



Programme syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Freds- och utvecklingsarbete, magisterprogram, 60 högskolepoäng
Peace and Development Work, Master Programme, 60 credits

Level

Second Level

Date of Ratification

Approved by Faculty of Social Sciences 2009-09-15

Revised 2021-09-13

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2022

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies and specific entry requirements:

- a minimum of 90 credits in a Social Science, Humanities or Economics main field of study, including a degree project of at least 15 credits, or the equivalent.
- English B/6 or the equivalent

Description of Programme

The students shall be prepared for future qualified work in a broad range of organisations, institutions and companies, which are involved in international development work or other cooperation with developing countries.

Students with a first-cycle qualification in Peace and Development Studies, or a similar specialization within social sciences and economics, will be prepared for analytical and strategic tasks in programme and project planning as well as for advanced investigative field work.

Students who have obtained eligibility through other education than within peace and development studies, will receive preparation to the application of their respective undergraduate knowledge in a development perspective.

Objectives

Qualitative targets in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance

Knowledge and understanding

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

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, 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 main field of study.

Competence and skills

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 independently identify and formulate issues as well as plan and by using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to report clearly and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different groups, 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 (60 credits), the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study with reference to 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 their continuous competence development.

Content

The programme is administered by the Faculty of Social Sciences. Courses 1-6 comprise 7.5 credits each, and course 7 comprises 15 credits. The programme structure is presented below.

The programme coordinator is responsible for the planning and coordination of programme structure and contents. The objectives of the programme are achieved through studying theories and current research in the subject area, as well as through analyses of policy formulation and implementation processes. The studies include proficiency training in investigative work, project planning and evaluation, and field work which may be performed in Sweden or in a developing country.

Programme Overview

Semester 1

The International Context and the Politics of Peace and Development 7.5 credits (A1N)
Development Theory and Economic Development, 7.5 credits (A1N)
Negotiating Peace, 7.5 credits (A1N)
Policy Processes, Implementation and Evaluation, 7.5 credits (A1F)

Semester 2

Method and Research Strategies, 7.5 credits (A1N)
Methods of Field Work for Peace and Development, 7.5 credits (A1F)
Degree Project, 15 credits (A1E)

Programme Courses

All courses in the programme belong to the subject of Peace and Development Studies. The order of the courses given may be changed. All teaching takes place in English.

Semester 1

The first module, The International Context and the Politics of Peace and Development, aims at providing a broad overview of contemporary and future global challenges, trends and power shifts, including economic and political development, conflicts and environmental aspects focusing on the Social Development Goals adopted by UN. The aim is to provide an updated platform for the development opportunities of specifically poor countries, and to present international actors within the field of peace and development and the associated policies.

The module provides an overview of key theories of political development, good governance and democratization processes, and the link between political and economic development and conflicts in developing countries. Different political structures, processes and actors in the peace and development process are analysed through a multi-level model. The challenges – and opportunities – that the globalization process creates in relation to existing political systems at the local, national, regional and international level are discussed, as well as the issue of cosmopolitan democracy and global governance. Human rights, including political, cultural and economic rights at different levels are examined. Finally, the module aims to present and problematize the actors, mechanisms, strategies and policies of international development cooperation to promote democracy and political development.

The second module, Development Theory and Economic Development, focuses on the socio-economic factors and conditions underpinning sustainable development. The course discusses the relationships between theories of development, governance and political economy through an examination of a range of policy areas such as urbanisation, industrialisation, and rural development. The international order is also considered, highlighting the macroeconomic balance of payments constraints to national policies as well as multi-lateral issues such as international migration. The course grounds these themes through detailed case studies of important recent processes in different countries, for example, the Arab Spring, and the greening of China.

The third module, Negotiating Peace, is aimed at introducing students to the concept of peace processes, specifically negotiation and implementation of peace agreements. The module focuses on a variety of conflict scenarios, from interpersonal and intergroup to (possibly internationalized) violent interstate conflicts. The aim is for students to gain a deeper understanding of how different actors in different conflict situations act in order to reach their goals in a negotiation process. Through active/practical learning exercises and negotiation simulations students also learn basic negotiation skills as a valuable asset for the contemporary job market. Finally, the students learn how to discuss and reflect on the problems surrounding peace building, in theoretical as well as practical perspectives.

The fourth module, Policy Processes, Implementation and Evaluation, introduces and critically discusses methods and approaches to planning, implementation and evaluation in international development cooperation. The course includes practical exercises in planning, monitoring and evaluation methods as well as theoretical and critical perspectives on these methods.

