



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Dnr U 2016/414

Faculty of Social Sciences

## **A. Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Development Studies**

*(Masterprogram i utvecklingsstudier)*

**Credits: 120 higher education credits**

**Cycle: Second cycle**

**Programme code: SADVS**

The syllabus for the Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Development Studies was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences December 14, 2006. It was revised March 22, 2010, June 10, 2010 and May 3, 2012, September 27, 2012 and October 17, 2013. The revised syllabus was approved by the Dean on June 23rd, 2015 in accordance with the decision in the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on June 11th, 2015 and by the Faculty of Social Sciences on September 15, 2016. The syllabus is valid from the autumn term 2017.

## **B. Programme Description**

The programme is an interdisciplinary Master's programme in social sciences focusing on problems of poverty and human development. It deals with key issues and problems of development, as well as different theoretical approaches to increase the students' understanding of the preconditions for and content of development.

The purpose of the programme is to provide students with the background knowledge and concrete skills to understand assess and work in development-related fields, either with direct poverty reduction or with other aspects of social and institutional development. Students will learn a critical social science approach which will prepare them for postgraduate studies as well as for contributing to sustainable human development in professional roles such as policy makers, trainers or practitioners, in government agencies, private firms and NGOs.

## **C. Outcomes**

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

### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a Master Science (120 credits) in Development Studies 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, and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

### *Competence and skills*

For a Master Science (120 credits) in Development Studies 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, and
- 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 Science (120 credits) in Development Studies 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, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

In addition to these objectives, on completion of the programme students shall:

- have developed a holistic outlook and understanding for perspectives based on disciplines other than their own
- possess knowledge of issues concerning poverty and human development: causes, interrelations, feedback, and possible solutions, especially in relation to the different dimensions of human development and the political means and constraints in working towards these aims

- be able to work in a trans-disciplinary setting and in a multi-cultural, international environment to prepare and implement long-term sustainable solutions to developmental issues, using a critical social science approach
- possess knowledge about scientific channels of communication, and be able to monitor the academic development within their field of study and employ referencing systems.

#### **D. 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 a profile course introducing the students to the main themes and issues of the programme. This is followed by courses in theory of science for the social sciences, and/or in research methods, which provides the students with the skills required for independent research.

The second term begins with another profile course directly related to the main theme of the programme. The profile course increases students' understanding and knowledge of global development through deepening their comprehension of theories and current research.

This is followed, in the second half of the second term, by courses in theory of science and/or research methods.

The third term consists of elective courses to be taken at Lund University or any other recognised university in Sweden or abroad. The courses are chosen with the approval of the programme coordinator, and enable students to tailor the programme to suit their particular interests.

During the fourth and last term students complete the programme by writing a thesis, which provides the students with the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of theories, methods and argumentation.

The courses are studied in the following order:

- Theories and Issues in Development, 15 credits (first half of the first term)
- Theory of science and/or research methods, 15 credits (second half of the first term)
- Historical Aspects of Development, 15 credits (first half of the second term)
- Theory of science and/or research methods, 15 credits (second half of the second term)
- Elective courses, 30 credits (the third term)
- Master's (Two Years) thesis in the student's major social science discipline, 30 credits (the fourth term)

#### **E. Degree**

Upon completion of the programme a degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Development Studies is awarded. To acquire a Master's degree within the programme the student must have taken the courses required under D above (or corresponding courses at other universities). Of the required 30 course credits in theory of science and/or research methods, at least 15 credits must be in research methods.

The students will acquire a degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Development Studies, with a major in one of the following main fields of study:

- Gender Studies
- Development Studies
- Human Geography
- Education
- Political Science
- Social Work
- Social Anthropology
- Sociology
- Sociology of Law

It is also possible to acquire a degree of Master of Science (60 credits) in Development Studies after completion of the following required courses:

1. Theories and Issues in Development, 15 credits
2. Theory of science and/or research methods, 15 credits
3. Historical Aspect of Development, 15 credits
4. Master's (One Year) thesis, 15 credits

## **F. Admission Requirements and Selection Criteria**

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 in one of the following social sciences disciplines: development studies, education, gender studies, human geography, political science, social work, social anthropology, sociology and sociology of law or 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 national guidelines.

Foreign students are exempted from the basic university eligibility requirement of commanding the Swedish language.

The applicant's estimated capacity to complete the programme is the primary criterion for selection. Students who fulfil the specific eligibility requirements are selected on the basis of their previous study results (grades on courses and thesis in the Bachelor's degree), proficiency in English and either a statement of purpose or a draft thesis proposal.

Since this 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 case of many applicants from one major. The following main fields of study are eligible as majors: Gender Studies, Development Studies, Human Geography, Education, Political Science, Social Work, Social Anthropology, Sociology and Sociology of Law.

### **G. Further 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 courses equivalent to courses within the programme may apply to have these courses accredited.