



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

Dnr U 2016/161

Department of Human Geography

**A. Master of Science (120 credits) Programme in Human Geography  
(Masterprogram i samhällsgeografi)**

**Credits: 120 credits**

**Cycle: Second cycle**

**Programme code: SASGE**

This syllabus was approved by the Dean 1 October, 2012, as delegated by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 27 September, 2012. The syllabus was revised by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. The revised syllabus was approved by the Dean on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 and March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016.

This syllabus is valid from the autumn semester 2016.

**B. Programme Description**

The main areas studied in the programme are the important sub-fields of human geography – social and economic geography, and environmental studies. Human geography plays an important role in modern society due to its special approach which is characterised by contextually maintaining connections in time and space, and thereby relations between aspects of reality that other disciplines focus on in isolation: economic, political, social, cultural and environmental conditions. Furthermore, human geography captures complex connections between different spatial scales. These characteristics make human geography especially suited to grasp problems facing society today, problems rooted in the intricate interplay among various aspects and between local and global scales.

This master's programme is of relevance to a wide range of challenges currently facing decision makers, planners and analysts in public authorities, non-governmental organizations and private enterprises. Students engage in a programme preparing them for careers as strategic investigators, analysts and planners. Equipped with advanced methodological skills and contextual understanding of contemporary societal and environmental issues, geographers are commonly employed as researchers, planners, analysts and operational managers within international, national, regional, and local governmental bodies, NGOs and firms. Employment specialties include: urban and regional planning and development; environmental and land-use analysis; transportation planning and time-space logistics; conservation and heritage planning; localization and spatial analysis of competitiveness, markets, costs and revenues; and cartography and GIS-analysis. Another field of employment is education, both in schools and in governmental and non-government

organisations. The programme also prepares students for PhD studies and an academic career.

### **C. Learning Outcomes**

For a degree of Master of Science (120 credits), main field of study: Human Geography students shall:

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

- demonstrate knowledge of the development of theories in human geography and their relations to theories in other social and environmental sciences;
- demonstrate understanding of the spatial dimensions of social, economic and environmental processes and their importance for welfare and living conditions in various geographical contexts; and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in research methods and the use of advanced tools to analyse the complex relations between development processes on local, regional, national and global scales.

#### *Competence and skills*

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, even when limited information is available;
- 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 their 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*

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the field of human geography, informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate an 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 their personal need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for their on-going learning.

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

- demonstrate knowledge about scientific channels of communication, and the ability to monitor the academic development within the field of human geography and to employ referencing systems.

#### D. Course Information

A degree of Master of Science (120 credits), main field of study: Human Geography, should include at least 30 credits of coursework within human geography at the second cycle level, , 30 credits in research methodology, including at 7.5 credits of coursework in GIS (Geographic Information Systems), 7.5 credits of GIS and research methodology in field, 7.5 credits of geographical thought and 7.5 credits in theory of science in social science at the second cycle level.30 credits that can be taken in the form of elective courses at Lund University or any other recognised university in Sweden or abroad or an internship, and, finally, a Master's Thesis of at least 30 credits in human geography. See table below:

Term	Course	Course	Course	Course
Term I	Geographical Thought (7.5 credits)	Profile Course in Human Geography I (7.5 credits)	Theory of Science (7.5 credits)	Profile Course in Human Geography II (7.5 credits)
Term II	Profile Course in Human Geography III (7.5 credits)	Profile Course in Human Geography IV (7.5 credits)	GIS (7.5 credits)	GIS and Research Methodology in Field (7.5 credits)
Term III	Elective Courses or Internship (30 credits)			
Term IV	Master's Thesis (30 credits)			

#### E. Degree

Upon completion of the programme a degree of Master of Science (120 credits), main field of study: Human Geography is awarded. To acquire a Master's degree within the programme the student must have completed the courses required under D above (or corresponding courses at other recognised universities).

It is also possible to acquire a degree of Master of Science (60 credits), main field of study: Human Geography after completion of the following required courses:

1. Human Geography I and II (15 credits)
2. Geographical thought (7.5 credits)
3. Theory of science (7.5 credits) or GIS (7.5 credits)
4. Elective courses or internship (15 credits)
5. Master's thesis (15 credits)

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

To be eligible for the programme students must have at least a Bachelor's degree including a major in Human Geography 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 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 letter of intent.

#### **G. Further Information**

The language of instruction is English, that is to say, 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.