



Faculty of Social Sciences

## SASDA, Master of Science Programme in Social Scientific Data Analysis, 120 credits

*Masterprogram i samhällsvetenskaplig dataanalys, 120  
högskolepoäng*

**Second cycle degree programme requiring previous university study / *Program  
med akademiska förkunskapskrav och med slutlig examen på avancerad nivå***

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### **Decision**

The programme syllabus is established by Faculty Board of Social Sciences 23-04-2020 (U 2020/332) to be valid from 23-04-2020, autumn semester 2021.

### **Programme description**

The programme is an interdisciplinary Master's programme in social sciences which aims to provide the student with a strong knowledge in research methodology, research design, research methods, and theory, which are the building blocks of social scientific empirical research. The major objective of the programme is to train the student's ability to develop, refine, and carry out social scientific research projects. With these skills the student will be able to critique and contribute to theoretical understanding in the social sciences by formulating and addressing a wide range of research questions with a wide range of methods, tied together with relevant methodological and theoretical arguments. The student will integrate this knowledge with the disciplinary grounding received in their majors in the programme, which provides the student with training in related research paradigms, including relevant theories, methods, data, and practical application.

The student will learn a diverse skill-set related to the formulation and carrying out of research projects, which will prepare them for postgraduate studies as well as for research and research management in a variety of fields linking data science with social scientific training (e.g. conducting data analysis, market research for research organisations, IT companies, consultancies, risk management firms, intelligence

analysis, or other private companies).

## Goals

In accordance with the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance (Annex 2 Qualification ordinance), for a degree of Master of Science (120 credits), the student must reach the following outcomes:

### Knowledge and understanding

For a Master of Science (120 credits) the student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work;
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

### Competence and skills

For a Master of Science (120 credits) the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information;
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously and creatively as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and so contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing both nationally and internationally to report clearly and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences;
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity.

### Judgement and approach

For a Master of Science (120 credits) the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work;
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used;
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

*In addition to the outcomes stated in the Higher Education Ordinance, for a degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Social Scientific Data Analysis the student shall:*

- demonstrate specialised knowledge in the concepts and principles of social scientific research, including: research design, methods, methodology, theory, and mixed methods;

- demonstrate the ability to plan research projects using a range of theoretical orientations and apply appropriate methods;
- demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to critique a range of interdisciplinary theories;
- demonstrate the ability to interpret and critique a wide range of scientific research outcomes from a position of methodological and theoretical knowledge;
- demonstrate the ability to appreciate diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives;
- demonstrate the ability to use, adapt, critique, and build social scientific theories;
- demonstrate the ability to contribute to the production of scientific knowledge for both academic and non-academic use.

## Course information

The programme comprises a total of 120 higher education credits including a Master's thesis of 30 credits.

The first term begins with the first profile course, 15 credits, on the topic of the overall research process and research design. It will ground the student with a common language, key concepts, that will be used throughout the rest of the programme. Thereafter, the student will learn about the logic and process of research itself, including applied theory of science, and also will gain extensive practice in designing contrasting research proposals.

In the second course of the programme, a 15 credits quantitative methods course, the student is introduced to advanced quantitative methods software and will use it while learning a range of introductory and intermediate statistics and quantitative analysis, including regression analysis.

The second term begins with the second profile course, the 7.5 credit 'Using Social Theory', which focuses on understanding what theory is and how it is used: issues of applied theory, meta-theory, and theory building. This is followed by a continuation of their quantitative training in the 7.5 credit 'Intermediate Quantitative Analysis' course introducing the student to a range of appropriate quantitative methods beyond standard regression approaches.

Following this, the student selects two qualitative methods of their choice from a list of alternatives. This 15 credit qualitative method foundation is complemented by the option to take additional qualitative and mixed-methods courses in the third term.

The third term consists of a 15 credit disciplinary elective period that may be used in a range of ways with an approved disciplinary focus, including an academic internship, a non-academic internship, or an elective course. After this, at the end of the third term, there is a Methods Elective and a Theory Elective. The methods elective will offer specialised options related to qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods. The theory elective will allow for further content specialisation close to the student's own research interests.

The programme will also support the student in 'early publication.' The student will write and submit a book review for publication as part of the 'Using Social Theory' course in the second term. In addition, the student will be supported in writing and submitting an academic journal article if they choose as part of their disciplinary elective period.

The final term consists of writing of the master thesis.

The courses are studied in the following order:

- The Research Process, 15 credits (first half of the first term)
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods Using R, 15 credits (second half of the first term)
- Using Social Theory, 7.5 credits (part one of the first half of the second term)
- Intermediate Quantitative Methods Using R, 7.5 credits (part two of the first half of the second term)
- Two Qualitative Elective Courses, 7.5 + 7.5 credits, (second half of the second term)
- Disciplinary Elective Period, 15 credits (first half of the third term)
- Advanced Theory Elective, 7.5 credits (part one of the second half of the third term)
- Advanced Methods Elective, 7.5 credits (part two of the second half of the third term)
- Master's thesis in the student's major social science discipline, 30 credits (the fourth term)

## Degree

Degree titles

Degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Social Scientific Data Analysis

Major: Development Studies

Major: Gender Studies

Major: Human Geography

Major: Political Science

Major: Social Anthropology

Major: Social Work

Major: Sociology

Major: Sociology of Law

*Filosofie masterexamen i samhällsvetenskaplig dataanalys*

*Huvudområde: Genusvetenskap*

*Huvudområde: Rättssociologi*

*Huvudområde: Samhällsgeografi*

*Huvudområde: Socialantropologi*

*Huvudområde: Socialt arbete*

*Huvudområde: Sociologi*

*Huvudområde: Statsvetenskap*

*Huvudområde: Utvecklingsstudier*

Upon completion of the programme a degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Social Scientific Data Analysis is awarded. To acquire a Master's degree within the programme the student must have taken the courses specified under "Course information" (or the equivalent courses at another higher education institution).

## Requirements and Selection method

### Requirements

The programme builds on previous studies in the Social Sciences. To be eligible for the programme students must have a Bachelor's degree with a major (i.e. at least 90 ECTS credits) in Development Studies, Gender Studies, Human Geography, Political Science, Social Anthropology, Social Work, Sociology or Sociology of Law, or the equivalent.

A good command of English language both spoken and written, equivalent to English B/6 (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalence assessments will be made according to Swedish national guidelines as interpreted by Lund University.

### **Selection method**

The applicant's estimated capacity to complete the programme is the primary criterion for selection. Students are selected on the basis of their previous study results (grades on courses and Bachelor's degree essay), proficiency in English, statement of purpose which shall also include a brief statement on previous experience/knowledge in methods and methodology. Since this is a multidisciplinary programme it is essential to attain an even distribution among different majors within the group. The number of admitted applicants from one major shall not exceed 30 % of all students admitted to the programme. Hence the applicant's major will be used as a selection criterion in the case of many applicants from one major.

### **Other information**

The medium of instruction is English, which means that lectures and seminars are given in English, examinations are in English, and students' essays are written in English.

Instructions regarding teaching and examination are given in the syllabus for each course respectively.

Students who have completed studies equivalent to courses within the programme may apply to have these courses accredited.