



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Master's Programme in Social Sciences

Programme Code:	SAMAS
Programme Title:	Master's Programme in Social Sciences
ECTS credits:	120
Approval:	The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board for Arts and Social Sciences on 18 January 2018 and is valid from the Autumn semester of 2018.
Language of instruction:	Swedish and English
Degree Level:	Master's
Degree Type:	General one- or two-year Master's degree
Prerequisites:	General admission requirements for studies at Master's level. Specific requirements: Upper secondary level Swedish 3 or B and English 6 or A, or equivalent. For the chosen major: – History: Bachelor's degree of 180 ECTS credits with a major in history, cultural studies, history of ideas, religion, ethnology, anthropology, or equivalent. – Human Geography: Bachelor's degree of 180 ECTS credits with a major in human geography/tourism studies with an emphasis on human geography, or equivalent. – Social Work: General or professional Bachelor's degree of 180 ECTS credits, including a degree project of 15 ECTS cr. with a major in social care or social work, or equivalent. – Sociology: Bachelor's degree of 180 ECTS credits with a major in sociology or social psychology, or equivalent. – Political Science: Bachelor's degree of 180 ECTS credits with a major in political science, or equivalent.

General Information

The Master's programme is designed for students who are aiming for a Master's degree (60 credits or 120 credits) in one of the faculty's social science disciplines:

- History
- Human Geography
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Political Science

The programme involves studies at Master's level in one of the above five subjects.

The programme includes mandatory as well as elective courses offering opportunities for specialised or broadened knowledge (see overview attachment and the programme homepage). Each subject offers in-depth courses on its specific issues, theories and methods, while courses in other programme subjects offer a broadening perspective and understanding of social science analysis. The combination of subject enhancement and social science broadening provides a solid basis for making qualified analysis of societal issues and complex problems, thus preparing for professional life as well as further studies. Students develop the scientific knowledge and skills required for further studies and for qualified investigative and analytical jobs, case management, development work and project/unit management. The content of the majors offered are described below.

Studies in history centre on different types of uses of history and issues of cultural heritage. The specialisation gives students in-depth theoretical and methodological knowledge about cultural history in a dynamic international area in which individual and collective forms of action and conceptions provide perspectives on identity and intercultural issues. Students are given a deeper understanding of the role played by historical perspectives in interpretations of our contemporary world and our horizons of expectation. Emphasis is placed on practical placements, project work and mentorship focused on the segment of the labour market that comprises or is connected to the uses of history and cultural heritage, thus providing different job prospects in a relatively broad field that includes identity issues and intercultural 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.

Studies in human geography focus on the human-society-environment interaction at and between various shell levels: locally, regionally and globally. Human geography offers broad and enhanced knowledge of how material, social and perceived worlds are created and changed in a spatial perspective. Areas treated from different perspectives, such as power, political resource allocation and equity, and in terms of different spatial models of understanding, are globalisation processes, urbanisation and land planning, mobility, culture and identity. Master-level students acquire in-depth knowledge of idea traditions, theories and concepts in the discipline and develop skills in analysing, assessing and independently planning, conducting and presenting a theoretically and methodologically based study in human geography.

Studies in social work centre on independent research and analysis projects. The studies aim to deepen the understanding and analysis of human relations at the individual, group, and society levels. Students also deepen their understanding of human-oriented organisations. Social work mainly focuses on social vulnerability and marginalised groups.

Studies in sociology emphasise independent research and analysis and aim at deepening students' understanding and analysis of human relations at the individual, group, organisation and society level in terms of power as well as the importance of organisations and organising in different situations. The importance of regional and global contexts for people's conditions and quality of life are also considered. The aim of studies in sociology at Master's level is that students acquire specialised knowledge in central sociological areas and develop further abilities to analyse and explore social conditions at different levels.

Studies in political science emphasise political organising and political processes at local, regional and global levels. Students deepen their knowledge of political science concepts and its theoretical tradition and further develop concepts and current issues in international politics, public politics and administration, political theory, policy analysis and the relation between gender and politics. The potentials and limitations of science and its role in politics and society are treated. The aim is that students enhance their ability to understand and analyse politics and political organising. Master-level courses provide specialised knowledge of political science traditions, theories, concepts, methods and methodologies to understand, clarify and analyse power and politics. Students' independent research and investigative and analytical skills are also enhanced in the planning, completing and presenting of a research project firmly based in theory and appropriate method.

