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Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Programme Syllabus

Reg.no. HS 2023/50

### Master Programme in Social Work

<b>Programme Code:</b>	SASOC
<b>Programme Title:</b>	Master Programme in Social Work Masterprogram i socialt arbete
<b>Credits:</b>	120
<b>Programme Approval:</b>	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Science on 9 February 2023, and applies from the autumn semester of 2023.
<b>Language of Instruction:</b>	Swedish and English
<b>Education Cycle:</b>	Second
<b>Degree Type:</b>	General Degree of Master 120 credits with the possibility of a Degree of Master 60 credits
<b>Entry Requirements:</b>	Degree of Bachelor of at least 180 credits, 90 of which should be in Social Work including an independent project for at least 15 credits, or equivalent academic qualifications. Upper secondary school level Swedish 3 or B, and English 6 or A, or equivalent.

### General Information

The Master Programme in Social Work provides an opportunity for further professional development and aims to equip students for independent analysis and development of social work to enhance their competence and skills to take on more qualified tasks in an area of practice. The programme offers specialisation in different areas of social work. In addition to specialisation, great focus is placed on supporting the students to developing their scientific abilities and skills, both theoretically and methodologically. The programme promotes student-centred learning and invites students to participate actively in the learning process. Critical

reflection and ability to work independently is central, and perspectives of gender equality and sustainable development are considered throughout the programme in both literature and learning activities. The Master Programme in Social Work also serves as a stepping stone for students who wish to move on to doctoral studies.

The programme offers two possible outcomes: Degree of Master (60 credits) or Degree of Master (120 credits).

### **Programme Outcomes**

For programme completion, students must meet the national requirements for a Degree of Master (60 and 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 includes mandatory courses of 30 credits, of which 15 credits consist of an independent project, for a One-year Master's degree (60 credits), and mandatory courses of 52.5 credits for a Two-year Master's degree (120 credits), of which 30 credits consist of an independent project. The study rate for mandatory courses is 50% of full-time and the courses are held as distance learning courses without any physical meetings. In addition, students have the opportunity to adapt their profile and specialise through optional courses in the main field Social Work at Master's level, or courses in adjacent academic fields that are selected in consultation with the programme director.

#### Degree of Master (60 credits)

The first semester comprises two mandatory courses for a total of 15 credits. In the second semester, students write an independent project comprising 15 credits. The remaining part of the programme comprises optional courses for a total of 30 credits. Students can also choose to take the optional courses during the second and the third semester and then finish with the independent project during the fourth semester of the programme. Alternatives for the semester schedule are specified in Appendix 1.

#### Degree of Master (120 credits)

The first semester comprises two mandatory courses for a total of 15 credits. The remaining part of the programme comprises a mandatory methods course, an independent project, and optional courses. The independent project for a Master's degree (120 credits) can be completed as either two projects of 15 credits each or one comprising 30 credits. Alternatives for the semester schedule are specified in Appendix 1.

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 credits) or a Degree of Master (120 credits).

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

### Degree of Master (60 credits)

Theories of Social Work, 7.5 credits\*

Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits\*

Independent project in Social Work I, 15 credits\*

Optional courses in the main field of Social Work or equivalent, 30 credits

### Degree of Master (120 credits)

Theories of Social Work, 7.5 credits\*

Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits\*

Independent project in Social Work I, 15 credits\*

Advanced Course in Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits\*

Independent Project in Social Work II, 15 credits\* (given that Independent Project in Social Work I, 15 credits, has been completed), otherwise Independent Work in Social Work II, 30 credits\*

Optional courses in the main field of Social Work or equivalent, 67.5 credits

The semester schedule is specified in Appendix 1.

## **Title of Qualification**

Degree of Master of Social Science (60 credits)

Main field of study: Social Work

Degree of Master of Social Science (120 credits)

Main field of study: Social 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.

## **Additional Information**

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

A previous version of the programme syllabus has been approved:

4 February 2021, reg.no HS 2021/24, valid from the autumn semester of 2021

## **Appendixes**

Appendix 1. Master Programme in Social Work - General Overview

## Appendix 1 Master Programme in Social Work - General Overview

### Degree of Master (60 credits)

Semester	Master (60 credits), Independent project 15 credits, option 1	Master (60 credits), Independent project 15 credits, option 2
1	Theories of Social Work, 7.5 credits Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits	Theories of Social Work, 7.5 credits Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits
2	Independent project I, 15 credits	Optional courses, 15 credits
3	Optional courses, 15 credits	Optional courses, 15 credits
4	Optional courses, 15 credits	Independent Project I, 15 credits

### Degree of Master (120 credits)

Semester	Master (120 credits), Independent project 15+15 credits, option 1	Master (120 credits), Independent project 15+15 credits, option 2	Master (120 credits), Independent project 15+15 credits, option 3
1	Theories of Social Work, 7.5 credits Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits	Theories of Social Work, 7.5 credits Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits	Theories of Social Work, 7.5 credits Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits
2	Independent Project I, 15 credits	Optional courses, 15 credits	Optional courses, 15 credits
3	Advanced Course in Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits Optional courses, 7.5 credits	Advanced Course in Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits Optional courses, 7.5 credits	Advanced Course in Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits Optional courses, 7.5 credits
4	Independent Project II, 15 credits	Independent Project I, 15 credits	Optional courses, 15 credits
5	Optional courses, 15 credits	Optional courses, 15 credits	Optional courses, 15 credits
6	Optional courses, 15 credits	Independent Project II, 15 credits	Independent Project I, 15 credits
7	Optional courses, 15 credits	Optional courses, 15 credits	Optional courses, 15 credits
8	Optional courses, 15 credits	Optional courses, 15 credits	Independent Project II, 15 credits

Semester	Master (120 credits), Independent project 30 credits, option 1	Master (120 credits), Independent project 30 credits, option 2
1	Theories of Social Work, 7.5 credits Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits	Theories of Social Work, 7.5 credits Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits
2	Optional courses, 15 credits	Optional courses, 15 credits
3	Advanced Course in Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits Optional courses, 7.5 credits	Advanced Course in Methods of Social Science, 7.5 credits Optional courses, 7.5 credits
4	Independent Project II, 30 credits	Optional courses, 15 credits
5	continuation Independent Project II	Optional courses, 15 credits
6	Optional courses, 15 credits	Independent Project II, 30 credits
7	Optional courses, 15 credits	continuation Independent Project II
8	Optional courses, 15 credits	Optional courses, 15 credits