Semester 2

The first module given in the spring semester encompasses methods and research strategies in peace and development. The main aim of the course is for students to practice their skills in problem definition, research method, use of theories and scientific analysis in the degree project, investigative work and in writing the report. Current research within the field is also highlighted.

The second module, Methods of Field Work, students will mainly practice their skills in field work, interviews, material collection, analysis of field study material and report writing. The aim of the course is also to prepare the students for future work and entrepreneurship by giving the course through field work in and around Växjö.

The final module in the second semester, Degree Project, is an independent project comprising 15 credits. This can be carried out both in the form of a desk study as well as a supervised field investigation project in a developing/conflict-affected country, or other country such as Sweden. The latter alternative could entail a 3-4 weeks of field studies, and a following 4-5 weeks of writing the report in Sweden. Citizens of Sweden or the Nordic Countries who are registered in a municipality in Sweden have the opportunity to apply for scholarship within *Minor Field Studies*.

Societal relevance

The direction and contents of the programme are based on teachers and guest lecturers having their own professional experiences from international peace and development work as well as their regular participation in applied research and other field related work. Special efforts are made to develop and consolidate networks in order to offer the students relevant internship placements or possibilities to study at universities in developing countries.

Within the programme we have an ambition to develop forms of teaching and use course material closely related to the practical circumstances prevailing in the labour market. Examination formats in various courses are project group assignments, and often we use real-life documents of policy and decisions, reports and manuals as course literature. Moreover, the possibility to carry out a supervised thesis project in a developing country, such as field work or an evaluation, is an effort to expose the students to the circumstances and time constraints which international consultancy work entails.

The programme subject peace and development entails a high societal relevance for the understanding of the development in Sweden and Europe as well as in Africa, Asia and Latin America, which, not the least for the past few years, has been characterized by escalating conflicts and migration.

Internationalisation

The programme discusses globalisation and international development which are directly linked to the opportunities and challenges of internationalisation. Course

participants come from all over the world and this genuinely multicultural classroom creates a unique learning environment and provides experiences from working in a multicultural environment. Studies abroad may be credited for courses given during semester 1. Planning of possible studies abroad must take place in consultation between the student and the course and programme coordinators, and preliminary approval is required by the coordinating department of the programme for peace and development studies before the period of study abroad may be initiated.

Scope of Programme

Through its contents and design, the programme focuses consistently on international issues and sustainable development. A basic approach in all teaching is to emphasize equal opportunity and diversity, not only at the individual level but also in a global sense. The programme contents often relate to the demands of long term sustainable development as required by the implementation of the UN Social Development Goals. We strive to use more literature in the programme which originates from developing countries in order to broaden the substance of teaching, as well as by including and using the students' own experiences and perspectives from their respective countries.

By the use of practical exercises and the field study method course, students practice knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship as well as the aim to come up with new solutions and opportunities in a time of global opportunities and challenges.

Teaching is in English and the required reading is, with the exception of some policy documents, in English. This makes it possible for non-Swedish speaking students to participate. The societal conditions, which are in focus in the studies, are by nature international, and the potential labour market for students carries a high international content.

A gender perspective is a crucial part of the programme, in terms of people's living conditions in emergency situations, as well as in a wider development context. Women's role in development work is highlighted together with their position in the agricultural sector in developing countries.

The perspective on sustainable development is mostly reflected in courses addressing development issues. However it is also present in the debate on armed conflicts and their destructive consequences for both individuals and society at large.

Quality Development

There is continuous evaluation through evaluative conversations with students after every completed course and also through written evaluations. Student influence is ensured by student representatives entering into regular dialogue with programme and course coordinators. Quality assurance is also maintained through the lecturers' participation in applied research and consultancies in the field of peace and development, during which the relevance of the course contents is evaluated in relation to labour market demands. A further aspect of programme evaluation and quality assurance is comparative analyses and cooperation with other programmes and courses in the subject area, as well as evaluative discussions involving internship supervisors and potential future employers of the students. Compilations of course and programme evaluations are filed in accordance with the directions in force.

Degree Certificate

After completed studies in accordance with the objectives specified by the Higher Education Ordinance and the Linnaeus University Degree Ordinance, the student can apply for a degree certificate. Those having completed Peace and Development Work,

Master Programme 60 credits may obtain the following degree:

Master of Science (60 credits)

(Main field of study: Peace and Development Studies)

Courses previously given under the same programme code, SAFU1, may also be included in the programme degree and will then replace courses with equal content.

The degree certificate is written in Swedish and English. Graduates also receive a diploma supplement (English).

Other Information

In order to carry out a degree project as part of the programme requirements, students are encouraged to complete a field study in a developing/conflict-affected country. The costs for participating in this field work are paid for by the students themselves, through scholarship or by other means.