

# Education plan

for

**Nordic Master's Programme in Biodiversity and Systematics**  
**Nordiskt masterprogram i biodiversitet och systematik**

**120.0 Higher Education**  
**Credits**  
**120.0 ECTS credits**

**Programme code:** NBBSO  
**Valid from:** Autumn 2012  
**Date of approval:** 2012-03-21  
**Department:** Department of Biology Education

## Decision

This programme syllabus has been approved by the Board of the Faculty of Science at Stockholm University.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's degree in Biology or equivalent. Swedish upper secondary school course English B/English 6 or equivalent.

## Programme structure

The programme is coordinated by NABiS (Nordic Academy for Biodiversity and Systematics Studies) and is a collaboration between Stockholm University and 7 other Nordic universities (University of Gothenburg, Lund University, Uppsala University, University of Oslo, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, University of Tromsø, University of Copenhagen and University of Aarhus). The universities offer a number of elective courses within the main field of study, most of which are distance courses. The programme consists of 30 HEC compulsory courses, 30 HEC elective courses, a degree project of 30-60 HEC and optional courses of up to 30 HEC.

## Goals

The main field of study is Biodiversity and Systematics. It is expected that the student after completed the program will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge in the field and substantially deeper knowledge of certain parts of the field, together with deeper insight into current research and development work;
- demonstrate deeper methodological knowledge in the main field of study;
- demonstrate an ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, even when limited information is available;
- demonstrate an ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate issues and to plan and, using appropriate methods, carry out advanced tasks within specified time limits, so as to contribute to the development of knowledge and to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate an ability to clearly present and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them, in dialogue with different groups, orally and in writing, in national and international contexts;
- demonstrate the skill required to participate in research and development work or to work independently in other advanced contexts;
- demonstrate an ability to make assessments in the main field of study, taking into account relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects, and demonstrate an awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work;

- demonstrate insight into the potential and limitations of science, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used;
- demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.

### **Courses**

Year 1 & 2. Compulsory courses in the main field of study: Alpha taxonomical principles (5 HEC) University of Gothenburg, Fundamental and molecular systematics (10 HEC) Uppsala University and Plant diversity and evolution - a global perspective, 15 hp or Systematic Zoology, 15 hp

Advanced courses of at least 30 HEC from a list of elective courses. The list is created by NABIS in collaboration with the other universities and decided by the department board. The list of all elective courses should be updated before each new academic year. Before the start of a programme, there should be a list of the minimum number of courses where teaching is guaranteed during the programme. Degree project in biodiversity and systematics 30/45/60 HEC. Optional courses of up to 30 HEC.

### **Degree**

Master's degree.

### **Misc**

NABIS (Nordic Academy for Biodiversity and Systematics Studies) is the organisational platform, consisting of teachers and masters students from the programme, which has been created with financial aid from the Nordic Council to coordinate a number of advanced level courses within biodiversity and systematics.