



Faculty of Social Sciences

## **SAHEK, Master of Science Programme in Human Ecology - Culture, Power and Sustainability, 120 credits**

*Masterprogram i humanekologi - kultur, makt och hållbarhet, 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 Pro dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences 14-03-2019 (U 2019/127) to be valid from 15-10-2019, autumn semester 2020.

### **Programme description**

The programme provides trans-disciplinary perspectives and analytical tools for communicating in competent ways about problems of sustainability. It represents an important complement to technological and natural science approaches to sustainability by focusing on the cultural dimensions of consumption and resource use, cultural perceptions of environment and economy, and social science perspectives on the global distribution of environmental problems. A central aim is to help the student develop skills in communicating across boundaries separating the discourses of different disciplines, cultural traditions, or the interests of business, politics, and social movements.

The programme is aimed at students who wish to gain advanced competence in Human Ecology. Examples of professions where such competence can be applied include education, journalism, environmental management, work in government and international agencies, and development aid. The programme also prepares the student for postgraduate studies.

### **Goals**

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(SAHEK) Master of Science Programme in Human Ecology - Culture, Power and Sustainability, 120 credits  
/ Masterprogram i humanekologi - kultur, makt och hållbarhet, 120 högskolepoäng

Pursuant to the Higher Education Ordinance, for a degree of Master (120 credits and 60 credits respectively) the student shall:

### **Knowledge and understanding**

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of Human Ecology, 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 field of Human Ecology.

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of Human Ecology, including both an overview of the field and 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 field of Human Ecology.

### **Competence and skills**

For a Degree of Master (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 clearly report 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.

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to 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 autonomously as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing 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 employment in some other qualified capacity.

## Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the field of Human Ecology 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.

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the field of Human Ecology 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 the outcomes stated in the Higher Education Ordinance, for a degree of Master of Science (120 credits or 60 credits) with a major in Human Ecology the student shall:*

- understand the human dimensions of problems relating to environment and resource management, particularly regarding how environmental problems are generated, interpreted, and negotiated in different cultural and historical contexts,
- understand how human consumption patterns, lifestyles, and identities interact with global economic processes and power structures, and how both consumption and its ecological consequences are distributed in the world,
- analytically distinguish between natural, cultural, and societal aspects of the conditions for human livelihood and resource management, and to discuss the relative significance of these aspects in specific contexts, and
- possess knowledge about scientific channels of communication, and be able to monitor the academic development within their field of study and employ referencing systems.

## Course information

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

The first term begins with a profile course introducing the student to the main themes and issues of the programme. This is followed by courses in theory of science, where the student is stimulated to advance his or her academic thinking and deepen his or her understanding of how knowledge is produced and reproduced, and in research methods, which provides the student 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 the students understanding and knowledge of human ecology through deepening his or her comprehension of theories and current research.

This is followed, in the second half of the second term, by courses in theory of science and 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 student counselor, and enables the student to tailor the programme to suit his or her particular interests.

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

The courses are studied in the following order:

- Culture, Economy, and Ecology, 15 credits (first half of the first term)
- Theory of Science and/or Research Methods, 15 credits (second half of the first term)
- Political Ecology, Crisis and Identity, 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 Thesis, 30 credits (the fourth term)

## Degree

Degree titles

Degree of Master of Science (60 credits)

Major: Human Ecology

*Filosofie magisterexamen*

*Huvudområde: Humanekologi*

Degree of Master of Science (120 credits)

Major: Human Ecology

*Filosofie masterexamen*

*Huvudområde: Humanekologi*

For a degree of Master of Science (120 credits) within the programme, the student must have passed the courses specified under "Course information" (or the equivalent courses at another higher education institution). Of the required 30 course credits in theory of science and research methods, at least 15 credits must be in research methods and 7.5 credits in theory of science.

It is also possible to acquire a degree of Master of Science (60 credits) with a major in Human Ecology after completion of the following required courses:

1. Culture, Economy, and Ecology, 15 credits
2. Theory of science and/or research methods, 15 credits (with at least 7.5 credits in research methods)
3. Political Ecology, Crisis and Identity, 15 credits
4. Master's thesis, 15 credits

## **Requirements and Selection method**

### **Requirements**

To be eligible for the programme the applicant must have the equivalent of a Swedish Bachelor's degree with a major (i.e. at least 90 ECTS credits) in one of the following social sciences disciplines: Human Ecology, Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, Environmental Studies 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.

### **Selection method**

The applicants 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 and letter of intent.

### **Other information**

The language of instruction and assessment is English. Instructions regarding teaching and examination are given in the syllabus for each course respectively.