



UNIVERSITY OF GÄVLE

SYLLABUS

FIRST-LEVEL DEGREE

**STUDY PROGRAMME IN SOCIAL WORK,
SPECIALISATION INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL
WORK**

Program code: SGSMK

Focus code: INSA

Approved by the HVS-board 2007-11-29

Syllabus

**Study Programme in Social Work,
Specialisation International Social
Work, 210 HECs**

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

This syllabus applies from the autumn semester 2008 and onwards.

The Study Programme in Social Work, specialisation International Social Work at Gävle University

1 General set-up

The BSc programme in social work with specialisation international social work is directed to both Swedish and foreign students. All teaching is in English. The programme gives 210 higher education credits, (HECs) (normally 3.5 years of study) and consists of seven semesters. Semesters 1-6 are first level education while semester 7 is advanced level. Since the programme constitutes a professional training, the courses build one upon the other. This means that all the courses in the programme except for the first semester have the special prerequisites for admission of completed previous courses. Prerequisites are detailed in the syllabus for each separate course.

2 Objectives

2.1 Objectives Higher Education Act*

First level 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 level education shall develop the students'

- ability to make independent and critical assessments,
- ability to independently perceive, formulate and solve problems, and
- preparedness to deal with change in working life.

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

- seek and evaluate knowledge at a scholarly level,
- follow the development of knowledge, and
- exchange knowledge with other people, including people without specialist knowledge of the field.

2.2 Objectives Higher Education Ordinance**

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

Knowledge and understanding

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

- demonstrate knowledge of the scientific basis of the field and 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 background factors
- demonstrate knowledge of leadership of social work, and

* Högskolelagen SFS 1992:1434

** Högskoleförordningen, 1 kap §§ 7, 8

- 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.

Skills and abilities

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

- demonstrate the skill and ability required to develop and carry out social work at different levels of society in co-operation with the people concerned
- demonstrate ability to apply relevant legislation, particularly in the social area
- demonstrate ability to understand, investigate and analyse social processes and problems, and
- demonstrate ability to identify, structure, investigate and evaluate interventions at individual, group and societal level.

Judgement and approach

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

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

2.3 Special objectives of the programme

Apart from the above, the following objectives apply to the Study Programme in Social Work, specialisation International Social Work at Gävle University. Students shall

- gain knowledge and skills that lay a ground for professional work as well as future masters and doctoral studies
- gain insight into the conditions for work on human change with a starting point in people's personal resources,
- demonstrate knowledge of the conditions for and international development of professional social work,
- demonstrate the skills and competence demanded to develop and carry out social work from a pluralistic and an international perspective.

3 Description of the programme

3.1 Programme main field and structure

The main area of study, social work, is intended to give a broad knowledge of the field as well as necessary scientific competence. Along with preparing the student for future work in the profession, instruction reflects both the historical development of the subject and contemporary circumstances.

Social work is a field of knowledge that includes a research sphere, a subject sphere, and an activity sphere. The aim of social work is to promote social welfare through the identification, prevention and mastering of social problems and their consequences.

This interdisciplinary branch of learning takes a point of departure in behavioural and social-science theories so that social work as an activity builds on applied interdisciplinary research. The social work profession can be directed to many different target groups, but one may also specialize on an individual, group or societal level.

The first and second semesters comprise 60 higher education credits and offer insight into the profession and the entire subject field at individual, group and societal level. Methodological, theoretical, legislative and ethical aspects of social work are discussed from both national and international perspectives. Social structures, welfare and the conditions that lead to social problems are dealt with on a basic level. Other aspects dealt with are the development and socialisation of the individual in relation to family, groups and societal institutions and their interplay.

Semesters 3 and 4 comprise a further 60 higher education credits. Here, the fundamental concepts and issues of scientific theory are introduced and then applied in an independent scientific study building foremost on empirical material collected during field studies within the social area in focus. Training in powers of observation, reflection and analysis is stimulated through the problematising of acquired knowledge in courses on evaluation and quality work, and on organisation and leadership. Also examined is the social work field of activities from social, cultural, psychological, judicial and ethical aspects.

The fifth semester comprises 30 higher education credits and takes place in a social work context in another country, where the theoretical knowledge previously gained is to be applied in professional social work practice. This operation-based course is intended to allow the student to acquire the experience, knowledge and skills for further problematising of theoretical aspects and professional action in the work situation and shall include training in professional attitude for a continued development of the student's professional identity, provide insight on processes in social work, and secure the possibility of a reflective future performance of the profession.

The sixth semester, comprising a further 30 higher education credits, covers further studies in theory of science and epistemology along with research methods. Methodological proficiency, critical thinking and the compilation of scientific knowledge are trained through the production of a paper by the student based on research within a central area of social work.

Semester seven comprises 30 higher education credits and consists of advanced-level courses in international social work.

3.2 Instruction and examination

3.2.1 Instruction

The BSc Social Work Programme with specialisation in international social work builds on the idea of learning as a process taking place in the interaction between teachers and students. All instruction builds on the premise that students take personal responsibility for their own studies and for the active pursuit of knowledge. Learning means that the

theoretical and practical sub-sections of the course become in each individual integrated into applicable knowledge and functional skills, and that the student achieves the personal development that is necessary in her/his future professional role.