Learning Outcomes

The aim of the Master Programme in Social Sciences (SAMAS) is that students develop the ability to undertake independent research and development projects and independent analysis. Master's level studies entail a deepening of knowledge, skills and abilities in relation to previous studies. In addition it should

- further develop students' ability to independently integrate and apply knowledge,
- develop students' ability to handle complex phenomena, issues and situations,
- develop students' capacity for occupations requiring a high degree of independence or for research and development work. (Ch. 1 Sec. 9 of the Higher Education Act 1992:1434)

The Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2 (1993:100) further stipulates the general requirements for various degree qualifications. This programme allows students to earn both a Master's Degree (60 credits) and a Master's Degree (120 credits).

National Objectives for the Degree of Master of Arts/Science (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.

National Objectives for Degree of Master of Arts/Science (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 and Content

The study paths of the different specialisations are based on courses in the main field of study, as well as on optional courses. Several of the specialisations offer opportunities for practical placement and studying abroad. Courses taken at other universities may also be included as specialisation or complementary courses. Course syllabi stipulate the entrance requirements for optional courses and the conditions for practical placement courses. The programme specialisations offer different opportunities for combining specialisation with complementary studies and therefore all students have to plan their study paths carefully, in consultation with the programme's study and career counsellor.

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

Requirements for the Master's degree (60 credits):

Courses in the main field of study of at least 30 ECTS credits, including a degree project of at least 15 ECTS credits and a course in research methods of 7.5 ECTS credits. At the most 15 of the remaining ECTS credits can be earned at Bachelor's level.

Requirements for the Master's degree (120 credits):

At least 60 ECTS credits of courses in the main field of study (major), including a degree project of at least 30 ECTS credits and a course in research methods of 15 ECTS credits. No more than 30 of the remaining ECTS credits can be earned at Bachelor's level.

Although the programme is largely based on optional courses, a recommended course of study for each major is described in the appended table and on the programme homepage.

Degree Title

Upon completion of the programme, students are awarded a Master of Social Science (60 credits) or a Master of Social Science (120 credits) in their chosen major.

Master of Social Science (60 credits). Major: History / Filosofie magisterexamen.
Huvudområde: Historia

Master of Social Science (60 credits). Major: Human Geography / Filosofie
magisterexamen. Huvudområde: Kulturgeografi

Master of Social Science (60 credits). Major: Social Work / Filosofie magisterexamen.
Huvudområde: Socialt arbete

Master of Social Science (60 credits). Major: Sociology / Filosofie magisterexamen.
Huvudområde: Sociologi

Master of Social Science (60 credits). Major: Political Science / Filosofie
magisterexamen. Huvudområde: Statsvetenskap

Master of Social Science (120 credits). Major: History / Filosofie masterexamen.
Huvudområde: Historia

Master of Social Science (120 credits). Major: Human Geography / Filosofie
masterexamen. Huvudområde: Kulturgeografi

Master of Social Science (120 credits). Major: Social Work / Filosofie masterexamen.
Huvudområde: Socialt arbete/

Master of Social Science (120 credits). Major: Sociology / Filosofie masterexamen.
Huvudområde: Sociologi

Master of Social Science (120 credits). Major: Political Science / Filosofie
masterexamen. Huvudområde: Statsvetenskap

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's and Master's level at Karlstad University stipulate the rights and obligations of staff and students.

Previous revisions of the programme study plan:

15 Dec. 2010, Reg.no FAK3 2010/145, valid from the autumn semester of 2011

12 Mar. 2015, Reg.no HS 2015/173, valid from the autumn semester of 2015

9 Feb. 2017, Reg.no HS 2017/4, valid from the autumn semester of 2017

Appendix to the SAMAS Programme Study Plan: Course of Study

The recommended study path for each specialisation is described below. Many of the courses in the programme are optional, but each study path includes recommended specialisation and complementary courses listed below with the semesters they are offered. Please note that the titles of courses included in the programme may differ from those below.

