



Programme Syllabus

Master Programme in Social Work

Programme Code: SASOC

Programme Title: Master Programme in Social Work
Masterprogram i socialt arbete

Credits: 120 ECTS

Programme Approval: The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Science on 4 February 2021, and applies as of the autumn semester of 2021.

Language of Instruction: Swedish and English

Education Cycle: Second cycle

Degree Type: General

Entry Requirements: Degree of Bachelor of at least 180 ECTS credits, 90 of which should be in Social Work including an independent project for at least 15 ECTS credits, or equivalent academic qualifications.
Upper secondary school level Swedish 3 or B and upper secondary school level English 6 or A, or equivalent.

General Information

The Master Programme in Social Work aims to equip students for independent analysis and development of social work to enhance their competence and ability to take on more qualified tasks in an area of practice. The programme is an opportunity for continuing professional development and specialisation in different areas of social work, such as work with children, youth, and families; addiction; the elderly; gender and violence, and migration. Student will specialise in quantitative and qualitative

research methodology. There is an emphasis on critical analysis and judgement and the ability to independently plan, execute, and present an academic project that is firmly rooted in theory and methodology. The Master Programme in Social Work also serves as a stepping stone for students who wish to move on to third-cycle studies.

Programme Outcomes

Degree of Master (60 ECTS credits)

National outcomes

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.

Degree of Master (120 ECTS credits)

National outcomes

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 study rate for mandatory courses is 50% of full-time and the programme structure is open, which allows for significant student customisation in terms of profile and study

rate. The first semester comprises the mandatory courses of *Theories of Social Work*, 7.5 ECTS credits, and *Methods of Social Science*, 7.5 ECTS credits. In the second semester, students write an independent project for 15 ECTS credits. Provided all requirements have been met, students can then either graduate with a Degree of Master (60 ECTS credits) or continue towards a Degree of Master (120 ECTS credits). For students who opt to continue, the third semester comprises the mandatory course *Advanced Course in Methods of Social Science*, 7.5 ECTS credits. In the fourth semester, students will write another independent project for 15 ECTS credits. In addition, students have the opportunity to adapt their profile and specialise in Social Work or broaden their qualifications with alternative courses. The specialisation range at Karlstad University reflects the discipline's three research tracks: Critical Welfare Studies, Studies on Health and Social Vulnerability at Individual and Group Level, and Applied Welfare Studies. Optional course selection and study planning is done in consultation with the study and career counsellor or programme coordinator. More information about individual courses is available in the respective course syllabus.

Programme Curriculum

The programme offers the choice of either of two qualifications. A Degree of Master (60 ECTS credits) or a Degree of Master (120 ECTS credits).

The programme's study route. Mandatory courses are marked with an*
Note that the programme courses can have other titles than listed below.

Degree of Master (60 ECTS credits)

Theories of Social Work, 7.5 ECTS credits*
Methods of Social Science, 7.5 ECTS credits*
Independent project in Social Work I, 15 ECTS credits*
Optional courses, 30 ECTS credits

Degree of Master (120 ECTS credits)

Theories of Social Work, 7.5 ECTS credits*
Methods of Social Science, 7.5 ECTS credits*
Independent project in Social Work I, 15 ECTS credits*
Advanced Course in Methods of Social Science, 7.5 ECTS credits*
Independent project in Social Work II, 15 ECTS credits*
Optional courses, 67.5 ECTS credits

The semester schedule is specified in Appendix 1.

Title of Qualification

Degree of Master of Social Science (60 credits)
Major: Social Work

Filosofie magisterexamen
Huvudområde: Socialt arbete

Degree of Master of Social Science (120 credits)
Major: Social Work

Filosofie masterexamen
Huvudområde: Socialt arbete

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.

Eligibility for *Independent project in Social Work I* requires completion of the two mandatory courses in the first semester. Students who hold a Degree of Bachelor in Social Work or similar and are 30 ECTS credits short compared to students who hold a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work (socionomexamen) must have completed an optional specialisation course in Social Work for 7.5 ECTS credits to be eligible. Eligibility for *Independent project in Social Work II* requires a passing grade in *Independent project in Social Work I* and completion of *Advanced Course in Methods of Social Science*.

Students have the option of writing one independent project for 30 ECTS credits instead of two for 15 ECTS credits each.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Master Programme in Social Work - General Overview

Appendix 1.

Master Programme in Social Work - General Overview

The following optional specialisation second-cycle courses in Social Work are offered every semester (which means individual students can study at a 100% rate if they prefer): Evidence in Social Work, 7.5 ECTS credits, Domestic Violence in a Social Work Perspective, 7.5 ECTS credits, Social Work Management, 7.5 ECTS credits; Rights of Child, 7.5 ECTS credits, Treatment Service in Drug Addiction Care, 7.5 ECTS credits; Social Gerontology, 7.5 ECTS credits, Globalisation, Migration, and Social Work, 7.5 ECTS credits (from autumn semester 2021).

Semester (mandatory courses in bold):	Degree of Master (60 ECTS credits)	Degree of Master (120 ECTS credits)
1	Specialisation -Theories of Social Work, 7.5 ECTS credits -Methods of Social Science, 7.5 ECTS credits	Specialisation: -Theories of Social Work, 7.5 ECTS credits -Methods of Social Science, 7.5 ECTS credits
2	Specialisation: Independent project I, 15 ECTS credits	Specialisation: Independent project in Social Work I, 15 ECTS credits*
3	Optional courses, 15 ECTS credits Students can either specialise in Social Work or broaden their qualifications with alternative courses.	Specialisation: -Advanced Course in Methods of Social Science, 7.5 ECTS credits Optional specialisation course (see example above) or broadening second cycle, 7.5 ECTS credits.
4	Optional courses, 15 ECTS credits Students can either specialise in Social Work or broaden their qualifications with alternative courses.	Specialisation: -Independent project in Social Work II, 15 ECTS credits
5		Optional courses, 15 ECTS credits Students can either specialise in Social Work or broaden their qualifications with alternative courses.
6		Optional courses, 15 ECTS credits Students can either specialise in Social Work or

		broaden their qualifications with alternative courses.
7		Optional courses, 15 ECTS credits Students can either specialise in Social Work or broaden their qualifications with alternative courses.
8		Optional courses, 15 ECTS credits Students can either specialise in Social Work or broaden their qualifications with alternative courses.