



The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Programme Syllabus

Reg.no: 2021/849

Spatial and Social planning programme
– Project Management and Sustainable Environments

Programme Code:	SGSAM
Programme Title:	Spatial and Social planning programme Samhällsplanerarprogrammet
Credits:	180
Programme Approval:	The programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board of Arts and Social Science on 2021-10-28, and applies as of the autumn semester of 2022.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish
Degree level:	Bachelor
Degree Type:	General
Qualification requirements	General admission requirements, plus upper secondary school level Social Studies 1b or 1a1 + 1a2 or A, and English 6 or B. Elective programme courses may have different admission requirements.

Introduction

The Spatial and Social planning programme is offered as a part of the social science field. The study programme is based on the disciplines human geography, political science and sociology. Thus, students can major in one of these subjects. The study programme also includes broader multidisciplinary aspects. Students acquire broad and deepened knowledge relevant to various operations and approaches in public and private sector planning. Through the programme, students will gain knowledge about various areas related to community planning and how they function. The students are prepared for the roles of community planner and project manager. Examples of areas covered are the potential of community planning in local and regional development, societal development and how to organise and manage implementations. Different ways of understanding and working with sustainability and transformation permeate the study programme, for example how citizen perspectives and power perspectives can

influence democracy and societal processes, and how planning related to climate change and sustainable environments can be developed.

Programme Outcomes

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

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 autonomously 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 autonomously in the main field of study.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical aspects,
- 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 undertake ongoing development of his or her skills.

Local outcomes

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to find creative solutions related to various sustainability perspectives within spatial and social planning
- demonstrate knowledge of the relevance of diversity perspectives in spatial and social planning, such as analytical concepts and explanations in gender studies
- be able to give an account of the conditions and contexts of development and planning issues from a local to a broader international perspective, as well as related to relevant practices
- be able to give an account of the role of spatial and social planning in the development of a socially, culturally, environmentally and economically sustainable society.

Programme Structure

The programme has a social science perspective integrating social, economic, ecological and physical aspects on spatial and social planning. In order to reflect the labour market the students will work within, an emphasis is put on project management, work and management in a group, critical reflection and analysis. The course of study is pursued full-time over three years. Students have the opportunity to gain contacts within the professional field through projects, as well as through studying abroad or undertaking placement in the elective semester. Instruction takes a variety of forms: lectures, seminars, laboratory work, excursions and individual projects. Excursions may entail extra costs for the students. Beyond this, there are also guest lecturers, mainly from the spatial and social planning field, who provide a link to and

contact with the students' future working life. Examination formats are written exams, seminar and laboratory assignments, individually and in groups.

In the first two semesters students study introduction courses spatial and social planning, with a basis in the disciplines of human geography, sociology and political Science. In the third semester, the students will choose to specialise in one of the three disciplines, which will determine the direction of the studies going forward. In the fourth semester, students concentrate on courses on organisation, group processes and project management, GIS (Geographic Information System) and regional climate change adaptation. 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 of specialised study in any of the main fields of human geography, sociology or political science, including a degree project worth 15 ECTS credits. Methodology is integrated into all the programme's courses, but the students also study specific courses on methodology in the third and sixth semester.

Programme Curriculum

The programme's study route. Note that the programme courses can have other titles and be offered in a different order than listed below.

Semester 1

Spatial and Social Planning I: Introduction, 7.5 credits

The course provides an introduction to the history of ideas of spatial and social planning, the development of planning in Sweden, various sustainability perspectives and legislation and regulations that govern planning. Students are also introduced to the role of the planner, as well as learn to refer to various perspectives on planning. The course also provides an introduction to the theory of knowledge as well research ethics.

Place as Living Environment , 7.5 credits

The course introduces theories and research related to human geography and the concept of place. Place as living environment is discussed in relation to concepts such as place-making, place identity, sense of home, sense of belonging and sense of security. Perspectives on gender equality and diversity are integrated to increase the understanding of how places are perceived and how sustainable living environments are created on different levels. The course also provides an introduction to place analysis and observation.

