



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Study Plan

Spatial and Social Planning: Project Management and Sustainable Environments

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| Programme Code | SGSAM |
| Programme Title | Spatial and Social Planning |
| Programme Approval | The programme study plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Sciences on 16 December 2016 and is effective from the autumn term of 2017. |
| Credits | 180 |
| Language of Instruction | Swedish |
| Degree Level | Bachelor |
| Type of Qualifications | General |
| Prerequisites | General admission requirements, plus either - field-specific eligibility A4 (Mathematics 3b or 3c, Social studies 1b or 1a1 + 1a2) with the lower-lever Mathematics 2a or 2b or 2c, or - field-specific eligibility 4 (English B, Mathematics C and Social Studies A) with the lower-lever Mathematics B. |
| | Elective programme courses may have different admission requirements. |

General information

The study programme Spatial and Social Planning is offered as part of the social science field. It is based on the disciplines human geography, political science and sociology, and students can thus major in one of these subjects. There are also broader multidisciplinary aspects, which add a dimension of sustainability to the problem area. Students acquire broad and deepened knowledge relevant to various operations and approaches in public and private sector planning. They are prepared for the roles of community planner and project manager in different areas. Examples of areas covered are societal development and implementation, organising and managing implementation, the potential of community planning in local and regional development, democratic and social processes from a citizen and power perspective, and the planning and developing of sustainable environments.

Aims and Learning Outcomes

For programme completion, students must meet the national requirements for a Bachelor Degree as well as the specific local programme requirements.

National outcomes

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 ongoing learning.

Local outcomes

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall demonstrate

- the ability to analyse the role of planning related activities in the community
- the ability to find creative solutions to the problems that can arise in spatial and social planning
- knowledge of the basic analytical concepts in gender studies that are of relevance to spatial and social planning
- the ability to apply different perspectives in assessing and solving community planning problems
- the ability to work independently and in conjunction with others in the professional field
- the ability to give an account of the conditions and contexts of development and planning issues from a local to a European and broader international perspective, and
- the ability to plan, conduct and complete given tasks.

Programme Structure

The programme has a social science perspective integrating social, economic, ecological and physical aspects on spatial and social planning. Instruction is to a certain extent carried out in the form of projects with an emphasis on project management, critical reflection and analysis. It is a three-year, full-time study programme. Students have the opportunity to study the professional field through projects, to study abroad or undertake placement in the elective semester. Instruction takes a variety of forms: lectures, seminars, laboratory work, excursions and individual study. Excursions may entail extra costs for the students. There are also guest lecturers from the spatial and social planning field, who provide a link to the employment market. Examination formats are written exams, seminar and laboratory assignments, individually and in groups.

In the first two semesters students study basic courses in human geography, sociology and political science and in semester 3, there are further courses in the three main fields of study, of which all student take the same courses totalling 22.5 ECTS cr and then choose a course of 7.5 ECTS cr in their major subject. In the fourth semester, students concentrate on organisation, group processes and project management, and GIS. In the fifth, elective, semester students can choose studying abroad, practical placement or taking courses. The recommended course of study concludes with a sixth semester with specialisation in one of the subjects human geography, sociology or political science and includes a degree project of 15 ECTS cr.

Programme Curriculum

Note that programme courses may have different titles and be offered in another order than stated.

Semester 1

Introduction: Spatial and Social Planning and Project Management, 7.5 ECTS cr.

The aim of the course is to introduce the students to the role of the planner and the project leader in community planning processes and to the situations and problems that

a planner might encounter. The aim is also to introduce the students to the different disciplinary programme areas: human geography, political science and sociology. Students study practice-related projects and are in contact with municipal staff. Through real projects insight into the complexity of community planning, solutions and required competencies are provided. Group processes and group dynamics are treated, as is adopting a critical approach.

Spatial and Social Planning I, 7.5 ECTS cr.

The course provides perspectives on the conceptual history, terminology, theory and methods of social planning from a human geography perspective. Spatial processes and their impact on social planning in different cultures, and socio-geographical contexts are treated along with the basic premises of demography, mobility, sustenance, and the relation family-work and its impact on construction and infrastructure. The emergence of the welfare society as a result of a long political process is emphasised. Historical perspectives on the family-work relationship and on various societal contexts in terms of human geographical, sociological and political science conditions are discussed. The concepts and perspective of gender studies are integrated with the understanding of the modern welfare state and its development.

