



Faculty of Social Sciences

## SAMPS, Master of Science Programme in Psychology, 120 credits

*Masterprogram i psykologi, 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 Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences 20-12-2017 (U 2017/675) and most recently amended by Pro dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences 27-09-2021 (U 2021/740). The amended syllabus is valid from 15-10-2021, autumn semester 2022.

### Programme description

The Master of Science programme in Psychology provides both specialisation and breadth in the field of psychology. The aim of the programme is to give the students a Master's degree firmly based on the scholarly approach and specialised knowledge of current theory and research in the field of psychology. Within the programme, the students can choose courses within specific subject areas of psychology, and gain an extensive foundation for further research. On completion of the programme, the students are expected to have good career options in a number of different professional areas.

During the first semester, the students are stimulated to develop their scholarly approach and increase their understanding of how knowledge is acquired and presented in psychology. The courses provide the knowledge of methodology that is required to conduct independent research. During the second and third semesters, the students continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of psychology through specialised studies in theory, current research and acquired skills. The fourth and final semester concludes the programme with the students' degree projects, in which the students have the opportunity to demonstrate and increase their knowledge of theory and empirical research methods.

The aim of the programme is to develop and refine the students' theoretical knowledge and practical skills, which are necessary for professional practice in areas related to psychology, or as a step towards third cycle studies in psychology.

## Goals

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 students shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of psychology, 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 psychology.

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

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of psychology, 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 psychology.

### Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the students 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 autonomously, creatively and critically identify and formulate questions as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames thus contributing to the formation advancement 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 their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based on, in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills necessary for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity.

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

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, societal 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 ongoing learning.

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

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the field of study 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 their ongoing learning.

### **Course information**

The programme comprises 120 credits including a degree project of 30 credits.

Semester 1: During this semester, the students focus on the basic theory and practice of science and advanced research methods in psychology, which constitutes an important step towards being able to independently engage in knowledge advancement within the field.

Semester 2: Here, the students choose specialisations in the field of psychology, by choosing three out of five advanced specialisation lines in the main areas of psychology, which enables the students to customise the programme as far as possible according to their own interests. The students' ability to influence the content of the programme is given high priority, while the programme organiser also ensures that none of the lines have so many/few participants that they cannot be conducted in a suitable way. In parallel with the specialisation courses, the students also develop their methodological knowledge and scholarly skills in the Specialised Topics course, which is compulsory for all students. The course aims to provide specialised skills in current research areas of psychology and is based on a number of components which involve training in advanced research skills in a selection of specific focus areas. This further develops the students' ability to independently engage in knowledge development within the field. All these courses, including Specialised Topics, run in parallel at 25% of full-time.

Semester 3: The students gain specialised knowledge in the three areas that were chosen during the previous semester. All these courses run in parallel. At the end of the second half of the semester, empirical work under supervision is conducted in which the students integrate their previous theoretical and methodological

knowledge. The work prepares students for the degree project in semester 4.

Semester 4: The students complete their programme by carrying out an empirical study in the field of psychology and writing a degree project.

*Additional information in appendix Programme overview SAMPS.*

## Degree

Degree titles

Degree of Master of Science (120 credits)

Major: Psychology

*Filosofie masterexamen*

*Huvudområde: Psykologi*

Degree of Master of Science (60 credits)

Major: Psychology

*Filosofie magisterexamen*

*Huvudområde: Psykologi*

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).

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

- Theory and Practice of Science in Psychology, 15 credits (first part of semester 1)
- Advanced Scientific Methods in Psychology, 15 credits (second part of semester 1)
- Two of the following courses (during semester 2):
  - a) Advanced Social Psychology I 7.5 credits
  - b) Advanced Personality Psychology, Normative and Deviatonal I 7.5 credits
  - c) Advanced Developmental Psychology, Normative and Deviatonal I 7.5 credits
  - d) Advanced Cognitive Neuroscience I 7.5 credits
  - e) Advanced Work and Organisational Psychology I 7.5 credits

Degree project for Masters (60 credits), 15 credits (second part of semester 2)

## 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 Psychology or equivalent, including at least 15 ECTS in psychological research methods and statistics.

A good command of spoken and written English, equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalent 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.

### **Transition rules**

This programme syllabus replaces the SAMPS programme syllabus approved on 14 March 2019 (Reg. no U 2019/127). Students who began the programme at the latest in the autumn semester of 2021 have the right to complete it in accordance with the SAMPS programme approved on 14 March 2019 (Reg. no U 2019/127) in the period up to and including June 2024.

### **Other information**

The language of instruction is English, which means that teaching and assessment are conducted in English. Information on teaching and assessment is available in the respective course syllabus.

## Appendix

### Course information

The programme comprises 120 credits including a Master's thesis of 30 credits. The courses are studied in the following order.

Semester I	Theory and Practice of Science in Psychology, 15 credits  Advanced Scientific Methods in Psychology, 15 credits
Semester II	Three of the following courses (total 22.5 credits) a) Advanced Social Psychology I, 7.5 credits b) Advanced Personality Psychology, Normative and Deviatonal I, 7.5 credits c) Advanced Developmental Psychology, Normative and Deviatonal I, 7.5 credits d) Advanced Cognitive Neuroscience I, 7.5 credits e) Advanced Work and Organisational Psychology I, 7.5 credits  Specialised Topics, 7.5 credits
Semester III	Three of the following courses (total 22.5 credits) a) Advanced Social Psychology II, 7.5 credits b) Advanced Personality Psychology, Normative and Deviatonal II, 7.5 credits c) Advanced Developmental Psychology, Normative and Deviatonal II, 7.5 credits d) Advanced Cognitive Neuroscience II, 7.5 credits e) Advanced Work and Organisational Psychology II, 7.5 credits  Empirical work in the field of psychology, 7.5 credits
Semester IV	Master's thesis, 30 credits