

Education plan

for

Master's Programme in Applied Social Research
Masterprogram i sociologisk samhällsanalys

120.0 Higher Education
Credits
120.0 ECTS credits

Programme code:	SAMLO
Valid from:	Autumn 2013
Date of approval:	2011-10-12
Changed:	2013-04-29
Department:	Department of Sociology

Decision

The study plan is approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences and revised 2013-04-29.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's degree in Social Science, including at least 60 ECTS credit in Sociology; English 6 or the equivalent.

Programme structure

The programme consists of 60 ECTS credits compulsory courses, 30 ECTS credits elective courses and 30 ECTS credits thesis work and comprises two years of full-time studies. The first year contains compulsory courses that lay the foundation for an advanced understanding of quantitative sociological methods and their relevance for various sociological issues. Throughout the programme there is an emphasis on the relations between theory, research question, design, and analysis and the courses are focused on exercises to illustrate these relations, explicitly as well as implicitly. The first course introduces the field of applied social research and the statistical analytical software that will be used in most programme courses. In the second course the focus is basic elements of hypothesis testing, design and measurements, particularly within the field of demography. Following that is a course on systematic research reviews within evidence-based decision making or, alternatively, a course on how the choice of research area governs the methods used to explore it. The first semester ends with a course on social network analysis. During the first half of the second semester the programme courses are Modern Sociological Theory and Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences. The second half of the second semester consists of a course focusing on strategies and designs for causal inference, and a course where writing the master's thesis is prepared. The first semester of the second year provides the student opportunity to specialise within research field and/or research methods. The courses should be selected with the approval of the thesis supervisor and can be courses at the Department of Sociology or courses at other departments or other universities. The second semester of year two consists of the writing of the Master's Thesis in Sociology, in which the student performs an independent research. The language of instruction is English

Goals

The programme provides the student with a distinct ability to independently use sociological theories and methods to analyse the challenges of society.

Upon completion of the programme the student shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Demonstrate considerably deeper knowledge and understanding of essential sociological theories, as well as being informed of current sociological research

- Demonstrate considerably deeper knowledge of quantitative sociological methods
- Demonstrate ability to analyse advantages and disadvantages connected to various choices of methods, and to interpret research results and argue for their validity

Accomplishments and competence

- Demonstrate ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and manage complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information
- Demonstrate ability to critically, independently, and creatively identify and form sociologically relevant research questions, to plan and with adequate methods carry through a sociologically relevant scientific research within a given time frame and thus contribute to the development of knowledge, as well as to evaluate this work.
- Demonstrate ability to orally and in writing present and discuss conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them in dialogue with other groups. This is for national as well as international contexts.
- Demonstrate ability to seek, compare and critically assess sociological literature relevant for a certain research question.
- Demonstrate ability to, founded on facts, perform a review of scientific texts and sociological presentations
- Demonstrate the competence necessary to participate in research, qualified investigational and analytical work or independent work in any qualified activity where sociological methods are applied.

Values and attitudes

- Demonstrate ability to perform assessments of relevant scientific, societal or ethical aspects and to show awareness of ethical aspects of sociological research and development work.
- Show understanding of the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society and man's responsibility for how it is implemented.
- Show ability to identify own needs of further knowledge and to take responsibility for own improvement.

Courses

Compulsory courses:

Introduction 7.5 credits

Measurement techniques and demographic methods 7.5 credits

Systematic Reviews 7.5 credits / Researching Society 7.5 credits

Social network analysis 7.5 credits

Modern sociological theory 7.5 credits

Quantitative methods in the social sciences 7.5 credits

Causal inference in Sociology 7.5 credits

Research methods (Master thesis proposal) 7.5 credits

Master's thesis in Sociology 30 credits

Other courses:

Elective courses – sum total of 30 credits

Degree

The programme leads to the degree Master of Science in Sociology.

Misc

Students who have been admitted to the programme but who have failed to complete it within the stipulated two years may request to complete the programme even after the study programme has ceased to be provided. In doing this, limitations are set by the syllabi of programme courses.