Course of Study: SAMAS Political Science

Semester	60-credit Master's	120-credit Master's
1	International politics (7.5 ECTS cr.) Public Politics and Administration (7.5 ECTS cr.) Methodology and Research Methods in Political Science (15 ECTS cr.)	International politics (7.5 ECTS cr.) Public Politics and Administration (7.5 ECTS cr.) Methodology and Research Methods in Political Science (15 ECTS cr.)*
2	<u>Specialisation:</u> Policy analysis (7.5 ECTS cr.) Political theory (7.5 ECTS cr.) Independent research and investigatory work (15 ECTS cr.)	<u>Specialisation:</u> Policy analysis (7.5 ECTS cr.) Political theory (7.5 ECTS cr.) <u>Broadening:</u> Welfares and Social Exclusion (7.5 ECTS cr.) Evaluation and Evidence in the Public Sector (7.5 ECTS cr.) The Multifaceted Cultural Heritage (7.5 ECTS cr.) Cultural policy in a historical perspective (7.5 ECTS cr.) Practical placement (15 ECTS cr.), Practical placement (30 ECTS cr.) Study abroad
3		<u>Specialisation (15 ECTS cr.):</u> Philosophy of Science (7.5 ECTS cr.) Gender and politics: Theory and methodology (7.5 ECTS cr.) Forms of power and governance (7.5 ECTS cr.) <u>Broadening (15 ECTS cr.):</u> Practical placement (15 ECTS cr.), Practical placement (30 ECTS cr.) Study abroad Identities and cultures (7.5 ECTS cr.) Organisational analysis (7.5 ECTS cr.) The organisation of regions in space-time (7.5 ECTS cr.) Glocal and local relations (7.5 ECTS cr.) Mobilities (7.5 ECTS cr.)
4		Independent research and investigatory work (30 ECTS cr.)**

* Courses in bold are recommended and the rest of the courses are optional.

** Independent research and investigatory work may be replaced by Independent research and investigatory work II (15 ECTS cr.) and 15 ECTS credits of optional courses if the student previously completed a 60-credit Master's.

Course of Study: SAMAS Sociology

Semester	60-credit Master's	120-credit Master's
1	Sociological theories (7.5 ECTS cr.) Organisational analysis (7.5 ECTS cr.) Methodologies and methods in social research (7.5 ECTS cr.) Glocal and local relations (7.5 ECTS cr.)	Sociological theories (7.5 ECTS cr.) Organisational analysis (7.5 ECTS cr.) Methodologies and Methods in Social Research (7.5 ECTS cr.) Glocal and local relations (7.5 ECTS cr.)
2	<u>Broadening (15 ECTS cr.):</u> Evaluation and evidence in the public sector (7.5 ECTS cr.) Welfare and social exclusion (7.5 ECTS cr.) <u>Specialisation:</u> Sociology IV, degree project (15 ECTS cr.)	<u>Broadening (30 ECTS cr.):</u> Evaluation and evidence in the public sector (7.5 ECTS cr.) Welfare and social exclusion (7.5 ECTS cr.) Policy analysis (7.5 ECTS cr.) Forms of power and governance (7.5 ECTS cr.)
3		<u>Specialisation:</u> Organising, interaction, society (7.5 ECTS cr.) Advanced course in qualitative and quantitative analysis (7.5 ECTS cr.) <u>Broadening (15 ECTS cr.):</u> Identities and cultures (7.5 ECTS cr.) Local and regional development (7.5 ECTS cr.) Philosophy of science (7.5 ECTS cr.) The organisation of regions in space-time (7.5 ECTS cr.) Gender and politics: Theory and methodology (7.5 ECTS cr.) Mobilities (7.5 ECTS cr.)
4		Sociology IV, V, degree project (30 ECTS cr.)**

* Courses in bold are recommended and the rest of the courses are optional.

** Sociology IV, V, degree project (30 ECTS cr.) may be replaced by Sociology V, degree project (15 ECTS cr.) and 15 ECTS credits of optional courses if the student previously completed a 60-credit Master's.