Political Framework for Spatial and Social Planning, 7.5 credits

The course introduces and discusses the political perspectives on spatial and social planning. The political context is studied in relation to the role of the planner. Understanding the distribution of roles between politicians and public servants, as well as how this creates the terms of working in a politically governed organisation is a recurring theme throughout the course. The course also provides an introduction to the method of case studies.

The Sociological Context of Spatial Social Planning I, 7.5 credits

The course introduces sociological theories of the relation between the individual, different groups and society. Extra attention is given to issues related to late modernity and postmodernity, as well as their relation to the conditions of spatial and social planning. The course also provides an introduction to quantitative data gathering.

Semester 2

Spatial and geographical processes of spatial and social planning, 7.5 credits

This course discusses the importance of spatial processes for the understanding of spatial and social planning, related to issues of globalisation, mobility and demographics. Differences and relations between city and countryside are discussed, as well as fundamental conditions of geopolitics, inequality and segregation, with regard to issues of city planning, everyday life and planning for increased equality. The course also includes exercises in quantitative analysis and interpretation.

Social Planning as a Democratic Process, 7.5 credits

The course takes a questioning 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 student will also perform a policy analysis.

The Sociological Context of Spatial Social Planning II, 7.5 credits

Issues related to globalisation and categorisation will deepen the students' sociological understanding of the conditions of community planning. Perspectives on changing relations between the global and the local are presented. The course also deals with social processes and categorisation, where gender, ethnicity, age and any other grounds for discrimination are highlighted. The students practice both written and oral presentation techniques.

Spatial and Social Planning II, 15 credits

The course deals with concrete issues related to the various dimensions of spatial and social planning. Examples are taken from concrete planning projects on different levels and provides a deeper knowledge of planning theory and the legal aspects of spatial and social planning. The social aspects of planning are discussed, focusing on citizens' influence and universal design. Special attention is given to issues related to gender equality, diversity and availability. The course also includes different methods and tools for planning, such as drawing techniques and computer programmes for creating maps.

Semester 3 Elective specialisation

The third semester is a specialisation semester (30 credits) in one of the three main fields of study. The students will choose which main field of study to specialise in.

Human Geography specialisation (30 credits):***The landscape as physical, perceived and lived-in environment, 7.5 credits***

The course deals with the concept of the landscape related to different spatial scales and perspectives, such as city landscapes, cultural landscapes, everyday landscapes, digital landscapes and more. The course provides specialisation in the central concepts, theories and methods of analysis of Human Geography, based on the knowledge introduced in previous courses. The course focuses on how people's understanding of places and landscapes are shaped, as well as on changing principles and ideas for building sustainable living environments.

Processes of Regional Development, 7.5 credits

The course centres on the region as an increasingly important political and administrative level. The importance of the regions and their increased responsibility for sustainable development is emphasised. The effects of the new regional policy in different geographical environments are also studied. The course will also deal with evaluation methodology in this context.

Research Methods and Essay in Social Sciences, 15 credits

This course provides fundamental knowledge of the tradition of ideas within social sciences, as well as the different parts of the research process. The course also includes practicing different methods for gathering and processing data, as well as different selection criteria that govern the gathering of data. An academic essay is part of the course.

Sociology specialisation (30 credits):

Sociology II, 30 credits (comprises four course modules)

Categorisation, normality and power (7.5 credits)

The module centres on society and social processes, for example from a gender, ethnicity and class perspective. Issues regarding the construction of categories, normality and deviation is treated, as well as aspects of power embedded in such constructions.

Sociological theory and social change, (7.5 credits)

For more than one hundred years, sociology has contributed to the understanding of modern society and social change, not least through the development of sociological theory. In this module, the students learn to describe classic and modern sociological theorists and intellectual traditions as well as their contexts. Students also discuss the influence of the classic sociologists on modern theories, as well as their contemporary relevance.

Collecting and processing information about society (7.5 credits)

In this module, the students develop and deepen their knowledge of both quantitative and qualitative sociological research methods. Students design theoretically based instruments for data collection, such as interview guides, and work with coding, comparing, and categorising qualitative data. Collecting data with other methods, such as questionnaires or observation, as well as bivariate and multivariate analysis of quantitative data is also included.

