



**UNIVERSITY OF GÄVLE**

Programme Syllabus

FIRST-CYCLE (UNDERGRADUATE)  
LEVEL

STUDY PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL WORK,  
DIRECTION INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK

Programme code: SGSMK

Specialisation code: INSA

Approved by the HVS-board 29/11/2007

Amended by the Education and Research Board  
11/04/2012 (ref. no: HIG 2012/252)

**Programme Syllabus**

**Study Programme in Social Work,  
Direction International Social Work,  
210 HECs)**

*(Socionomprogrammet, inriktning internationellt socialt arbete, 210 hp)*

**This programme syllabus applies to students admitted to the autumn semester 2012  
or later.**

# **STUDY PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL WORK, SPECIALISATION INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GÄVLE**

## **1 Overall structure**

The Study Programme in Social Work, Specialisation in International Social Work is aimed at both Swedish and international students. All teaching is carried out in English. The programme comprises 210 Higher Education Credits (3.5 years full-time study) and seven semesters. Semesters 1-6 are at first-cycle (undergraduate) level and semester 7 is at second-cycle (Master's) level. As the programme constitutes professional education and training, it has a modular structure whereby each course is a continuation of the previous course(s). From semester 2 of the programme, therefore, each course has specific entry requirements. These are detailed in the respective course syllabus.

## **2 Objectives**

### **2.1. Objectives in accordance with the Higher Education Act<sup>1</sup>**

First level (Undergraduate) education shall essentially build on the knowledge that students acquire in national or specially designed programmes at upper secondary school or corresponding knowledge. The Government may, however, allow exceptions where education in the field of arts is concerned.

First-cycle (Undergraduate) level education shall develop the students'

- ability to make independent and critical assessments, their
- ability to independently discern, formulate and solve problems, and their
- preparation to adapt to changes in working life.

In the educational field concerned, in addition to knowledge and skills, students shall also develop the ability to

- search for and evaluate knowledge at a scholarly level,
- follow the development of knowledge and
- exchange knowledge with other people, including people with no specialist knowledge of that field.

### **2.2 Objectives in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance, Appendix 2**

For a Bachelor of Science in Social Work degree, students must demonstrate the knowledge and skills required for independent social work at individual, group and societal level.

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a Bachelor of Science in Social Work degree, students must

- demonstrate knowledge of the scientific basis of the field and an awareness of current research and development work;  
demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the interplay between the social situation of individuals and groups, their living conditions, their physical and mental health and their functional capacity relative to social and other contributory factors;
- demonstrate knowledge of the management of social work; and
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of children's needs and of the social and family circumstances that affect the conditions governing the lives of women and men.

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 1 Sections 7,8 (SFS 1992:1434)

### *Skills and abilities*

For a Bachelor of Science in Social Work degree, students must

- demonstrate the skills and abilities required to develop and carry out social work at different levels of society in co-operation with the people concerned;
- demonstrate an ability to apply relevant legislation, particularly where it concerns social issues;
- demonstrate an ability to understand, examine and analyse social processes and problems; and
- demonstrate an ability to identify, structure, examine and evaluate interventions at individual, group and societal level.

### *Judgement and approach*

For a Bachelor of Science in Social Work degree, students must

- demonstrate self-knowledge and a capacity for empathy;
- demonstrate a capacity to make intervention assessments based on a holistic approach to the person concerned and on relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects, paying particular attention to human rights;
- demonstrate a capacity for professional conduct and attitude;
- demonstrate insight into the significance of teamwork and co-operation with other professional groups; and
- demonstrate an ability to identify their need for further knowledge and to continuously develop their skills.

## **2.3 Specific objectives of the programme**

In addition to the above, the following objectives apply to the Study Programme in Social Work, Specialization in International Social Work at the University of Gävle.

Students shall

- acquire knowledge and practical skills that will prepare them for professional work as well as for third-cycle (doctoral) studies
- gain insights into working conditions in the human development field, where people's own resources are the starting point
- demonstrate knowledge of the conditions of professional social work and international development
- demonstrate such skills and abilities required to develop and conduct social work from a pluralistic and international perspective

## **3. Programme description**

### **3.1 Main field of study and structure of the programme**

There shall be a width as well as a scientific depth to social work as the main field of study for the programme. It shall reflect both historical developments and current research and development work.

