



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Master Programme in History

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| Programme Code: | SAHIS |
| Programme Title: | Master programme in History |
| ECTS credits: | 120 |
| Approval: | The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board for Arts and Social Sciences on 7 February 2019 and is valid from the Autumn semester of 2019. |
| Language of instruction: | Swedish and English |
| Degree Level: | Master's |
| Degree Type: | General one- or two-year Master's degree |
| Prerequisites: | Bachelor's degree of 180 ECTS credits with a major in history, history of ideas, cultural studies, religion, ethnology, archaeology, sociology, human geography, or equivalent, or equivalent. Upper secondary level Swedish 3 or B and English 6 or A, or equivalent. |

General Information

History studies centre on the human being and societies through the centuries. Empirical analysis and source critical awareness are core elements of studying continuity and change at local, national and global levels. The master programme in History at Karlstad University has a cultural history profile in which the perspectives on cultural heritage and the use of history complement each other and interact with how history affects our understanding of the contemporary world and our collective horizons of expectation.

This master-level programme in History provides a solid basis for developing the knowledge, skills and abilities required to make advanced analyses of complex social issues from a cultural historical and social science perspectives. Students develop skills in independent critical analysis and judgement as well as in independently planning, conducting and presenting a study firmly based in the theory and methods of history.

The master programme gives students in-depth theoretical and methodological knowledge in cultural history with a specific focus on cultural heritage and the use of history. Students learn to navigate in an international and changing area of knowledge in which individual and collective forms of action and conceptions provide further perspectives on identity and interculturality

Our understanding of historical societal development rests largely on different types of power structures that have challenged and sustained inequality and equality. The cultural heritage sector is strongly connected to different types of identity processes, usually from an inclusive or exclusive perspective based on class, gender, and ethnicity. Cultural heritage issues also take a more prominent position in parliamentary cultural policy debates. Issues on what cultural issues are and whose cultural heritage is important can be controversial because they indicate the inclusion or exclusion of citizens on different grounds. The role of History in a multicultural society is an important educational issue and underlines the importance of involving all citizens in creating an inclusive cultural heritage. The perspectives on the use of history and how it is manifested in different contexts, thus affecting history awareness at individual and collective levels, are therefore important dimensions of history education. Also the extensive digitization of different kinds of source material, as well as the increasing significance of the new social landscape are major societal challenges. The cultural history focus of the programme provides students with interesting perspectives and tools to approach such challenges.

Emphasis is placed on practical placements, project work and mentorship focused on a future segment of the labour market. In-depth knowledge of cultural history and ability to handle, analyse and give priority to essential information in large datasets are assets required in many professional sectors, such as education, media, library and archives, politics, and public management at municipal, regional and national levels, as well as the traditional sectors for historians that do not work as teachers, namely culture and cultural heritage sector (e.g. museums, exhibitions, and information). The programme provides relevant knowledge and skills not only for advanced development, investigative or management work, but also for creative writing or running innovative cultural projects. The programme also prepares for studies at doctoral level.

Learning Outcomes

Master's Degree (120 credits)

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master of Arts/Science (120 credits) students shall

1. 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

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

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master of Arts/Science (120 credits) students shall

3. demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information,
4. 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,
5. 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
6. 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 (120 credits) students shall

7. 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,
8. 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
9. demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their ongoing learning.

Independent project (degree project)

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Master of Arts/Science (120 credits) is completion 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.

Master's Degree (60 credits)

Knowledge and understanding

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

1. 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
2. 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

3. demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information,
4. 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,
5. 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
6. 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 of Arts/Science (60 credits) students shall

7. 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,
8. 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
9. demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their ongoing learning.

Independent project (degree project)

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Master of Arts/Science (60 credits) is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 15 credits in the main field of study.

Programme Structure

The recommended study path is based on progressive courses in the field of history and concludes with an independent project. The first semester introduces and reinforces knowledge of the development and perspectives of the subject History in terms of areas such as nation, use of history, gender and culture policy, which are treated in the perspective of the theory and methodology of cultural history. The second semester provides in-depth study of cultural history with an emphasis on cultural heritage and issues of power. Courses in the third semester are optional and courses taken at other universities may be included as specialisation or complementary courses. Opportunities for practical placement and studying abroad are also offered. Karlstad University has established cooperation with different regional partners such as Region Värmland and the Värmland Museum and some universities abroad. Since the programme design allows the students to choose and combine courses to a certain extent, all students have to plan their study paths carefully, in consultation with the programme's study and career counsellor.

Programme content

The programme has two possible degree paths: a 60-credit Master's and a 120-credit Master's.

Master's degree (120 credits)***Semester 1***

Introduction to History Studies at Master level, 7.5 ECTS credits

The Use of History, 7.5 ECTS credits

Cultural Heritage and the Cultural Turn. Theory and Method, 7.5 ECTS credits

Cultural Policy in a Historical Perspective, 7.5 ECTS credits

Semester 2

Multifaceted Cultural Heritage, 15 ECTS credits

Cultural History Research Methodology, 7.5 ECTS credits

The New Political History, 7.5 ECTS credits

Semester 3

In the third semester students profile their degree by specialising further in history or by choosing broadening courses in relevant areas. Opportunities for practical placement and studying abroad are also offered. Note that a maximum of 30 credits can be included for courses at undergraduate level. The following courses are examples of optional courses: Cultural Heritage Pedagogy, 7.5 ECTS credits, Identities and Cultures, 7.5 ECTS credits (offered by Human Geography), Political Theory, 7.5 ECTS credits (offered by Political Science), Project Management: Cultural Studies, 7.5 ECTS credits (offered by Cultural Studies), Practical Placement, 15 ECTS credits, Cultural Project (offered by Cultural Studies), Theory of Science, 7.5 ECTS credits (offered by Political Science).

Semester 4

Independent degree project, 30 ECTS credits (can be replaced by an independent project in History II 15 ECTS credits and optional courses 15 ECTS credits for students who have earned a 60-credit master degree).

Master's degree (60 credits)***Semester 1***

Introduction to History Studies at Master level, 7.5 ECTS credits

The Use of History, 7.5 ECTS credits

Cultural Heritage and the Cultural Turn. Theory and Method, 7.5 ECTS credits

Cultural Policy in a Historical Perspective, 7.5 ECTS credits

Semester 2

Multifaceted Cultural Heritage, 15 ECTS credits

Independent project, 15 ECTS credits

Degree Title

Degree of Master of Arts (60 credits), Major: History

Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits), Major: History

Transfer of Credits

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

Local regulations for the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the rights and obligations of staff and students.