



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Master Programme in Geomedia Studies: Media, Mobility and Spatial Planning

Programme code:	SAGEO
Programme title:	Master Programme in Geomedia Studies: Media, Mobility and Spatial Planning Masterprogram i geomediastudier: Medier, mobilitet och rumslig planering
Credits:	120
Approval:	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 12 November and is valid from the autumn semester of 2020.
Language of instruction:	English
Degree level:	Master
Degree type:	General
Prerequisites:	Bachelor's degree with at least 90 credits in Human Geography or Media and Communication Studies, or equivalent (e.g. Tourism Studies, Spatial Planning, Film Studies) that includes a degree project / bachelor thesis of at least 15 credits, or equivalent. Upper-secondary school English B/6, or equivalent.

General information

The programme offers specialised knowledge in the fields of Human Geography and Media and Communication Studies. The focus is on Geomedia Studies, a cross-disciplinary research field that critically examines the relationships between media, communication, mobility and place.

Who can communicate what where? How are different places represented in the media, and what are the results? How do different media affect people's sense of place and belonging, and what happens to the distinctions between the private and the public? What are the social consequences of our increasingly mobile media consumption and lifestyles? How can different media techniques be used to communicate a place and its importance, for example in tourism and marketing? How are spaces, such as workplaces, homes and public spaces, planned to shape communication processes and media use? Which actors have power over these processes?

These and similar questions can be asked on different geographic scales and in relation to a number of contemporary phenomena. Homes, workplaces, commuting environments, public spaces, rural environments, tourist destinations, migration flows, nation states, global geographies and virtual landscapes are all examples of 'places' that can be studied in Geomedia Studies. Issues related to the significance of media for or at these places can concern everything from the development of individual media technologies to the transformation of entire media industries.

There is a need to combine perspectives from Human Geography with Media and Communication Studies, as for example evidenced by the intensification of different types of mobility (such as tourism, migration and commuting for work), the rapid expansion of digital media systems (including mobile media, GPS systems and data flows), and the development of 'smart cities'. The Master Programme in Geomedia Studies: Media, Mobility and Spatial Planning offers such a combination of perspectives.

Aims

National outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master of Arts/Science (60 credits) students 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.

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- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master of Arts/Science (60 credits) students 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 independently 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 their 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.

For a Degree of Master of Arts/Science (120 credits) students 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, independently 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 report clearly and discuss their 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 independent employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master of Arts/Science (60 credits) students 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 their ongoing learning.

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Local outcome

In addition to the above national degree outcomes, the local outcome of the programme is that students shall be able to demonstrate understanding for the cross-disciplinary development, conditions and state of research of Geomedia Studies.

Programme structure

Teaching is mainly offered on campus in the form of lectures, seminars, workshops and group work. In addition, some web-based teaching is included as well as one or more excursions and a practical placement. The online course platform facilitates communication between students and teachers and between students in their study groups. Examination forms are stipulated in each individual course syllabus. The programme can either result in a one-year master's degree (60 credits) or a two-year master's degree (120 credits).

Programme Content

The programme offers specialised knowledge in the main fields of study Human Geography and Media and Communication Studies, with a focus on Geomedia Studies. The programme commences with a preparatory course that introduces central concepts and theories in the fields of Human Geography and Media and Communication Studies, thereby building a shared knowledge base that prepares all students to pursue the rest of the programme. Approaches from adjacent fields, such as Tourism Studies, Spatial Planning and Film Studies, are also integrated in the programme.

Programme Structure¹			
Semester	Course		Credits
1	Introduction to Geomedia Studies		7.5
	Specialisation course 1: Geomedia, culture and everyday life		7.5
	Specialisation course 2: Geomedia, opinion formation and the public sphere		7.5
	Specialisation course 3: Geomedia, spatial planning and mobility		7.5
2	Geomedia Studies in practice		15.0
	Option A, for the two-year master's degree: Project management and design	Option B, for the one-year master's degree: One-year master's thesis	15.0
3	Optional courses		15.0
	Practical placement		15.0
4	Two-year master's thesis		30.0

¹ Please note that course titles may differ from those indicated below.

One-year master's degree (60 credits)

- Introduction to Geomedia Studies (7.5 cr.)
- Specialisation course 1: Geomedia, culture and everyday life (7.5 cr.)
- Specialisation course 2: Geomedia, opinion formation and the public sphere (7.5 cr.)
- Specialisation course 3: Geomedia, spatial planning and mobility (7.5 cr.)
- Geomedia Studies in practice (15 cr.)
- One-year master's thesis (15 cr.)

Two-year master's degree (120 credits)

- Introduction to Geomedia Studies (7.5 cr.)
- Specialisation course 1: Geomedia, culture and everyday life (7.5 cr.)
- Specialisation course 2: Geomedia, opinion formation and the public sphere (7.5 cr.)
- Specialisation course 3: Geomedia, spatial planning and mobility (7.5 cr.)
- Geomedia Studies in practice (15 cr.)
- Project management and design (15 cr.)
- Optional courses (15 cr.)
- Practical placement (15 cr.)
- Two-year master's thesis (30 cr.)

Degree Title

One-year master's degree students who hold a Degree of Bachelor of Social Science, Major: Human Geography (or equivalent) are awarded:

- Degree of Master of Social Science (60 credits), Major: Human Geography
- Filosofie magisterexamen Huvudområde: Kulturgeografi

One-year master's degree students who hold a Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Major: Media and Communication Studies (or equivalent) are awarded:

- Degree of Master of Arts (60 credits), Major: Media and Communication Studies
- Filosofie magisterexamen Huvudområde: Medie- och kommunikationsvetenskap

Two-year master's degree students who hold a Degree of Bachelor of Social Science, Major: Human Geography (or equivalent) are awarded:

- Degree of Master of Social Science (120 credits), Major: Human Geography
- Filosofie masterexamen Huvudområde: Kulturgeografi

Two-year master's degree students who hold a Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Major: Media and Communication Studies (or equivalent) are awarded:

- Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits), Major: Media and Communication Studies
- Filosofie masterexamen Huvudområde: Medie- och kommunikationsvetenskap

Transfer of Credits

According to Ch. 6 Sec. 6–8 of the Higher Education Ordinance, students have the right to transfer credits from other universities upon approval.

Additional Information

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

Earlier versions of this programme study plan we approved on:

6 Dec. 2018, reg. no HS 2018/955, valid from the autumn semester of 2019