Social work is a field of knowledge that comprises areas of research, theory and practice.

Social work strives to promote social welfare and identify, prevent and overcome social problems and their consequences.

It is an interdisciplinary subject with a starting point in social science and behavioural science theory. The subject of social work is based on applied and interdisciplinary research.

In practice, the field of social work can be targeted at different groups but may also be specialised on an individual, group and societal level.

Semester 1 and 2 comprise 60 higher education credits and highlight the entire field of the subject and profession on an individual, group and societal level. Methodological, theoretical, legal and ethical aspects of social work are addressed from both a national and an international perspective. Students are introduced to theory of science and research methods in social work. Social structures, welfare and problematic aspects of society are addressed on an introductory level. Furthermore, the development and socialisation of the individual is considered in relation to and in interaction with families, groups and societal institutions.

Semesters 3 and 4 comprise 60 higher education credits. Here, basic scientific and theoretical concepts and issues are applied in an independently-written essay that is primarily based on empirical data gathered through field studies within the area of social work. Through the problematisation of the knowledge gained, the students' ability to observe, reflect and analyse is developed through courses on social exclusion, the theories and methodologies employed in social work and organisation and leadership. Furthermore, the practice of social work is studied from social, cultural, psychological, legal and ethical aspects. Specialised legal knowledge is acquired through in-depth studies in jurisprudence and international conventions.

Semester 5 comprises 30 higher education credits and consists of a placement at a social organisation abroad. The placement shall train students to maintain a professional approach for continued development of their professional identity. The course should provide an opportunity to carry out professional work in a reflective way as well as providing insight into the processes of social work. During the course, theoretical knowledge is transformed into professional social work. Through the placement, students will gain experience, knowledge and skills that will further develop their understanding of theoretical perspectives and practical work.

Semester 6 comprises 30 higher education credits and involves in-depth studies of theory of science and theory of knowledge as well as various research methods. Methodological skills, critical thinking and the ability to produce scientific knowledge are trained through the students producing an essay based on research within an area central to social work.

Semester 7 comprises 30 higher education credits at second-cycle (Master's) level and includes a course in evaluation and evidence-based social work as well as in-depth studies in international social work.

## **3.2 Teaching and examination**

### **3.2.1 Teaching**

The Study Programme in Social Work, Specialisation in International Social Work is based on the idea that learning is a process that takes place through collaboration between teachers and students. In all teaching and supervision, students are expected to take responsibility for their learning and for actively

acquiring knowledge. The learning process implies that theoretical and practical course content shall become integrated within each student as useful knowledge and skills. Students are thereby provided with personal development opportunities, an important factor with regards to their future professional role.

The teaching shall provide students' with a scientific approach, including being able to read, understand and critically evaluate scientific work. Students shall also acquire a level of preparedness for change and the ability to reconsider their knowledge in order to be able to actively participate in the development and evaluation of the profession's field of expertise.

Teaching on the placement courses has, as far as possible, a similar structure to practical social work. Students' personal experiences are utilised and they are trained in actively acquiring knowledge and in critical thinking. Personal and professional development should be at the core throughout the study programme and its design is such that it allows for continuous reflection and discussion of personal values, attitudes and approaches in relation to professional decisions and the future professional role.

The programme involves full-time study. The teaching involves lectures, discussions, seminars, literature studies, different forms of group projects, practise exercises, projects, essays and placements. Independent study of the course literature is also central part of the programme.

### **3.2.2 Examination**

The course strives to attain a broad scope of examination forms that, as a general principle, satisfy both learning and examinatory objectives. Each course is subject to examination and this may take place individually or in groups. However, examinations will always constitute an individual assessment of each student's fulfilment of the course objectives.

### **3.3 Placements**

Semester 5 comprises 30 higher education credits and consists of a placement at a social organisation abroad. Through the placement, students will gain experience, knowledge and skills that will further develop their understanding of theoretical perspectives and practical work.

### **3.4 Student influence**

There is an education council in place for the programme, which consists of professional representatives, teachers and students. The council acts as an advisory body and is chaired by the Programme Director. Student representatives are appointed by Gefle Student Union.

### **3.5 International study**

Students wishing to undertake part of their study programme abroad may apply to do so. The Department has entered into agreements or is collaborating with other Higher Education institutions in the Nordic region, as well as with Australia and some countries in Europe and Asia.

