



INSTITUTIONEN FÖR SOCIALT ARBETE

**Programme description for  
Master's programme in  
Social Work and Human Rights  
120 higher education credits**

Second Cycle

Confirmed by the Faculty Board of Social Science

2018-03-15

## **1. Confirmation**

The programme description for the Master's Programme in Social Work and Human Rights, 120 higher education credits, was confirmed by the Faculty Board of Social Science, University of Gothenburg on 28 August 2007, revised on 10 July and 20 December 2010, 23 April 2015 and 15 March 2018 to apply from the autumn term 2018.

## **2. Objectives**

After completing the study programme the students should be able to:

### *Knowledge and understanding*

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding about social work and human rights in a global perspective, that means an extensive comprehension of the whole area of knowledge including considerably deeper insight in certain areas of social work or/and human rights
- demonstrate substantially deeper knowledge and understanding of current research and developmental work within the area of social work and human rights
- demonstrate substantially deeper knowledge about research methods within the area of social science

### *Proficiency and ability*

- display ability to critically and systematically integrate different aspects of knowledge in the area of social science and to analyse, assess and handle complex cross cultural issues and contexts
- display ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and pursue the research process and thus contribute to the development of transnational knowledge within the area of social work and human rights.
- demonstrate proficiency to participate in international and national research and developmental work within the area of social work and human rights, or in other qualified activities.
- demonstrate ability to independently analyse, discuss, and criticise from different perspectives of welfare systems such as class, gender, and ethnicity in a global perspective

### *Approach and assessment*

- demonstrate proficiency making relevant and carefully planned assessments in social work and human rights practice in a global context and thus comprehensively consider scientific, social and ethical aspects of the assignment
- display awareness of the possibilities and restrictions of science, its part in society and the responsibility of how it is used by mankind
- display ability to identify further requirement of knowledge and be responsible for your own proficiency

### 3. Disposition

The Master programme in Social Work and Human Rights is a two year International programme, organised on a two-year basis (120 higher education credits). The programme, which is on a full time schedule, is accessible for both foreign and Swedish students. The programme is divided into separate modules with at least 15 higher education credits in each module.

#### First year:

The master programme starts with a module in *Social Work and Welfare Systems*. The focus of the second module is *Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. The third module, which starts the second term, deals with *Globalisation, Poverty and International Social Work*. This is followed by a module about *Social Work Practice and Professionalization*.

#### Second year:

The term starts with a module about *Social Work, Service User's Participation and Organisation*, followed by *Research Theories and Methods*. The whole fourth term is devoted to scientific work in the form of a degree report.

### 4. Contents

The full master programme (120 higher education credits) consists of seven modules. The first two courses of the programme contain lectures, group work and seminars in Academic Writing.

1:st Year	Social Work and Welfare Systems, 15 higher education credits	Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Approach, 15 higher education credits	Globalisation, Poverty and International Social Work, 15 higher education	Social Work Practice and Professionalization, 15 higher education credits
	Academic writing			
2:nd Year	Social Work, Service User's Participation and Organisation, 15 higher education credits	Research Theories and Methods, 15 higher education credits	Degree Report 30 higher education credits	

### 5. Courses

#### Social Work and Welfare Systems

The focus of the course is to study social work theories and methods in the context of different welfare systems. The student will get an understanding of contemporary theoretical

perspectives on social problems and social work, and to link this with an understanding of international social development. The student will also acquire knowledge about theoretical concepts and measurements concerning welfare systems and also get a deeper knowledge of the typologies of different welfare regimes. In the course the student will be able to analyse, discuss and criticise social work in the context of welfare systems from different perspectives such as class, gender and ethnicity. Another important issue is the role of global institutions in different welfare systems.

#### Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Approach

The course introduces human rights as a broad interdisciplinary and problem-oriented practice-based field of knowledge. The course also aims at giving the students knowledge of international, regional and national institutions of human rights, and legal applications of human rights' conventions. The student will develop an understanding of the international Human Rights' system and its constraints, possibilities and applications and link this to different uses of Human Rights' discourses. In the course, the student will critically examine statements and actions, which are made with reference to human rights and present this verbally and in writing. Furthermore, the student will learn how to access competently and effectively selected sources of information on human rights and reflect upon ways in which the student can contribute to the implementation of human rights based approaches.

#### Globalisation, Poverty and International Social Work

The focus of the course is development of global society, social structures, economic patterns and international migration. Furthermore, it highlights conflicts and tensions related to increasing global interactions and intertwinings. The development of poverty and other indicators of social dysfunction in different parts of the world are discussed and analysed. Various strategies for fighting poverty and handling social problems are examined. Different levels of society concerning various types of social actions are considered. Effects of migration will be analyzed. The course also handles problems concerning how increased global interaction leads to new global patterns of social problems.

### Social Work Practice and Professionalization

The over-all purpose of this course is to give the student an opportunity to experience social work in a foreign country with the focus on ethics, values and interventions in social work. This course also aims at giving the student good knowledge about the integration of theory and practice in social work. A special theme is the development of professional social work and professionalization in a global perspective.

### Social Work, Service Users Participation and Organisation

The course aims to discuss and analyse social problems and interventions. Social development, organisation and inclusion of the service user and how these aspects affect current Swedish and international social work are important themes in the course. The students will also have the opportunity to get an enhanced understanding of the complexity in one special area of social work such as family issues, drug abuse, health issues etc. The organisational aspects of social work and how that influences the service user as well as the professional social worker is an important topic in this course.

### Research Theories and Methods

The aim of this course is to give the students a broad perspective of different methods, qualitative as well as quantitative, used in social science research. In this course the student will achieve knowledge about scientific perspectives and paradigm as well as conducting a research project. The student will also critically and independently be able to compare and analyse theoretical and methodological issues in academic social work research.

### Degree Report

The over-all purpose of this course is, in a transnational context, independently and critically plan, carry out and defend an advanced research work within the area of social work and human rights. In this course the student will choose, discuss and analyse relevant methods and theories related to a research subject as well as formulate research questions. The student will also document and discuss the research process, analyse empirical data and present the results in a written report. The student will defend his/her own research report and also oppose on another research report in a final seminar.

## **6. Prerequisites**

To be admitted to the programme the following is required:

- A Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, *or* a Bachelor's Degree in related topics.
- Proficiency in English
  1. English B from Swedish Upper Secondary School, with a minimum of Passed mark
  2. *alternatively* a valid test of English as second language, e. d. IELTS or TOEFL tests or the equivalent, with indicated accepted level. For information about current accepted levels, see [www.studera.nu](http://www.studera.nu).
  3. *alternatively* a Bachelor's Degree from an English speaking education.

For admittance to the courses Degree Report 30 (or 15) higher education credits the course Research Theories and Methods has to be completed with a minimum of Passed mark.

### **7. Degree**

*After the programme is completed (120 higher education credits and including a master thesis, 30 higher education credits) the students can apply for a diploma with the denomination Master of Science (120 credits) with a major in Social Work and Human Rights.*

### **8. Additional information**

The achievements of the students are continuously evaluated through oral and/or written assessments. Students who fail in their examination will be offered an extra examination. Students who fail in their second examination have the right to ask for another examiner.