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Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Programme Study Plan

### Environment and Safety

<b>Programme Code</b>	SGMIS
<b>Credits</b>	180
<b>Programme Title</b>	Environment and Safety
<b>Programme Approval</b>	The programme study plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 6 March 2020, and is valid from the autumn semester of 2020.
<b>Language of Instruction</b>	Swedish and English
<b>Degree Level</b>	Bachelor
<b>Degree Type</b>	General
<b>Prerequisites</b>	General admission requirements plus upper secondary school level Civics A/1b/1a1 1a2, Mathematics B/2a/2b/2c and Science B/2 (field-specific eligibility A14). Science B/2 can be replaced by Physics A/1, Chemistry A/1 and Biology A/1. Optional courses may have other requirements.

### **General information**

The Environment and Safety Programme leads to a Bachelor degree in Environmental Science or Risk Management. The programme centres on the protection of people, the environment and society with an emphasis on sustainable development. Graduates are qualified to work with issues related to the environment, systematic safety assurance and sustainable development in various investigative, analytical, surveying and planning capacities in the private and public sectors, or for further studies at Master level. Examples of professional titles are environmental coordinator, risk coordinator, climate adaptation coordinator, environmental strategist, environmental consultant, energy and climate adviser and operation developer.

Environment and Safety is a multidisciplinary study programme. Students acquire broad and versatile knowledge providing a broad base for analysing environmental problems and risks and to produce strategies to manage problems and risks and contribute to sustainable development. Studies in science as well as social sciences and the humanities are included. Professional contacts are maintained throughout the programme through study visits, guest lectures and practical placement periods in the fourth semester. Great emphasis is put on skills in communicating with the public as well as decision-makers and experts in various areas. Programme structure, agreements and exchange programmes with universities in other countries facilitate studying parts of the programme abroad.

### **Learning outcomes**

The programme follows the national objectives for the Degree of Bachelor of Social Science as well as local objectives for the programme.

#### National objectives

According to the *Higher Education Act* undergraduate education shall develop the student's ability:

- to make independent and critical judgements,
- to identify, formulate and solve problems independently, and
- to deal with changes at work.

In addition to the knowledge and skills required within the specific field of study, the students should develop the ability:

- to gather and interpret research information and data,
- to follow the developments in the field, and
- to communicate field-related information to non-specialists.

The *Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2* (SFS 1993:100) specifies the following requirements for Degree of Bachelor:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field, knowledge of applicable methodologies in the field, specialised study in some aspect of the field as well as awareness of current research issues.

*Competence and skills*

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to search for, gather, evaluate and critically interpret the relevant information for a formulated problem and also discuss phenomena, issues and situations critically,
- demonstrate the ability to identify, formulate and solve problems independently and to complete tasks within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss information, problems and solutions in speech and writing and in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required to work independently in the main field of study.

*Judgement and approach*

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues
- demonstrate insight into the role of knowledge in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and on-going learning.

Local objectives

The local goals below are additions to the national goals. Upon completion of the programme, students shall

- demonstrate understanding of the importance of interdisciplinary<sup>1</sup> and cross- sectoral<sup>2</sup> approaches in the area, and
- demonstrate ability to review and assess professional practice in the area in terms of methods, legislation, other directives and public agency efforts.

**Programme structure**

Knowledge in areas of science, social science and the humanities are integrated in courses, even if the emphasis may vary. Theoretical knowledge is deepened and specialised progressively over the three years. Also the more practical components are developed through the whole programme, but with a special focus on professional skills in the second year and on research methods and skills in the last year.

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<sup>1</sup> Interdisciplinary is here used as an umbrella term for approaches integrating knowledge from various academic disciplines and fields and transdisciplinary approaches, which involve cooperation between disciplines and practices.

<sup>2</sup> Cross sectoral approaches span and coordinate several sectors (e.g. construction, traffic, water and sewer, health care).

In the first year, all students take the same courses and environmental problems and risks are thematically integrated. The course centres on the most important environmental risks in our society, locally, nationally and globally, the problem components and processes, and their consequences for human beings, society and the environment. Students also study different societal responses in the form of organising, legislation and other types of means of control. Concepts and theories are included.

In the second year, there are joint courses of a more applied character, preparing students for professional work. Students test, analyse and reflect on their future practical and professional roles. Students arrange their practical placement themselves with the support of the programme coordinator. The university does not guarantee a placement. The second year also includes an essay course, introducing students to academic writing and preparing them for the degree project, and for possible Higher Education Diploma.

In the third year, students have the opportunity to profile their qualifications through course options. They may specialise further in the Major risk and environmental studies, or choose broadening courses in other fields. They may also study abroad. In the last semester there is an emphasis on methods, theory and a degree project in risk and environmental studies.

### **Programme structure**

The table below gives an overview of the programme (note that the programme courses can have other titles and be offered in a different order than listed below).

Year	Course of study
1	Introduction to environment and safety, 15 ECTS cr (required) The basis of risk and environmental issues, 15 ECTS cr (required) Strategies for environment and risk safety, 15 ECTS cr (required) Environmental risk management, 15 ECTS cr (required)
2	Tools of environmental and risk management, 15 ECTS cr (elective) Local and regional climate adaptation 15 ECTS cr (elective) Environment, risk and sustainable development 15 ECTS cr (required) Practical placement 7.5 ECTS cr (elective) Communication related to environment and risk management 7.5 ECTS cr (elective)
3	Elective courses 30 ECTS cr (see recommended courses on programme homepage) Theory and methods in environmental science or risk management, 15 ECTS cr (required) Bachelor thesis in risk and environmental studies, 15 ECTS cr (required)

**Degree Title**

Bachelor of Social Science. Major: Risk and Environmental Studies

**Transfer of credits**

According to the Higher Education Ordinance Ch. 6 Sec. 6–8 students have the right to transfer credits from other universities upon approval.

**Additional Information**

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

**Previous versions:**

2014-06-13, ref.no HNT 2014/159, valid from the autumn semester 2015

2017-02-23, ref.no HNT 2017/91, valid from the autumn semester 2017

2017-12-06, ref.no HNT 2017/576, valid from the autumn semester 2018