The Political Frames of Spatial and Social Planning, 7.5 ECTS cr.

The political perspective on spatial and social planning is developed. The political context is treated with regard to the role of the planner and the questions of how spatial planning is incorporated in political programmes, how issues are politicised and related to power in the process. The distribution of roles between politicians and public servants and the terms of working in a politically governed organisation are constantly in focus. The theoretical tools for understanding public organisation, sectoralisation and multilevel problems are also treated. The course includes an introduction to how social science researchers may approach such issues empirically.

The Sociological Context of Spatial and Social Planning I, 7.5 ECTS cr.

Sociological and socio-psychological theories of the relations between the individual, different groups and society are treated as well as methods for exploring the relations. Special attention is paid to understanding humanity in its social contexts as a gregarious being. A central theme is the way people's options and preferences are conditioned by the cultural and social environment and the impact of social structures, such as class, ethnicity and gender, is analysed and discussed. The course also provides understanding of today's society in terms of integration and inclusion, one the one hand, and segregation and exclusion, on the other.

Semester 2

Spatial and Social Planning II: Sustainable Development – Individual, Society and Technology, 15 ECTS cr.

Different areas of spatial and social planning are treated. The legal perspective on physical planning and the societal frameworks regulating planning are central to the course. These aspects involve legislation on the environment, planning and construction, heritage preservation and the history of architecture. Also local and regional development is treated. Useful tools of planning related to conditions, methods

and consequences are treated in close contact with relevant actors. Sustainable development is treated from the perspectives of the respective disciplines, in which power relations, social movements and the relations between humanity, technology and the environment are treated in terms of themes such as integration and gender. The last decades of negotiation economy and the increasing importance of global resources and environmental issues are treated, as are ecologically sustainable development, risk and safety.

Project and Methods, 15 ECTS cr.

Students acquire basic understanding of social science qualitative and quantitative methods. The students work with concrete, realistic issues from different perspectives on spatial and social planning and from the disciplinary perspectives of the programme, and are required to adopt an academic approach in their thesis on an area in their chosen Major.

Semester 3

This is a specialisation semester in the three subjects and especially in one of them. All students take the first, third and fourth courses totalling 22.5 ECTS cr while the second course (7.5 ECTS cr) is an elective course in their chosen Major.

The Sociological Context of Spatial and Social Planning I, 7.5 ECTS cr.

Students enhance their understanding of and skills in analysing the individual as a part of the community and the culture by focusing on issues of late modernity, post modernity and social change. Different sociological perspectives on the transformation of Western civilisations in recent decades are used to understand the changed situations of individuals and groups. Globalisation and its manifestations on the local level are treated as well as the increased relevance of global sociology and the challenges facing the discipline. The course also provides insights into the methodological discussions in the wake of social and sociological changes.

Spatial and Social Planning as a Democratic Policy Process: Perspectives and Problems, 7.5 ECTS cr

The course takes a problematising approach to the fundamental conditions of community planning in a Western democratic context. Students deepen their knowledge of social planning as a democratic policy process and the explanations of its various aspects such as design and implementation are explored with the help of policy process theories. The importance of policy design in social planning for legitimacy and potential to contribute to democratic values such as problem solving, inclusion and equity is also critically explored. International examples of cooperative development are used to deepen knowledge.

Community Planning Methods, 7.5 ECTS cr.

The course deals with hands-on issues related to the different political, social, ecological, technological and economic dimensions of community planning. Examples are drawn from real projects at different levels and in different environments, such as city construction, landscaping, infrastructuring. Methods of citizen influence and communication are discussed as are prognosis, scenario methods and future models..

Special attention is paid to issues of sustainability, gender, diversity and integration. The course includes various technical methods and planning aids.

Elective courses

Regional Development Processes, 7.5 ECTS cr.

This course is a specialisation course in *human geography*. The course treats the region as an increasingly important political and administrative level. Regional responsibility for the planning of sustainable regional growth is emphasised. The new regional policy has developed special concepts, processes and forms of control. Regional growth programmes, innovation systems, partnership and clusters are some examples. The effects of the new regional policy on different geographical environments are studied. In this context methods of evaluation are discussed.

