

Programme syllabus for

Masters Programme in Environmental and Outdoor Education

60 ECTS credits, advanced level

The Masters programme in environmental and outdoor education is a study programme given at an advanced level, leading to a Degree of Master of Social Science (One Year) with a major in Education (with area of emphasis Outdoor Didactics).

The aim of the programme is, through education with an outdoor didactic focus, to create understanding for and more profound knowledge of both the possibilities of learning in outdoor environments and sustainable development and environmental awareness. Skills in outdoor life and physical activity provide a basis for the programme and a pedagogical tool, which is exercised on residential courses with simple accommodation, for example tents or windbreaks. The Masters programme at Linköping University focuses on experiential learning in nature, culture and society.

Aim of the Course

After completion of the course students should have

- increased their knowledge of the breadth and scope of environmental and outdoor education and open-air life, with the aim of achieving personal and social development and environmental awareness;

Knowledge and understanding

- a deeper insight into and knowledge of how outdoor education, environmental education and outdoor life encourage thinking about sustainability and environmental awareness;
- greater understanding of current issues in the educational field of environmental and outdoor learning, to be able to take part in the current social debate about sustainable development;
- developed knowledge of the learning processes of children and young people and how they can be integrated into an outdoor didactic perspective;

Ability and skills

- the ability to develop independently and on a practical and theoretical foundation a perspective on how the landscape in town and country can be used as a resource for learning;
- a greater ability to describe, interpret and explain cultural and environmental experiences by using relevant source material for different environments;

Ability to evaluate and approach

- a critical, scientific approach to phenomena and problems in the domain;
- an approach which includes regard to culture, gender and diversity perspectives together with other relevant social perspectives.

Length and level

The programme comprises one year full time study and is presented at an advanced level, leading to a Masters degree in Education with the focus on environmental and outdoor education.

Course content

Module A. Theory of Outdoor Education, 15 ECTS credits

The theoretical traditions of ideas and frame, with the focus on pragmatism and the reform pedagogy movement, provide the framework for the content of the module. The course treats the impact outdoor education has on health, learning, physical and motor skills. The aim of the module is for the student to develop a theoretical basis for reflection on the importance of environment and place for learning.

Module B. Outdoor Education and Outdoor Didactics, 15 ECTS credits

This module studies the importance of place in communicating knowledge. Instruction builds on outdoor education as a thematic field of education and research. That which is specific for outdoor didactics is elucidated, proceeding from both text-based and non-text-based practice.

Module C. Methods of Inquiry and Theories of Research, 15 ECTS credits

This module presents central scientific concepts and methods. Through critical analysis and problematisation a basis is created for the choice of theoretical platform and method. Based on their own experiences and interests, students will formulate research questions to be processed in systematic reflection. Theses and reports are analysed and discussed with the application of different ways and methods of research.

Module D. Thesis, 15 ECTS credits

Master's Thesis with focus on Natural Science

Master's Thesis with focus on Liberal Arts and Social Science

In this module it is intended that the student should develop the ability to produce a scholarly thesis and defend it. The course will also add to the student's ability to read and examine scientific texts. The student is expected to write a scholarly report within a field of research. He or she is free to choose the content of this thesis in collaboration with his/her tutor.

Instruction and Forms of Work

The programme sorts under the Centre for Environmental and Outdoor Education and tuition is given at the Department of Culture and Communication and the Department of Behavioural Sciences and Learning.

The programme is given at full speed. Instruction consists of lectures, seminars, self instruction and essay writing. It is possible to read certain other modules within this programme. Such an agreement should be reached in each case with the person responsible for the programme.

Tuition further comprises field studies, and learning in and about the landscape. The course will also be relocated for two weeks to another European country, one week each in Terms 2 and 3. The programme will be concluded with the submission of an individual thesis.

Study Plan

Term 1

Module A

15 ECTS credits

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| | Module B | 15 ECTS credits |
| Term 2 | Module C | 15 ECTS credits |
| | Module D | 15 ECTS credits |

Admission Requirements

A teaching qualification of at least 180 ECTS credits/120 points, *filosofie kandidat* or equivalent, of which at least 60 credits/40 points should be in a subject area of importance for environmental and outdoor education.

Examination and Grading

Examination is detailed in each course syllabus.

The course is graded. International students will in addition be given grades according to the ECTS scale A-F.

Transfer of points or credits

The Board of Educational Sciences will decide whether previous studies may be transferred to the programme.

Degree Certificate

The degree certificate for Master of Education with Focus on Outdoor Didactics is issued when the completion of all prescribed courses and the concluding thesis has been reported. Students who do not fulfil all the requirements for the Masters certificate will receive certification of successfully completed courses.

The syllabus was approved on 15 May 2007 by the Syllabus Committee as delegated by the Board of Educational Sciences, in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance (SFS 2006:1054).

Applies from autumn term 2007.

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