Course of Study: SAMAS Social Work

Semester	60-credit Master's	120-credit Master's
1	Theories of social work (7.5 ECTS cr.) Organisational analysis (7.5 ECTS cr.) Methods of social science (7.5 ECTS cr.) Glocal and local relations (7.5 ECTS cr.)	Theories of social work (7.5 ECTS cr.) Organisational analysis (7.5 ECTS cr.) Methods of social science (7.5 ECTS cr.) Glocal and local relations (7.5 ECTS cr.)
2	<u>Specialisation (30 ECTS cr.):</u> Evaluation and evidence in the public sector (7.5 ECTS cr.) Welfare and social exclusion (7.5 ECTS cr.) Rights of the child (7.5 ECTS cr.) Social work management (7.5 ECTS cr.) Treatment in addiction care (7.5 ECTS cr.) Social gerontology (7.5 ECTS cr.) Degree project in social work (15 ECTS cr.)	<u>Specialisation (30 ECTS cr.):</u> Evaluation and evidence in the public sector (7.5 ECTS cr.) Welfare and social exclusion (7.5 ECTS cr.) Rights of the child (7.5 ECTS cr.) Social work management (7.5 ECTS cr.) Treatment in addiction care (7.5 ECTS cr.) Social gerontology (7.5 ECTS cr.) Degree project in social work (15 ECTS cr.)
3		<u>Specialisation (15 ECTS cr.):</u> Social vulnerability and marginalisation (7.5 ECTS cr.) Advanced course in methods of social science (7.5 ECTS cr.) <u>Broadening (15 ECTS cr.):</u>

	Philosophy of science (7.5 ECTS cr.) Identities and cultures (7.5 ECTS cr.) Local and regional development (7.5 ECTS cr.) The organisation of regions in space-time (7.5 ECTS cr.) Gender and politics: Theory and methodology (7.5 ECTS cr.) Mobilities (7.5 ECTS cr.)
4	<u>Broadening (15 ECTS cr.):</u> Optional courses <u>Specialisation (15 ECTS cr.):</u> Master thesis in social work (15 ECTS cr.)

* Courses in bold are recommended and the rest of the courses are optional.

Course of Study: SAMAS Human Geography

Semester	60-credit Master's	120-credit Master's
1	Philosophy of science (7.5 ECTS cr.) Local and regional development (7.5 ECTS cr.) Mobilities (7.5 ECTS cr.) Methodologies and methods in social research, emphasis on human geography (7.5 ECTS cr.)	Philosophy of science (7.5 ECTS cr.) Local and regional development (7.5 ECTS cr.) Mobilities (7.5 ECTS cr.) Methodologies and methods in social research, emphasis on human geography (7.5 ECTS cr.)
2	<u>Broadening (15 ECTS cr.):</u> Study abroad Practical placement (15 ECTS cr.) <u>Specialisation:</u> Advanced thesis in human geography (15 ECTS cr.)	<u>Broadening (30 ECTS cr.):</u> Study abroad Practical placement: 15 or 30 ECTS credits Evaluation and evidence in the public sector (7.5 ECTS cr.) Welfare and social exclusion (7.5 ECTS cr.) Policy analysis (7.5 ECTS cr.)
3		<u>Specialisation:</u> Classics in spatial theory (7.5 ECTS cr.) Advanced course in methods of social science (7.5 ECTS cr.) <u>Broadening (15 ECTS cr.):</u> The organisation of regions in space-time (7.5 ECTS cr.) Glocal and local relations (7.5 ECTS cr.) Gender and politics: Theory and methodology (7.5 ECTS cr.)
4		Advanced thesis in human geography (30 ECTS cr.)

* Courses in bold are recommended and the rest of the courses are optional.

Course of Study: SAMAS History

Semester	60-credit Master's	120-credit Master's
1	Cultural heritage and the cultural turn: theory and method (7.5 ECTS cr.) Identities and cultures (7.5 ECTS cr.) Use of history (7.5 ECTS cr.) Project management (7.5 ECTS cr.)	Cultural heritage and the cultural turn: theory and method (7.5 ECTS cr.) Identities and cultures (7.5 ECTS cr.) Use of history (7.5 ECTS cr.) Project management (7.5 ECTS cr.)
2	Multifaceted cultural heritage (15 ECTS cr.)	Multifaceted cultural heritage (15 ECTS cr.)

	Degree project (15 ECTS cr.)	Central cultural policy issues in a historical perspective (7.5 ECTS cr.) Methods (7.5 ECTS cr.)
3		Cultural Heritage-based Teaching and Learning (7.5 ECTS cr.) Project Management: Culture Studies (15 ECTS cr.) Practical placement (15 ECTS cr.) <u>Specialisation:</u> New political history (7.5 ECTS cr.) The organisation of regions in space-time (7.5 ECTS cr.) <u>Broadening:</u> Philosophy of science (7.5 ECTS cr.) Gender and politics (7.5 ECTS cr.)
4		Degree project (30 ECTS cr.)**

* Courses in bold are recommended and the rest of the courses are optional.

** The degree project may be replaced by degree project in history II (15 ECTS cr.) and 15 ECTS cr. of optional courses if the student previously completed a 60-credit Master's.