



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg.no. HS 2022/1119

Master programme in Educational Work – Early Childhood Education and Care

Programme Code:	SAFSP
Programme Title:	Master programme in Educational Work – Early Childhood Education and Care Master (60 credits) Master (120 credits) Magister-/Masterprogram i pedagogiskt arbete med inriktning mot förskolepedagogik Magister, 60 hp Master, 120 hp
Credits:	60/120
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Science on 8 December 2022, and applies as of 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 of Arts in Pre-School Education of at least 180 credits, including a degree project comprising 15 credits at G2E level. 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. Equivalence assessment may be made.

General Information

The Master programme in Educational Work – Early Childhood Education and Care offers cohesive education that leads to a Degree of Master in Educational Work (60/120 credits). The programme turns to students and professionals who are interested in early childhood education, other educational institutions and research.

The programme offers two possible outcomes. The student can pursue a Degree of Master 60 credits or a Degree of Master 120 credits.

Programme Outcomes

For programme completion, students must meet the national requirements for a Degree of Master (60 or 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 (degree project)

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Master (60 credits) is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for 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 (degree project)

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Master (120 credits) is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for 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.

Programme Structure

The programme offers the choice of either of two qualifications: a Degree of Master (60 credits) or a Degree of Master (120 credits). For a Degree of Master (120 credits), students complete two projects comprising 15 credits each, one at the level of Master's 60 credits and one at the level of Master's 120 credits.

The programme is taught at 50 % pace for four semesters (Degree of Master 60 credits) or eight semesters (120 credits). Different forms of teaching are applied within the programme to promote student-centred learning. The programme comprises distance teaching via a learning platform as well as on-campus meetings at Karlstad University and includes lectures, seminars and individual supervision as well as group supervision.

The Master's level (60 credits) of the programme includes two courses comprising 15 credits each with a specialisation in early childhood education from the perspectives of gender equality and sustainable development with focus on teaching, leadership, digitalisation and internationalisation. This level also includes a course in scientific methods (15 credits) and the independent project (15 credits). Students who are studying for a Master's degree (120 credits) then go on to taking two specialised courses comprising 15 credits each with a particular focus on early childhood education, as well as an in-depth course in scientific methods (15 credits) in addition to a second independent project (15 credits). All courses are mandatory.

The programme offers favourable conditions for conducting practice-based and relevant research by providing the opportunity to connect the independent projects to development needs and development projects of relevance to the students' professional practice.

Programme Curriculum

Note that the programme courses listed may have somewhat different titles or be offered in a different order than stated below. For the order of courses, refer to the Appendix.

The following courses are included in the programme:

Teaching and Leadership in Preschool I (15 credits)

The purpose of the course is to shed light on the mission of preschools to teach and adhere to fundamental democratic values, related specifically to the mission, responsibility and leadership of preschool teachers.

Digitalisation and Internationalisation of Preschool I (15 credits)

The purpose of the course is to contribute to specialised knowledge of digitalisation as a democracy

project in preschool education and internationalisation as a core value project.

Methods in Early Childhood Education Research I (15 credits)

The purpose of the course is to deepen the students' knowledge of research theory and methodological issues as well as of educational work as a field of research from the perspective of early childhood education. The course is partly a joint course with students from other Master's programmes at the department.

Independent Project in Early Childhood Education and Care I (15 credits)

The course consists of the students completing and defending an independent project in educational work at Master's level (60 credits).

Students who choose to continue towards a Degree of Master (120 credits) will also take the following courses within the programme:

Teaching and Leadership in Preschool II (15 credits)

The purpose of the course is to contribute to specialised knowledge of different theoretical perspectives on leadership as an area of knowledge and practical application in early childhood education based on a critical approach.

Digitalisation and Internationalisation of Preschool II (15 credits)

The purpose of the course is for the students to deepen their knowledge of digitalisation, internationalisation and multiculturalism in preschool from a scientific perspective.

Methods in Early Childhood Education Research II (15 credits)

The purpose of the course is for the students to deepen their knowledge of various scientific theories and methods within early childhood education as a field of research.

Independent Project in Early Childhood Education and Care II (15 credits)

The course consists of the students completing and defending an independent project in educational work at Master's level (120 credits).

Title of Qualification

Degree of Master of Social Science (60 credits)

Main field of study: Educational Work

Degree of Master of Social Science (120 credits)

Main field of study: Educational Work

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.

Further information

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

Appendix for Master programme in Educational Work – Early Childhood Education and Care

The following outlines the study route for a Degree of Master (60 credits).

Semester	Course
Semester 1 (autumn)	Teaching and Leadership in Preschool I (15 credits)
Semester 2 (spring)	Digitalisation and Internationalisation of Preschool I (15 credits)
Semester 3 (autumn)	Methods in Early Childhood Education Research I (15 credits)
Semester 4 (spring)	Independent Project in Early Childhood Education and Care I (15 credits)

The following outlines the continued study route for a Degree of Master (120 credits).

Semester	Course
Semester 5 (autumn)	Teaching and Leadership in Preschool II (15 credits)
Semester 6 (spring)	Digitalisation and Internationalisation of Preschool II (15 credits)
Semester 7 (autumn)	Methods in Early Childhood Education Research II (15 credits)
Semester 8 (spring)	Independent Project in Early Childhood Education and Care II (15 credits)