



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**

Decision

The syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 23-04-2020 (U 2020/332) and was last revised on 24-05-2024 by Pro dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences (Dnr 2024/328). The revised syllabus comes into effect 24-05-2024 and is valid from the autumn semester 2024.

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 (7.5 credits) in which the student learns to understand and review the structures of social theories. This is followed by another 7.5 credit profile course in data selection and visualisation.

Following this, the student selects two qualitative methods of their choice from a list of alternatives.

The third term consists of elective courses to be taken at Lund University or any other recognised university in Sweden or abroad. The student also has the opportunity to enrol in an internship course for the purpose of conducting an academic or non-academic internship. The courses are chosen with the approval of the programme coordinator, and enable the student to tailor the programme to suit his or her particular interests.

The final term consists of writing of the master thesis.

The courses are studied in the following order:

Term 1

The Process of Social Research, 15 credits

Quantitative Data Analysis in R, 15 credits

Term 2

The Structure of Social Theory, 7.5 credits

Data Selection and Visualisation, 7.5 credits

Two qualitative elective courses, 7.5 + 7.5 credits

Term 3

Elective courses that are reviewed by a programme coordinator, 30 credits

Term 4

Master's thesis in the student's major social science discipline, 30 credits

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.