

# Education plan

for

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

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

<b>Programme code:</b>	HMOKO
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2009
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2007-06-13
<b>Changed:</b>	2009-05-05
<b>Department:</b>	Department of Media Studies

## Decision

This course plan has been approved by the faculty board for the humanities 2007-06-13. Revised by the board of directors 2009-05-05.

## 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. Theoretical courses centred on internationally prominent areas of theory are given during the first semester. Two courses in the first semester are core courses, expressing the particular profile of Media & Communication Studies at Stockholm University:

Global Media Studies (7,5 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.

Mediatized Intersections: class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality (7,5 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.

The special courses offered by JMK are decided each academic year based on the availability of teachers, and are intended to provide a profound theoretical background for the final thesis project.

Semester 2. The second semester consists of specialised courses (7,5 credits each), intended to deepen the students' knowledge of theories or subject areas within the field of media studies. The mix of courses offered

is based on teacher availability. Examples of possible courses are Topics in Digital Media, Media and Crime, and Media Philosophy. The course Scientific Method and Research Ethics (7,5 credits), required for all Master's degree students in the Humanities, is taken during the second semester.

Semester 3. The third semester starts with a course in Methodology (15 credits), intended to give a deepened understanding of interpretative and explicatory methodologies associated with the humanities and/or social science. The subsequent Method Project (7,5 credits) is designed to allow the students to apply selected parts of theories and methods as a preparation for their thesis writing. Advisors for the thesis work are appointed towards the end of the third semester.

The course English for Academic Research (7,5 credits), required for all Master's degree students in the Humanities, is also taken during this semester.

Semester 4. The final semester is dedicated to the completion and defence of the Master thesis (30 credits). The project may 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. 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.

### **Goals**

Having completed the programme, the student has demonstrated his/her ability to

- critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess, and deal with complex phenomena, research questions, and situations within the subject field of the program, and to demonstrate considerably developed knowledge of parts of this field.
- critically, independently, and creatively identify and formulate research questions based on the developed knowledge of methods and current research.
- plan and carry out an acceptable thesis project with adequate methods and within specific time limits.
- clearly present and discuss, in national as well as international contexts, conclusions and their supporting arguments, orally and in writing.
- follow prevailing principles of research ethics.

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

- critically assess the role of the media in society
- discuss media forms, media contents, media use, and media production from different theoretical perspectives at an advanced level, and to compare different perspectives and test them against one another in different medial and regional contexts
- test and critically discuss different research methods from the field of media and communication studies, as well as to critically and systematically analyse media contents/uses/production.
- achieve and give an account of developed knowledge through wide-ranging reading based on independent work in a selected area within the field of media and communication studies.

### **Courses**

### **Degree**

Master in Media and Communication studies.

### **Misc**

When the programme is no longer offered or its contents have been essentially revised, the student has the right to be examined according to this syllabus once per semester for a three- semester period.