The Reformation of the Welfare State, 7.5 ECTS cr

This course is a specialisation course in *political science*. The course takes an historical comparative approach to the change and reformation of the public sector in the light of economic, social and political processes, in European countries with a focus on Sweden. Different welfare models are compared. The governing ideas of modern governance are treated, especially at the municipal and regional levels. Attention is in particular, paid to the role of international trends such as globalisation and Europeanization in governance today. The governance concept is further developed from a local perspective. The problem of multilevel governance with increased EU influence is studied along with current trends in political administration in terms of democracy and gender perspectives.

Sociological Theory and Social Change, 7.5 ECTS cr

This course is a specialisation course in *sociology*. For more than one hundred years sociology has contributed to the social science understanding of modern society and social change, not least through sociological theory. The theories have been influential beyond academia. The course deals with and problematizes modern as well as classic sociological theorists and traditions. Learning and discussing sociological theory in groups develop students' abilities to discern social phenomena and approach them from new perspectives.

Semester 4

Introduction to GIS as a Tool of Spatial and Social Planning, 7.5 ECTS cr

The course provides a general introduction to the field of Geographic Information Technology (GIT) and the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), for example, how reality can be represented in digital form, the generalisation and modelling of data, and how to collect and make data accessible. Theory and practice alternate in the form of literature study practical exercises.

Organisation, Group Processes and Project Management, 10 ECTS cr

Students learn what it is like to work in modern organisations where project management, organisation theory, leadership, group processes and conflict management are central. A sociological perspective is adopted throughout and there are both theoretical and practical components.

GIS, Spatial and Social Planning and Project Management, 12.5 ECTS cr.

An important instrument in community planning today is GIS, because it makes it possible in planning to use and analyse located data in different layers. This is especially useful in infrastructuring, landscape inventory, environment analysis. Students learn how to use GIS, digital maps and GIS standards and apply methods and GIS to other specific perspectives.

Semester 5***Electives, 30 ECTS cr.***

The fifth semester can be devoted to practical placement or elective courses at Swedish universities or abroad.

Semester 6***Specialisation, 30 ECTS cr.***

In the final semester students specialise in one of the fields of human geography, political science or sociology, with a focus on spatial and social planning. This means that the semester involves courses in theory and research methodology (15 ECTS cr.) and a degree project (15 ECTS cr.) in the community planning area.

Degree Title

Degree of Bachelor of Social Science.

Major: Human Geography or Political Science or Sociology.

Transfer of credits

According to the *Higher Education Ordinance* (Ch. 6, sections 6-8), students may transfer credits from previously completed university courses subject to approval of the receiving university.

Additional Information**Attendance**

Course components such as seminars, laboratory work and excursions may be mandatory. Further information about mandatory components is available in the course syllabi.

Local regulations

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

Previous programme versions:

2008-12-10, effective from the autumn of 2009.
 2009-10-01, effective from the autumn of 2010.
 2011-08-25, effective from the autumn of 2010.
 2012-01-26, effective from the autumn of 2012.
 2014-03-14, effective from the autumn of 2014
 2016-02-03, effective from the autumn of 2016

Programme Overview: Spatial and Social Planning 180 ECTS credits

Semester 1

Introduction: Spatial and Social Planning and Project Management, 7.5 ECTS cr.

Spatial and Social Planning I, 7.5 ECTS cr.

The Political Frames of Spatial and Social Planning, 7.5 ECTS cr.

The Sociological Context of Spatial and Social Planning I, 7.5 ECTS cr.

Semester 2

Spatial and Social Planning II: Sustainable Development – Individual, Society and Technology, 15 ECTS cr.

Project and Methods, 15 ECTS cr.

Semester 3

The Sociological Context of Spatial and Social Planning II, 7.5 ECTS cr.

Spatial and Social Planning as a Democratic Policy Process: Perspectives and Problems, 7.5 ECTS cr

Community Planning Methods, 7.5 ECTS cr.

Elective courses

Regional Development Processes, 7.5 ECTS cr.

The Reformation of the Welfare State, 7.5 ECTS cr

Sociological Theory and Social Change, 7.5 ECTS cr

Semester 4

Introduction to GIS as a Tool of Spatial and Social Planning, 7.5 ECTS cr

Organisation, Group Processes and Project Management, 10 ECTS cr

GIS, Spatial and Social Planning and Project Management, 12.5 ECTS cr.

Semester 5

Electives, 30 ECTS cr.

Semester 6

Specialisation, 30 ECTS cr. including degree project (15 ECTS) in human geography, sociology or political science.