Methods of Social Science and Essay (7.5 credits)

In this module, the students carry out a small-scale sociological study. Students also critically peer review a fellow-student's text in a seminar.

Political Science specialisation (30 credits):

Political Science II, 30 credits (comprises four course modules)

International relations (7.5 credits)

This module deals with a world characterised by globalisation, digitalisation and global patterns of cooperation and conflict. The characteristics and effects of globalisation is treated, as well as both the embracing of and opposition towards globalisation. Phenomena to give special attention to are the effects of globalisation on nations' ability to act, relations between international actors and their view of each other, for example in the form of nationalism, Europeanisation and universalism. The module also deals with different attempts at managing the challenges of globalisation. The concept of governance is central. Focus is on empirical and theoretical knowledge about how different political instances deal with globalisation, as well as how processes of integration challenge the traditional division between national and international politics.

The Reformation of the Welfare State (7.5 credits)

This module takes a historical comparative approach to change and reformation within the public sector, in light of economic, social and political processes. Focus is on Sweden, but comparisons to other countries are made. Different welfare models are compared. The module deals with the ideas and reforms that act as a guiding force and influence contemporary public governance. Regional and municipal governance are given special attention. The concept of governance is further examined from a local perspective. Contemporary governance trends are discussed based on new institutionalism, democracy and gender perspectives.

Method, analysis and independent project, (15 credits)

The third course module is divided up into three segments: Theory and political science research areas, Method and data gathering, and Independent project. This module includes fundamental knowledge of investigative methodology and a critical approach. Investigation design and methods for data gathering and data analysis are also studied. Furthermore, various theoretical approaches to good scientific method are introduced. The module aims to develop fundamental skills in individual research and investigative work. An investigative assignment is therefore performed, which is presented in the form of an individual project.

Semester 4

Organisation, Group Processes and Project Management, 7.5 credits

The course is based on theories of organising and organisational behaviour as well as project management methodology in practice and theory. Basic organisation theory, theories and methods of leadership, group processes and conflict management are treated in the course. There is a particular emphasis on working in and leading projects. Through practical exercises,

the students develop skills in using research and theory of management and groups in order to understand and lead projects.

GIS as a Tool in Social Planning, 15 credits

The course provides a general introduction to Geographic Information Technologies (GIT) and how to use Geographic Information System (GIS). Students learn how reality can be represented digitally in the form of GIS, as well as how data is gathered and made available. The course provides a mixture of both theory and practice, in the form of literature studies and practical exercises. The course provides knowledge of how to use GIS, digital maps and GIS standards, etc. In a project work, the students will apply their knowledge of methods to GIS and other perspectives.

Climate change adaptation in society, 7.5 ECTS credits

The course provides an introduction to the effects of climate change on a regional, national and global level. Furthermore, the consequences of climate change are discussed, as well as measures, strategies and challenges related to climate change adaptation through community planning on a local and regional level. Risk and vulnerability analyses are studied within the course.

Semester 5

Elective semester, 30 credits

The fifth semester can either be spent conducting practical placement or taking elective courses at Karlstad University or any other university in Sweden or abroad.

Semester 6

Specialisation, 30 credits

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 half of the semester involves courses in theory and research methodology, while the other half consists of a degree project (15 credits) in the community planning area.

Title of Qualification

Filosofie kandidatexamen

Huvudområde: Kulturgeografi eller Statsvetenskap eller Sociologi

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 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.

Attendance

Some components in the form of seminars, laboratory sessions and excursions are mandatory. For further information, see the respective syllabus.

Previous versions of the programme syllabus have been approved:

2008-12-10, dnr FAK3 2008/337, effective from the autumn of 2009

2009-10-01, dnr FAK3 2009/276, effective from the autumn of 2010

2011-08-25, study programmes board decision effective from the autumn of 2010

2012-01-26, study programmes board decision effective from the autumn of 2012

2014-03-14, dnr HS 2014/182, effective from the autumn of 2014

2016-02-03, dnr HS 2016/83, effective from the autumn of 2016

2016-12-16, dnr HS 2016/835, effective from the autumn of 2017

2020-03-04, dnr HS 2019/1106, effective from the autumn of 2020