

Education plan

for

Multidisciplinary Master's Programme in Demography
Multidisciplinary Master's Programme in Demography

120.0 Higher Education
Credits
120.0 ECTS credits

Programme code: SMDDO
Valid from: Autumn 2007
Date of approval: 2006-10-31
Department: Department of Sociology

Decision

This syllabus is approved by the Social Science Faculty Board as of October 31 2006.

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences, Biology or Public Health or equivalent; Swedish upper secondary school course English 6 or the equivalent; Swedish upper secondary school course Matematik C, SL-studies, AS-level or equivalent.

Programme structure

The programme comprises two years of full-time studies. It consists of four modules, given the multidisciplinary character of the programme. Not all the courses in a module need be taken in sequence, but all courses specified in a module are to be taken during the four semesters of the master programme.

The first module consists of demography courses, compulsory for all students. This module makes up about one-third of the programme, 37.5 ECTS credits, with two of the five courses focusing on demographic methods and analytical techniques. The module also includes a course in research methods in which a short master's thesis proposal is to be prepared at the end of the second semester.

The second module includes advanced-level methodology and theory courses as well as a demography course in the main field of the master's thesis. If the thesis is to be written in demography only, courses in the second module are selected in consultation with the thesis supervisor. This module also equals about one-third of the programme, 37.5 credits. Given the structure of the first and second modules, students are expected to take at least 30 credits in methodology and analytical techniques (22.5 credits in the first module and 7.5 credits in the second module).

The third module includes courses in other topics, especially demography courses provided by the departments participating in the programme. Depending on choice of courses for the second module, 15 to 30 credits are to be taken in the third.

The fourth and last module is the 30-credit master's thesis, equalling one semester of full-time studies. The thesis is expected to be written in demography or in a field of the participating departments with specialization in demography. For the completion of the thesis support is provided by the demography supervisor. If the thesis is to be written in another discipline with specialization in demography, support is provided by both (i) the supervisor from that discipline and (ii) the demography co-supervisor.

Goals

The aim of the programme is to prepare students for demographic research careers at an advanced level. Students will learn to describe and analyse population development in various social contexts and time periods. They will be able to understand and investigate causes and consequences of changing population structures. Such knowledge is essential for social planning and for understanding how a society functions.

The programme prepares students both for doctoral study and for an applied research career as investigator in government agencies, municipalities, other organizations, insurance companies and other businesses.

Upon the completion of the course the student is expected to be able to:

In terms of knowledge and understanding:

- Plan and carry out a scientific study of demographic relevance
- Formulate relevant demographic research questions and hypotheses
- Link theory and demographic methods that are appropriate for a specific demographic research question
- Interpret and explain demographic data, including qualitative and quantitative research results and discuss their validity

In terms of accomplishments and competence:

- Write and present scientific texts in demography or with demographic content
- Write and present reports on demographically relevant questions that can be understood by persons without special knowledge in the area
- Work with statistical program packages
- Work independently and in groups

In terms of attitudes and values:

- Identify and deal with ethical questions in demographic research
- Search for, compare and critically review demographic data and literature relevant for a particular research question
- Compare and evaluate various methods used in research on demographic questions
- Comment on scientific texts and presentations with demographic content

Courses

The following courses are to be taken in the programme:

Demography courses

Population development and social change 7.5 ECTS credits

Basic demographic methods 7.5 ECTS credits

Population processes 7.5 ECTS credits

Advanced demographic methods 7.5 ECTS credits

Research methods – Master's thesis proposal 7.5 ECTS credits

(The first three courses listed above are recommended to be taken in the first semester. The last course should be taken in the second semester.)

Courses in the main field of the Master's thesis

Advanced theory 7.5 ECTS credits

Advanced methods 7.5 ECTS credits

Demography course in the main field of the thesis 7.5 ECTS credits

Elective course 1 7.5 ECTS credits

Elective course 2 7.5 ECTS credits

(If only 15-credit courses are provided in the discipline of the main field of the thesis, two such courses are to be taken and a reading course of 7.5 credits, the latter in other discipline if necessary.)

Courses in other disciplines

Demography course 1 7.5 ECTS credits

Demography course 2 7.5 ECTS credits

(If elective course 1 and/or 2 is/are not taken in the main field of the thesis, course/s of equivalent credits in other disciplines is/are to be taken. Two 7.5 credit courses may be replaced by a single 15-credit course.)

Master's thesis 30.0 ECTS credits

Degree

The completion of the programme leads to a Master of Science in Demography.

Misc

Students can request to complete the degree up to two years after the programme has stopped being provided.

The programme is hosted by the Department of Sociology. Other participating Stockholm University departments are (in alphabetical order): Economic History, Economics, Human Geography and Statistics.