Arts in Primary Education of at least 180 credits or a Degree of Master of Arts/Science in Secondary Education with at least 90 credits in one of the subjects Swedish/Swedish as a second language, English, Spanish, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, science studies, geography, history, religion, social studies, or physical education and health. 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 in-service teachers who are interested in developing 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 transforming the content of a subject into teaching, as well as

providing specialisation and application in specific subjects. The programme is based on the close connection between the profession and the research in subject-specific teaching. Subject-specific teaching is treated from a broad perspective, with specialisation in one of the subjects Swedish/Swedish as a second language, English, Spanish, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, science studies, geography, history, religion, social studies, or physical education and health.

The programme comprises two parts. The first part, which concludes with a degree project for a Degree of Master 60 credits, covers practice-oriented subject-specific school development, where the students apply subject-specific education research using a critical approach. The second part prepares 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 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 outcomes for a Degree of Master (60 credits)

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 need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Degree 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 outcomes for a Degree of Master (120 credits)*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 need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Degree 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 and creates a progression in practice-oriented subject-specific education and subject-specific school development. The programme is given as distance studies at 50 percent pace with one physical lunch-to-lunch meeting on campus per semester. The studies comprise lectures, independent study, seminars and practice-oriented projects that can be conducted within the students' own teaching activities.

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

- An overview of subject-specific education and subject-specific school development as disciplines.
- Specialisation within subject-specific education related to your subject.
- Perspectives on leading peer-based subject-specific development work.
- Perspectives on subject-specific school development in collaboration with schools.
- Knowledge of how to carry out a systematic knowledge overview of subject-specific education within a specific subject. This course can be replaced with a subject-specific elective course within the student's subject specialisation.
- 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 mainly 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. Two courses on philosophy of science are also included, with epistemological and ontological approaches in relation to subject-specific education research. The courses also cover analysis of teaching based on various scientific perspectives. Scientific method on masters level comprises two courses. One is focused on methods for data gathering and the other on methods of analyses.

The progression within the programme is expressed by the first part, for Degree of Master (60 credits), being focused on critical application of existing research for the development of subject-specific teaching and the conditions thereof, while the second part, leading up to a Degree of Master (120 credits), is more focused on critically creating research for the development of subject-specific teaching and the conditions thereof. 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. 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.

<p>Semester 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject-Specific School Development: Introductory Course, 7.5 credits • Subject-Specific Specialisation 1: Specialisation in Subject-Specific Education, 7.5 credits
<p>Semester 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading peer-based subject-specific development work 1, 7.5 credits • Subject-specific school development in collaboration with schools, 7.5 credits

<p>Semester 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic Review in Subject-Specific Education, 7.5 credits, or subject-specific course within the student's subject specialisation, 7.5 credits • Research Methods 1: 7.5 credits
<p>Semester 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent Project for a Degree of Master (60 credits), 15 credits
<p>Semester 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy of Science 1, 7.5 credits • Subject-Specific Specialisation 2: Specialisation in Subject-Specific Education, 7.5 credits
<p>Semester 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading peer-based subject-specific development work 2: 7.5 credits • Philosophy of Science 2, 7.5 credits, or subject-specific course within the student's subject specialisation, 7.5 credits
<p>Semester 7:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research methods 2: 7.5 credits • Research methods 3: 7.5 credits
<p>Semester 8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent project for a Degree of Master (120 credits), 15 credits

Degree Title

For Master students (60 credits) who have completed a Bachelor of Arts in Education in one of the subjects Swedish/Swedish as a second language, English, Spanish, geography, history, religion, social studies, or physical education and health, the programme leads to:

Degree of Master of Arts (60 credits)

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

For Master students (120 credits) who have completed a Bachelor of Arts in Education in one of the subjects Swedish/Swedish as a second language, English, Spanish, geography, history, religion, social studies, or physical education and health, the programme leads to:

Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits)

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

For Master students (60 credits) who have completed a Bachelor of Science in Education in one of the subjects mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, or science studies, the programme leads to:

Degree of Master of Science (60 credits)

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

For Master students (120 credits) who have completed a Bachelor of Science in Education in one of the subjects mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, or science studies, the programme leads to:

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.

A previous version of the programme syllabus has been approved:

3 February 2022, Reg.no HS 2022/24, effective from the autumn semester of 2022