



FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master Programme in Subject-Specific Education

Magister-/ Masterprogram i ämnesdidaktik

Programme code: SADID

Credits: 120

Education level: Second cycle

Degree type: General qualification

Language of instruction: Swedish

Approved by

Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences, 05 February 2026

Effective from

Autumn semester 2026

Entry requirements

Degree of Master of Arts in Primary Education comprising 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, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, science studies, geography, history, religion, civics, or physical education and health. In addition, upper-secondary level Swedish 3, English 6 or Swedish level 3, English level 2. An equivalence assessment can be made.

General information

The programme is designed for professional 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 education as the science of transforming subject content into teaching, as well as to provide specialisation and application in specific subjects. The programme is based on a close connection between the teaching profession and research in subject-specific education.

Subject-specific education is addressed from a broad perspective, with specialisation in one of the subjects Swedish/Swedish as a second language, English, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, science studies, geography, history, religion, civics, or physical education and health. Individual subject-specific formative supervision is provided throughout the programme in connection with assessed assignments.

The programme consists of two parts. The first part, which concludes with an independent project for a Master's degree (60 credits), focuses on practice-oriented, subject-specific school development, where students apply subject-specific education research using a critical approach. The second part, which concludes with an independent project for a Master's degree (120 credits), focuses on practice-oriented, subject-specific education research, with the aim of developing empirical and theoretical knowledge relevant to subject-specific education.

The programme provides eligibility for doctoral studies in subject-specific education or educational 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 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 (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 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 specialised 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: a Master's degree (60 credits) or a Master's degree (120 credits). The 60-credit degree may serve as a step towards the 120-credit degree. For the 60-credit degree, students complete an independent project worth 15 credits, while for the 120-credit degree, they complete an additional independent project worth 15 credits.

Beyond the degree projects, the programme comprises 7.5-credit courses. All courses are mandatory and create a progression in practice-oriented, subject-specific education and subject-specific school development. The studies comprise lectures, independent study, seminars and practice-oriented projects that can be conducted within the students' own teaching activities.

The first part of the programme comprises courses that cover:

- an overview of subject-specific education and subject-specific school development as areas of expertise
- specialisation within subject-specific education related to the student's subject specialisation
- perspectives on leading peer-based subject-specific development work
- perspectives on subject-specific school development in collaboration with schools
- knowledge of how to conduct a systematic knowledge overview of subject-specific education within a specific subject. This course can be replaced with an advanced, free elective course within the student's subject specialisation.
- scientific method focused on research-based methods for the development of teaching
- a Master's 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, following a Master's degree (60 credits) and leading up to a Master's degree (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 scientific theory 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 at

this level comprises two courses: one focused on methods for data gathering and the other on methods for data analysis.

Progression within the programme shows in the first part being focused on critical application of existing research for the development of subject-specific education and the conditions thereof, while the second part is more focused on critically examining the development of subject-specific education and the conditions thereof. This progression is reflected 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 covers 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

Subject-specific school development: introductory course, 7.5 credits

Subject-specific specialisation I: specialisation in subject-specific education, 7.5 credits

Semester 2

Leading peer-based subject-specific development work 1, 7.5 credits

Subject-specific school development in collaboration with schools, 7.5 credits

Semester 3

Structured literature review in subject-specific education, 7.5 credits, or an advanced course within the student's subject specialisation, 7.5 credits

Scientific method I, 7.5 credits

Semester 4

Independent project for a Master's degree (60 credits), 15 credits

Semester 5

Scientific theoretical perspectives on subject-specific education 1, 7.5 credits

Subject-specific specialisation 2: specialisation in subject-specific education, 7.5 credits

Semester 6

Leading peer-based subject-specific development work 2, 7.5 credits

Scientific theoretical perspectives on subject-specific education 2, 7.5 credits, or an advanced course within the student's subject specialisation, 7.5 credits

Semester 7

Research methods II – methods for data generation, 7.5 credits

Research methods III – methods for data analysis, 7.5 credits

Semester 8

Independent project for a Master's degree (120 credits), 15 credits

Title of qualification

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

Degree of Master of Arts (60 credits)

Major: Subject-Specific Education in Arts and Social Sciences

For Master student (60 credits) who has 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),

Major: Subject-Specific Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology

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

Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits)

Major: Subject-Specific Education in Arts and Social Sciences

For Master student (120 credits) who has 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 (120 credits)

Major: 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.

Previous versiona of the programme syllabus has been approved:
3 February 2022, reg.no HS 2022/24, effective from the autumn semester of 2022

9 February 2023, reg.no HS 2023/35, effective from the autumn semester of 2023