The student will be trained to acquire a scientific approach, which - among other things - means being able to read, understand and critically enquire into scientific works. The student shall also acquire preparedness for change and the ability to reconsider knowledge already gained in order to actively participate in the development and evaluation of the profession's areas of competence.

During the practice period, the instruction has as far as possible a structural similarity to practical social work. Students' own experiences are utilized and they will be trained in active information seeking and critical thinking. Personal and professional development are in focus during the entire education and the studies are designed to achieve continual reflection on and discussion of own values, attitudes, and approach in relation to professional ethical considerations and the future professional role.

Studies are full time. Instruction is in the form of lectures, discussions, seminars, course book study, group work in various forms, applied exercises, projects, papers, and operation-based studies. Self-instruction is considered an integral part of the process.

3.2.2 Examination

During this education we aim to attain as wide a range as possible of forms of examination, which generally should fulfil the purpose of both learning and control of progress. Examinations are given for each course and may be individual or in groups. However, examination always means an individual assessment of each student's performance with regard to specific learning outcomes.

3.3 Practical training

Semester five comprises 30 higher education credits and takes place in a social work context in another country. This operation-based course is intended to allow the student to acquire the experience, knowledge and skills for further problematising of theoretical aspects and professional action in the work situation.

3.4 Student representation

Connected to the programme is a programme council, consisting of representatives from professional working life, teachers and students, with the programme director as chair. The programme council has a solely advisory function. Student representatives are nominated by the Gefle students' union.

3.5 Internationalisation

Students wishing to carry out any part of the programme in another country may apply to do so. The Social Work Department has signed agreements or established collaboration with other educational establishments in Scandinavia as well as with certain countries of Europe and with Australia.

4 Courses within the programme

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4	Semester 5	Semester 6	Semester 7
Social work & social problems (15 HECs)	Social policy in national & international perspective II (7.5 HECs)	Research methods in social work (15 HECs)	Social work organisation & leadership (15 HECs)	Practical training in social work (30 HECs)	Theory of science & research methods (15 HECs)	Advanced courses in international social work (30 HECs)
Social policy in national & international perspective I (7.5 HECs)	Human psychosocial development & life conditions (7.5 HECs)	Field studies (7.5 HECs)	Social exclusion in the post-modern society (7.5 HECs)		Degree project (15 HECs)	
Social Law (7.5 HECs)	Theories & methods in national & international social work (15 HECs)	Evaluation & quality work (7.5 HECs)	International conventions (7.5 HECs)			

5 Admission requirements

Requirements for admission to the programme are the basic university entrance requirements as stipulated in the Higher Education Ordinance along with the following special requirements

- basic course in mathematics
- basic course in social studies

with a grade of at least Pass in each of the above.

The special admission requirements can also be fulfilled by persons with equivalent education.

6 The grading system

Courses in the programme are graded according to the stipulations in the syllabus in force.

The exception is the operation-based social work course where the grades given are only two – Pass or Fail.

Rating of all other courses is by a seven grade scale similar to the ECTS grading system:

A	Excellent	outstanding performance with only minor errors
B	Very good	above average standard but with some errors
C	Good	generally sound work but with a number of notable errors
D	Satisfactory	fair but with significant shortcomings
E	Sufficient	performance meets the minimum criteria
Fx	Fail	some more work required before the credit can be awarded
F	Fail	considerable further work required

All examinations build on the following criteria:

- 1) Content – Reasoning must be well-structured, coherent, convincing, lucid and concise. The student shall demonstrate that texts have been read and understood and that she/he can use scientific terms in a credible way.
- 2) Acribia - Citations, footnotes and references shall be arranged in a scientifically acceptable manner.
- 3) Language – The text shall be scholarly and largely without grammatical mistakes. It is the student's own responsibility to procure the means necessary to ensure this, e.g. a word-processing program with spelling and grammar checkers or by engaging the help of a proof-reader.
- 4) Independence of mind – The work submitted shall mainly consist of the student's own processing of course content.

7 Degree regulations

7.1 Degree title

Bachelor of Science in Social Work, specialisation International Social Work

7.2 Degree criteria

A degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work is obtained after the student has completed course requirements of 210 higher education credits. Students who have passed the practical course in social work and obtained an E or above in all the other courses in the programme shall be awarded the BSc degree in social work.

Degree project

For a degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work students must have completed an independent project worth at least 15 higher education credits within the framework of course requirements.

7.3 Degree certificate

Students who fulfil the degree requirements shall upon request receive a degree certificate.

8 Other regulations

Requests to count in previous studies are dealt with by the programme director in consultation with The University of Gävle examinations unit. Such requests shall be granted on condition that the studies or knowledge and skills put forward by the student are of such quality and such extent that they largely correspond to the part of the programme that they are intended to replace.

8.1 Temporary suspension of studies

A break in studies can be granted after at least one full semester for a maximum period of one year at a time.

Suspension of studies with guaranteed reservation of one's place in the programme may be granted for the following reasons: pregnancy, statutory parental leave, illness,

military service, students' union assignments, and studies abroad. Other special reasons will be individually assessed.

Suspension of studies for other reasons than the above may naturally be made without any guarantee of regaining a place in the programme, subject to approval by the study counsellor.