



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg. no. HS 2024/123

Master's Programme in Educational Leadership and School Development
(60/120 credits)

Programme Code:	SAUTS
Programme Title:	Master's Programme in Educational Leadership and School Development (60/120 credits) <i>Magister-/masterprogram i utbildningsledning och skolutveckling</i>
Credits:	60/120 credits
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 8 February 2024, effective from the autumn semester of 2024.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish
Education Cycle:	Second (Master's)
Degree Type:	General Degree of Master 120 credits with the possibility of a Degree of Master 60 credits
Entry Requirements:	Bachelor of Arts/Science in Education of at least 180 credits, including an independent project of at least 15 credits at G2E level. Upper secondary school level Swedish 3 and English 6/A. Equivalence assessment may be made.

General information

The programme is designed for teachers at all levels and specialisations of education and school leaders who wish to acquire further qualifications in the area of educational leadership and school development. Focus is on leading development at the school level based on research and proven experience. The two basic principles of the programme are the close link between professional practice and research-based knowledge of school development and leadership, and a learning organisation perspective, which means taking advantage of the daily learning acquired in organisations, thus creating opportunities for continued learning.

Theories and perspectives on school development and leadership are presented, studied, reviewed and problematised to generate new knowledge, development and learning in the interface between students' own experiences, the practice-related dimension, and a critical approach.

Programme outcomes

The aim of the programme for students to meet the national as well as the local outcomes required for a Degree of Master (60/120 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.

Local outcomes

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the theoretical and practical aspects of school development based on a learning organisational perspective.

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.

Local outcomes

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the theoretical and practical aspects of school development based on a learning organisational perspective, and
- demonstrate ability to apply and critically review a learning organisational perspective in relation to educational leadership and systematic school development efforts in their own practice.

Programme structure

The programme offers the choice of either of two qualifications: A Degree of Master (60 credits) or a Degree of Master (120 credits). For a Degree of Master (60 credits), students study courses comprising a total of 45 credits and finish with an independent project of 15 credits. For a Degree of Master (120 credits), students study courses comprising a total of 90 credits. During semester 4, students can choose to take the course School leadership and management, 15 credits, or Professional dialogue, 15 credits. In the final year, students complete an independent project of 30 credits.

Course outcomes and content are described in the respective course syllabus. Generally, instruction is characterised by collegial methods through which students develop the skills stated in the learning outcomes. Based on the pedagogical view that learning is situated and social, students work in groups, reflecting and discussing previous experiences, course content and individual and joint assignments. Students work in groups, reflecting and discussing previous experiences, course content and individual and joint assignments.

Great emphasis is on students exploring, testing and critically reviewing their own practice in relation to the theories included. The idea behind this approach is to bridge the gap between

theory and practice, thus contributing to a deeper understanding of the field constituting the content of the programme. Students are expected to have the opportunity to carry out studies in professional practice in a school or educational organisation.

The programme is offered as distance education with physical meetings where examination components are included.

Programme curriculum

The overall content is anchored in research and theories about governance and leadership, especially in relation to educational activities, as well as school development based on perspectives of organisational theory relevant to school development and change. There are also courses that have a particular focus on gender equality perspectives in working life and research.

The programme aims to develop the knowledge of how governance, leadership and development of preschool and primary/lower secondary school can be interpreted and handled, both in terms of institutional and organisational perspectives. Different perspectives on school development and sustainable development are examined, with the aim of ensuring that students will be able to implement the development activities in their respective work places.

The programme emphasises the ability to, critically and systematically, integrate theory with professional practice and to formulate research questions aimed at creating new knowledge. Furthermore, the programme provides the ability to participate in educational sciences research and development.

The study route of the programme is described below. Note that titles and order of programme courses may vary from the list below.

Degree of Master (60 credits)

- Semester 1: The political governance of schools and school leadership, 15 credits
- Semester 2: Leading local school improvement, 15 credits
- Semester 3: Research methods in educational sciences, 15 credits
- Semester 4: Independent project in educational leadership and school development I, 15 credits

Master (120 credits)

- Semester 1: The political governance of schools and school leadership, 15 credits
- Semester 2: Leading local school improvement, 15 credits
- Semester 3: Research methods in educational sciences, 15 credits
- Semester 4: School leadership and management, 15 credits, or Professional dialogue, 15 credits.
- Semester 5: Schools as learning organisations, 15 credits
- Semester 6: Theoretical and methodological approaches in research and educational leadership and school improvement, 15 credits
- Semester 7-8: Independent project in educational leadership and school development, 30 credits

Degree title

Degree of Master of Social Science (60 credits)

Main field of study: Educational Work

Degree of Master of Social Science (120 credits)

Main field of study: Educational Work

Credit transfer

According to the Higher Education Ordinance, Chap. 6, Sect. 6–8, students have the right to transfer credits and have prior learning recognised upon approval.

Further information

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

Previous versions of the programme syllabus have been approved:

5 December 2019, reg. no. HNT 2019/1310, effective from the autumn semester of 2020

4 February 2021, reg. no. HS 2021/26, effective from the autumn semester of 2021