Department of Political Science

Stockholm University

Education plan

for

International Master's Programme in Environmental Social Science
Internationellt masterprogram i samhällsvetenskapliga miljöstudier

120.0 Higher Education Credits
120.0 ECTS credits

Programme code:	SMSMO
Valid from:	Autumn 2021
Date of approval:	2015-06-10
Changed:	2020-10-20
Department:	Department of Political Science

Decision

This programme syllabus was adopted by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Stockholm University on 2015-06-10.
Last revised 2020-10-20.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS) in a social science subject with a degree project worth at least 15 credits

or

Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS) with a degree project worth at least 15 credits in one of the following main fields of study:

- Geography with a specialisation in human geography

- History with a specialisation in environmental history

- Law with a specialisation in environmental law

- Environmental science with a social science specialisation

and English proficiency equivalent to English Course B or English 6.

Programme structure

Environmental social science is the interdisciplinary study of what governs people's behaviour, beliefs and ways of organising themselves in relation to the natural environment. It focuses on understanding the social processes that either lead to environmental change or are a reaction or adaptation to such change.

The field of research explores how, where and at what levels of society decisions relating to the environment are made. How can various types of political, financial, social and cultural control of social processes affecting the environment be achieved at the local, national and global levels?

The programme in environmental social science discusses how science, policies and practices interact with power relations. How are environmental issues and their solutions defined and understood, and how does vulnerability create unequal conditions?

The first semester of the programme includes four obligatory, interdisciplinary courses that provide an introduction to environmental social science research. The second and third semesters consist of optional advanced courses from various social science disciplines, in addition to obligatory method courses worth a total of 15 credits. The main field of study is chosen in the beginning of the second semester. The degree project constitutes 30 credits and is written during the third and fourth semesters. In the fourth semester, it is also possible to do an internship worth 15 credits.

Since the degree can only be issued in a main field of study in which the student has been awarded at least 60 credits, the programme offers three possible master's degrees: Human geography with a specialisation in environmental social science, Social anthropology with a specialisation in environmental social science, and Political science with a specialisation in environmental social science. In order to be awarded a degree in the main field of study, the student is required to have completed 15 credits of method courses, 15 credits of advanced courses, and 30 credits of a degree project in the relevant main field of study.

Goals

In addition to the general objectives in Chapter 1, Section 9 of the Higher Education Act, the programme uses the learning objectives from the Higher Education Ordinance listed below.

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master, students must:
-demonstrate knowledge and understanding in their 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 their main field of study.

Skills and abilities

For a Degree of Master, students must:
-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.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master, students must:
-demonstrate an ability to make assessments in their 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 possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society, and our responsibility for how it is used;
-demonstrate an ability to identify their need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.

Programme-specific objectives

In addition to these learning objectives, this programme includes the following objectives:
-be able to relate environmental issues to social science theory;
-be able to identify, describe and independently discuss normative, empirical and critical perspectives within environmental social science.

Courses

First semester:

Compulsory introductory courses in Environmental Social Science, 30 ECTS:

SV8001 Environment, Lifestyles and Individuals, 7.5 ECTS.

SV8003 Environment, Markets and Politics, 7.5 ECTS.

SV8004 Environment and Global Governance, 7.5 ECTS.

SV8006 Environment and Local Communities, 7.5 ECTS.

Second and third semesters:

Optional advanced level courses in Environmental Social Science, based on a list from the participating departments, 45 ECTS, 15 of which must be in the main field of study

Internship, 15 ECTS (or optional thematic courses)

Compulsory courses in Social Science methods, at least 15 ECTS in the same main field of study.

The available method courses are:

Main field of study: Social Anthropology
SAM203 Social Anthropological Method, 7.5 ECTS. SAM219 Anthropological Fieldwork, 15 ECTS.

Main field of study: Human Geography
KG7232 Advanced Method in Human Geography and Urban and Regional Planning, 15 ECTS.

Main field of study: Political Science
SV7096 Methods in Political Science, 15 ECTS.

Internship:

Political Science and Human Geography students can choose to do 15/22.5/30 ECTS credits worth of internships in their 3rd Semester. Students specializing in Anthropology can do internships for 15 or 22.5 ECTS in their 2nd semester.

Third and fourth semesters:

Degree project, 30 ECTS in the chosen main field of study and obligatory thesis seminars. Elective courses.

Other courses available:

There are a possibility to take similar courses at other departments at Stockholm University and other University's if they are considered relevant by IMPRESS teachers and coordinators and are approved by the institution providing the course.

Degree

The programme leads to a Degree of Master of Science. The main field of study is human geography, political science or social anthropology. The specialisation is environmental social science.

Misc

Admission to the course “Degree Project” requires that the student has completed the obligatory methods course and received a passing grade on the first semester’s obligatory courses (30 ECTS).

When the programme syllabus is discontinued, students have the right to complete their studies in accordance with this syllabus for an additional period of two years after the nominal duration of the programme. This is subject to the restrictions specified in the syllabi for the courses included in the programme; alternatively, equivalent training will be offered.

The language of instruction is English.

A Degree of Master will be awarded when the student has fulfilled the requirements for courses comprising at least 120 ECTS credits, of which at least 60 ECTS were awarded in the main field of study. All of the credits included in the master’s degree should be from second-cycle (master’s level) courses.

Some of the optional courses in the programme have additional special entry requirements (see the list provided by the participating departments).