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Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Programme Study Plan

### Political Science

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| <b>Programme Code:</b>          | SGPOL  |
| <b>Programme Title:</b>         | Political Science  |
| <b>ECTS Credits:</b>            | 180  |
| <b>Programme Approval:</b>      | The Programme Study Plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 8 Dec. 2016 and is effective from the autumn semester of 2017.   |
| <b>Language of Instruction:</b> | Swedish  |
| <b>Degree Level:</b>            | Bachelor's   |
| <b>Degree Type:</b>             | General  |
| <b>Prerequisites</b>            | <p>General entry requirements plus either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– field-specific eligibility A5 (Mathematics 2a or 2b or 2c, Civics 1b or 1a1 + 1a2) or</li> <li>– field-specific eligibility 5 (upper secondary school level Mathematics B and Civics A)</li> </ul> <p>Students specialising in Economics (including Statistics) have to fulfil the entry requirements (Mathematics 3b or 3c or Mathematics C) before the start of Semester 3.</p> <p>Optional programme courses may have different entry requirements.</p> |

## General Information

The Political Science programme is part of the larger field of social science. For a Bachelor's degree to be awarded, students should take a combination of political science, economics and law.

## Programme Aims

The learning outcomes of the programme comprise the national outcomes that have to be fulfilled to be awarded a Bachelor's degree, and the local programme outcomes.

### National outcomes

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a Bachelor's degree, students 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 Bachelor's degree, students 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 Bachelor's degree, students 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 ongoing development.

### Local outcomes

Upon completion of the Political Science programme at Karlstad University, students should be able to demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills to work independently with a high level of critical awareness in administrative, political, economic and legal roles and functions in the private and the public sectors.

Upon completion of the programme, students should also be able to demonstrate:

- knowledge and understanding of basic economic, political, legal and organisational contexts and situations, the role of public administration in society and current research in the chosen main field of study,
- the ability to identify, structure, evaluate, analyse and interpret various economic, political, legal and organisational problems with respect to relevant scientific, societal and ethical aspects,
- the ability to apply various perspectives in assessing and solving economic, political, legal and organisational problems,
- the ability to present and discuss relevant information both orally and in written form with experts as well as with non-specialists,
- the ability to work independently and in collaboration with other students in the relevant field of study.

To earn a Bachelor's degree, students must also undertake and present a 15-ECTS credit degree project in the chosen main field of study.

### **Programme Structure**

The programme comprises three required subjects: Political Science (30 ECTS cr.), Economics (30 ECTS cr.) and Law (15 ECTS cr.). Students select either Political Science or Economics as main field of study for their degrees. A main field of study has to comprise three semesters' worth of courses (90 ECTS cr.).

The semester of optional courses may be used for further specialisation based on students' own interests and goals. Optional courses may be selected from the courses offered by the university or by other universities or higher education institutions in Sweden or abroad. This semester may also be used to do an internship in Sweden or abroad that may yield either 15 or 30 ECTS credits, depending on its duration.

Optional courses must not overlap to any significant extent with other courses on the Political Science programme.

### **Programme Curriculum**

The programme comprises a number of courses at different levels:

- Basic courses, 1–30 ECTS cr.
- Intermediate courses, 31–60 ECTS cr.
- Advanced courses, 61–90 ECTS cr.

Courses are taken in the following order (please note that course titles are subject to change):

- Semester 1 Political Science A (30 ECTS cr.)
- Semester 2 Economics for the Political Science programme (30 ECTS cr.)
- Semester 3 Law I and II (30 ECTS cr.)  
or  
Law I (15 ECTS cr.) and Statistics (15 ECTS cr.)\*
- Semester 4 Political Science specialisation: Political Science II (30 ECTS cr.)  
Economics specialisation: Intermediate course in Economics (30 ECTS cr.)
- Semester 5 Optional courses (30 ECTS cr.)
- Semester 6 Political Science specialisation: Political Science III (30 ECTS cr.)  
Economics specialisation: Economics, 30 ECTS credits that include the courses Economic Growth/Macroeconomics (7.5 ECTS cr.) and Bachelor's essay (15 ECTS cr.), as well as one of the courses Valuation of Portfolio Selection (7.5 ECTS cr.), Labour Economics (7.5 ECTS cr.), Public Economics and Politics (7.5 ECTS cr.), or Industrial Organisation and Business Strategies (7.5 ECTS cr.)

\* Statistics (15 ECTS cr.) is a required course for the Economics specialisation

### **Degree Awarded**

Degree of Bachelor of Political Sciences  
Major: Politics

Degree of Bachelor of Political Sciences  
Major: Economics

### **Transfer of Credits**

As per Ch. 6 Sec. 6–8 of the Higher Education Ordinance students have the right to transfer credits from previously completed university courses, subject to approval.

### **Additional Information**

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

Earlier versions of this programme study plan were approved:  
24 Jan. 2007, dnr FAK3 2007/14, effective from the autumn semester of 2007  
28 Aug. 2008, effective from the autumn semester of 2008  
1 Oct. 2009, dnr FAK3 2007/14, effective from the autumn semester of 2010  
25 Sep. 2013, dnr HS 2013/394, effective from the autumn semester of 2014

## OVERVIEW – POLITICAL SCIENCE PROGRAMME, 180 ECTS credits

Main field of study: Economics/Political Science, 90 ECTS credits

| Semester 1  | Semester 2   |
|---|--|
| <b>All programme students</b>   |  |
| Political Science A (1–30 ECTS cr.)   | Economics for the Political Science programme (1–30 ECTS cr.)  |
| Semester 3  | Semester 4   |
| <b>All programme students take 15 ECTS cr. together, with an elective</b>             |  |
| Law I and II (1–30 ECTS cr.)  | Economics specialisation: Intermediate course in Economics (31–60 ECTS cr.)                          |
| Law I (1–15 ECTS cr.) and Statistics (15 ECTS cr.)                                    | Political Science specialisation: Political Science II (31–60 ECTS cr.)                              |
| Semester 5  | Semester 6   |
| <b>Semester of optional courses</b>   |  |
| <b>Courses in selected specialisation (including Bachelor's essay of 15 ECTS cr.)</b> |  |
| Optional courses totalling 30 ECTS cr.  | Economics specialisation: Economics (61–90 ECTS cr., including Bachelor's essay)                     |
|   | Political Science Specialisation: Political Science III (61–90 ECTS cr., including Bachelor's essay) |