

Education plan

for

Master programme in Media and Communication Studies
Masterprogram i medie- och kommunikationsvetenskap

**120.0 Higher Education
Credits**
120.0 ECTS credits

Programme code: HMOKO
Valid from: Autumn 2007
Date of approval: 2007-06-13
Department: Department of Media Studies

Decision

Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Applicants are required to have a Bachelor's degree, including at least 90 ECTS credit points in Media and Communication Studies, including independent writing of at least 15 ECTS credits, or equivalent. English B (Swedish upper secondary school course) or equivalent, or one of the following tests: IELTS: 6.5 (with no section below 5.5). TOEFL (paper based): 575 (with minimum score 4,5 in the written test). TOEFL (Internet based): 90 (with minimum score 20 in the written test), University of Cambridge and Oxford: Certificate in Advanced English or Diploma of English Studies.

An abstract/summary of the applicants Bachelor's thesis or other research paper as well as a letter of intent must be sent directly to the Department of Media Studies; Section for Journalism, Media and Communication (JMK).

Programme structure

Semester 1. Two theoretical courses centred on internationally prominent areas of theory are given during the first semester, Global Media Studies (15 credits) and Mediatized Intersections (15 credits). The courses are designed to stimulate and give a rigorous theoretical background for the later thesis project.

Global Media Studies (15 credits) focuses on global perspectives on media studies and discusses partly theories of global communication and its political, economic, and cultural aspects, and partly effects and meanings of globalisation in different parts of the world. Technological aspects are also considered. The course consists of a general theoretical section, a more practical section focused on specific countries and reasons, and a section that takes up special themes related to the subject area, such as media and war, globalisation and visual culture, etc.

Mediatized Intersections: class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality (15 credits) treats media representations of class, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality, and how these representations can be connected to construction, reproduction, and change in respective social groupings within society as a whole. The concept of intersectionality centres upon the contact points between different hierarchies of power. Questions of media use and media production are discussed from an intersectional perspective from theoretical areas such as cultural studies, discourse theory, feminism, gender theory, political economy, and theories of civil society.

Semester 2. During the second semester, a course is given in method (15 credits) with a pilot project (7,5 credits) as well as a faculty course in Scholarliness and research ethics (7,5 credits).

Method course (15 credits) builds on the students' experience of applying methods from bachelor-level studies. This means that the teaching and exercises are to a certain extent individualised with varying focus upon quantitative or qualitative methods. The method exercises, which take the form of a smaller group project, focus on how methods can be combined. This includes methods of the study of media structures, as well as for productions, content, and audience studies. The overarching purpose is to give a deepened understanding and increased skills within a broad spectrum of interpretative and explicatory methodologies associated with the humanities and social studies.

Pilot project (7,5 credits) takes place at half-pace during the second half of the semester, parallel to the faculty course (see below). This is a smaller, preparatory individual project that involves the application of selected parts of the theory and method courses, partly to test some of the ideas prior to the writing of the Master thesis. The pilot project can also be suitable for testing knowledge in academic writing and research ethics acquired in the parallel faculty courses.

The faculty courses Scholarliness and research ethics (7,5 credits) or alternatively Academic writing in English (7,5 credits) are held at a different department.

Semester 3. The program's second academic year is focused upon preparations for and the completion of the Master thesis (30 + 30 credits). During the third semester, the student is offered a selection of specialised courses (7,5 or 15 credits) intended to deepen knowledge of either the academic area or methods within the framework of the thesis project. It is also possible to take a course at another department at Stockholm University. The obligatory faculty course Academic writing in English (7,5 credits) is held during the semester.

The courses offered by JMK are decided each academic year based on the availability of teachers and the selection of courses by students. Examples of courses that have been preliminarily prepared are Media Production, Media Philosophy, Visual Culture, Media Archives, Reception Analysis, Political Communication, and Media and Crime. Some of these courses, of which the student may choose 1-3, may be given in Swedish. Overseas students are offered equivalent reading courses. All students may also choose a specially-composed reading course directly related to thesis work, and/or take separate courses at another department.

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An advisor for the thesis work is appointed during the third semester.

Semester 4. The final term is dedicated to the completion and defence of the Master thesis. The project will be presented either in the form of an academic article written in a style consistent with that of a published academic journal, or as a traditional academic essay (30 credits). The detailed literature review and the complete empirical material should be made available to assessors. The article/essay should demonstrate wide-ranging reading within the area, relevant method skills, and the ability to carry out empirical analysis and to reach logical conclusions. It should demonstrate a degree of academic maturity, independence, and originality.

The program consists of 67,5 credits of obligatory courses, optional courses of max 22.5 credits (it is obligatory to take at least one optional course), and thesis work of 30 credits.

Goals

Having completed the course the student has demonstrated an ability to

- critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess, and handle complex phenomena, research questions, and situations within the area of the program, as well as demonstrate considerably developed knowledge of parts of the academic area.

- critically, independently, and creatively identify and formulate research questions based on the developed knowledge of methods and current research. To plan and carry out with adequate methods an acceptable thesis project within the given timeframe.

- in national as well as international contexts give oral and written accounts of, and discuss, conclusions and the arguments which support them; and

- follow current research ethics norms.

More specifically, having completed the course the student has demonstrated an ability to

- critically relate to the role of the media in society

- discuss at an advanced level media forms, media contents, media usage, and media production from different theoretical perspectives, and to compare different perspectives and test them against one another in different

medial and regional contexts

-test and relate critically to different research methods from the media and communication studies field, as well as to critically and systematically analyse media contents/usages/production.

-achieve and give an account of developed knowledge through wide-ranging reading based on independent work within a selected area with the media and communication studies field.

Courses

Courses

Semester 1

Global Media Studies (15 credits) obligatory course

Mediatized Intersections: class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality (15 credits) obligatory course

Semester 2

Methodology and research methods (15 credits) obligatory course

Method Project (7,5 credits), obligatory course

Faculty course: Philosophy of Science and Ethics (7,5 credits), or alternatively Scientific Writing in English (7,5 credits), obligatory course

Semester 3

Faculty course: Scientific Writing in English (7,5 credits), or alternatively Philosophy of Science and Ethics (7,5 credits), obligatory course

Specialist courses: Media Philosophy, Media and Crime, Media and War, Archivkunskap (in Swedish), Media Production Processes, Media Reception, Visual Culture, Political Communication. These courses are optional and comprise of 7,5 credits or 15 credits. The selection of at least one of these courses is obligatory. The courses are given with reference to available resources and popularity.

Optional courses at other departments for up to 15 credits may in certain instances be chosen in conjunction with the head of the Master program at JMK.

Specially-composed reading courses of up to 15 credits may be designed in conjunction with an advisor.

Semester 4

Thesis (30 credits), obligatory

For further information on courses see the respective course plan.

Degree

Degree of Master of philosophy

Misc

Those accepted to the Master program are expected to follow the whole program. In the case of interruption, the student must request a pause in their studies.