## 4 Courses within the Programme

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7
Social Work and Social Problems (15 HECs)	Social Policy in National and International Perspective II (7.5 HECs)	International Conventions (7.5 HECs)  Advanced Jurisprudence in Social Work (7.5 HECs)	Social Exclusion, Including Field Studies (15 HECs)	Supervised Practical Training in Social Work (30 HECs)	Advanced Research Methods in Social Work (15 HECs)  Degree Project (15 HECs)	Evaluation and Evidence-Based Social Work (7.5 HECs)  Second-Cycle Courses in International Social Work (22.5 HECs)
Social Policy in National and International Perspective I (7.5 HECs)	Human Psychosocial Development and Living Conditions (7.5 HECs)	Social Work Organisation and Leadership (15 HECs)	Theories and Methods in National and International Social Work (15 HECs)			
Basic Perspectives on Scientific Theory and Research Methods in Social Work (7.5 HECs)	Social Work on Meso Level (7.5 HECs)  The Legal Basis of Social Work (7.5 HECs)					

## 5 Entry requirements

Students are eligible for admission to the study programme if they satisfy the general entry requirements for university studies in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance and the specific entry requirements as listed below:

- Mathematics Course B
- Social Science Course A
- English Course B

As a minimum requirement, students must have been awarded the 'pass' grade for each of the above courses.

The specific entry requirements may also be met by students who have gained the equivalent knowledge from another Swedish school or educational institution, or by students who have acquired the equivalent knowledge and experience in Sweden or abroad.

## 6 Grades

Courses within the study programme are graded in accordance with the applicable syllabus.

The course Social Work Placement is graded according to a two-step scale - pass/fail.

Other courses are graded according to the ECTS seven-step scale.

A - Excellent. The objectives have been fulfilled with distinction.

B - Very good. The objectives have been well fulfilled.

C - Good. The objectives have been fulfilled above the minimum required level.  
D - Satisfactory. The objectives have been fulfilled to a satisfactory level.  
E - Sufficient. The objectives have only just been fulfilled.  
Fx - Inadequate. One of the course objectives has not been fulfilled.  
F - Completely insufficient. More than one of the courses objectives has not been fulfilled.

All examinations shall be based on the following criteria:

1. Content - The arguments should be well structured, logically coherent, convincing, clear and without any superfluous text. The student shall demonstrate that she/he has read and understood the course literature and has the ability to utilise scientific concepts in a suitable manner.
2. Referencing - Quotations, footnotes and lists of references shall be used in an academically acceptable way.
3. Language - The language should be scholarly and, by and large, grammatically correct. The student is responsible for acquiring the necessary aids in order to meet these standards, i.e. word processing software with spelling and grammar functions, someone to proofread their work, etc.
4. Independence - All submitted work shall essentially contain the student's own work in relation to the contents of the course.

## **7 Provisions for awarding of degree**

### **7.1 Name of degree**

Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work, Direction: International Social Work

*(Socionomexamen, inriktning: internationellt socialt arbete)*

### **7.2 Degree criteria**

In order to be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work (Socionomexamen), students must have successfully completed courses to a value of 210 HECs.

The degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work (Socionomexamen) is awarded to students who have passed the Social Work Placement course and obtained the grade E or above on all of the remaining courses on the programme.

### **Independent project (Degree Project)**

As part of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work, students must have successfully completed an independent project (Degree Project) of at least 15 HECs.

### **7.3 Degree certificate**

Students fulfilling the above requirements for the degree shall be provided with a degree certificate upon request.

## **8 Further provisions**

The matter of credit transfer will be assessed by the Programme Director in consultation with the University of Gävle Examinations Office, upon request by the student. Requests for credit transfer shall be granted if the nature and scope of the student's previous educational qualifications or knowledge and skills are equivalent in principal to the corresponding credits of the programme.

### **8.1 Approved leave from studies**

Approved leave from studies shall be granted after one semester of studies at the earliest and for a maximum of one year per application.

Approved leave from studies with guaranteed admission upon return shall be granted for any of the following reasons: pregnancy, statutory parental leave, illness, military service, student union commissions, studies abroad, or for other reasons to be individually assessed.

Approved leave from studies for other reasons may be granted without guaranteed admission upon return if approved by the Careers Guidance staff at the University of Gävle.