



**LUND**  
UNIVERSITY

School of Social Work

## **Bachelor of Science in Social Work, 210 credits (SGSOC)**

The syllabus for the Bachelor of Science programme in Social Work was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences 14 December 2006 and most recently revised 11 June 2012.

This programme syllabus is valid from the spring semester 2013.

### **Introduction**

The Bachelor of Science Programme in Social Work at Lund University is offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences and is an academic professional training programme. The courses in semesters 1-6 are in the first cycle (180 credits) and the courses in semester 7 are in the second cycle.

### **Objective**

The Bachelor of Science programme in Social Work leads to a professional qualification. The programme is based on the subject area of Social Work. The programme provides students with knowledge about social issues, social problems, key legislation relevant to social work, social policies, social science theory and social work interventions and activities. The programme equips students with the skills needed to investigate and analyse needs and to carry out social work, as well as knowledge related to the production of knowledge through research. The students' experiences of social work and their ability to systematically reflect on ethical issues are linked to social work as a profession. The students' knowledge and skills are systematically integrated and extended throughout the programme. Students are to acquire the knowledge, skills and judgement required in the social work profession. Students will be able to choose themes for individual specialisation within the framework of the different courses and through choosing specialised courses.

The International Social Work Federation (IFSW) and the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) have published guidelines for training social workers: "Global standards for the education and training of the social work profession". These guidelines emphasise the importance of knowledge about human behaviour and its relation to the social context. Special focus is given to the interaction between the individual and his/her surroundings in a lifecycle perspective. The starting point of this approach is that the development and behaviour of the individual is formed over time, and that biological and psychological factors interact continuously with different socio-structural factors: economic, political and cultural. The School of Social Work follows these guidelines.

The Social Work programme furthermore provides knowledge and understanding of how class, ethnicity, gender, age, functional ability, sexuality, gender identity, and religion or other beliefs influence equal rights, equal treatment and discrimination. Teaching on the programme is characterised by a democratic and anti-discriminatory approach where the

goal is that students take individual responsibility for their ongoing learning. Furthermore, students are trained to independently identify their need of further knowledge and to critically analyse theories with a bearing on social work.

The teaching methods used shall also give the future social worker understanding of the influence of social work on the life situation of people and of the demands on the professional competence of the social worker in his/her interaction with disadvantaged groups and individuals.

Professional development is a recurring theme throughout the programme. In the process of their professional development students shall integrate the theoretical and practical elements of the programme with reflection on ethical aspects and with anti-discriminatory approaches. The knowledge, skills and abilities that students acquire shall be related to the practice, knowledge base and target groups of social work.

### **Qualification descriptor of the Bachelor of Science in Social Work in the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100) and local learning outcomes of the Lund University programme**

(Amendments made up to and including SFS 2006:1053)

#### **Scope**

A Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work is awarded after the student has completed the courses required to gain 210 credits.

#### **Outcomes**

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student shall demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to work autonomously as a social worker at individual, group and community level.

#### *Knowledge and understanding*

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field as well as awareness of current research and development work
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the interaction between individuals and groups and their social situation, existential circumstances, physical and mental health and their functional capacity in relation to social and other underlying factors
- demonstrate knowledge of the management of social work, and
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the needs of children and the social and family circumstances that affect the existential conditions of women and men.

#### *Competence and skills*

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student shall

- demonstrate the competence and skills required to develop and undertake social work at different levels in the community in cooperation with those concerned
- demonstrate the ability to apply the relevant statutory provisions, particularly those relating to the social field
- demonstrate the ability to understand, investigate and analyse social processes and problems, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify, structure, study and evaluate interventions at individual, group and community level.

#### *Judgement and approach*

For a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work the student shall

- demonstrate self-awareness and the capacity for empathy

- demonstrate the ability to assess interventions using a holistic approach to individuals informed by the relevant disciplinary, social and ethical aspects and taking particular account of human rights
- demonstrate the capacity for professional conduct and attitudes
- demonstrate insight into the importance of teamwork and cooperation with other professional categories, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and undertake ongoing development of his or her skills.

*Independent project (degree project)*

A requirement for the award of a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work is completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 15 credits.

Also compare with the general objectives stated in Chapter 1 Sections 8 and 9 in the Higher Education Act (1992:1434, including amendments up to and including SFS 2006:173).

**Content and layout of the programme**

The programme comprises three blocks – an introductory block (semesters 1–3), an intermediate block (semesters 4–6) and an advanced block (semester 7).

On completion of the introductory block students are expected to have gained basic knowledge of Social Work and the practice of social work. Students shall have knowledge and understanding of the significance of different life situations and conditions, children's needs, different social conditions and the Declaration of Human Rights. Students shall have knowledge of social policies, psychology, social science theory, law and relevant legislation in the social welfare sector, and have basic knowledge of the theory of science and research methods. Students will train their skills and abilities in applying the fields of law and research methods to current cases.

On completion of the intermediate block students are expected to have gained specialised understanding of the knowledge they gained in the introductory block. Students will also have developed their knowledge of social problems and the conditions pertaining to social work, as well as trained the skills and ability required to develop and perform professional social work. In the advanced block students will carry out an independent project (degree project).

On completion of the advanced block students shall have studied a specific area of social work in depth, which is also the area studied on the specialised course they have chosen. Students shall demonstrate that they can apply the knowledge, skills and approach they have acquired on the programme and have the tools and ability to analyse the consequences of social interventions for target groups, the profession and society at the macro, meso and micro levels.

<b>SOCIAL WORK PROGRAMME – 210 credits</b>	
<b>INTRODUCTORY BLOCK, FIRST CYCLE, SEMESTERS 1–3, credits 1–90</b>	
<i>Semester 1</i>	<i>Social work as a profession and field of study, 30 credits</i>
<i>Semester 2</i>	<i>Social Science and Social Work, 30 credits</i>
<i>Semester 3</i>	<i>Legal issues in social work 1, 15 credits</i>
<i>Semester 3</i>	<i>Legal issues in social work 2, 15 credits</i>

<b>INTERMEDIATE BLOCK, FIRST CYCLE, SEMESTERS 4–6, credits 91–180</b>	
Semester 4	<i>Perspectives on social problems and interventions, 15 credits</i>
Semester 4	<i>Communication and intervention in social work, 15 credits</i>
Semester 5	<i>Social work placement, 30 credits</i>
Semester 6	<i>Organising social work, 7 credits</i>
Semester 6	<i>Knowledge production in social work, 8 credits</i>
Semester 6	<i>Bachelor's thesis (degree project), 15 credits</i>
<b>ADVANCED BLOCK, SECOND CYCLE, SEMESTER 7, credits 181–210</b>	
Semester 7	<i>Elective course, 15 credits</i>
Semester 7	<i>Professional social work, 15 credits</i>

## **Course content**

### **Semester 1**

*Social Work as a profession and field of study, 30 credits*

The aim of the course is to provide students with basic knowledge of social work as a discipline, profession and research area and with an understanding of people's living conditions, needs and rights. Social problems and the organisation of social work are highlighted.

### **Semester 2**

*Social science and social work, 30 credits*

The aim of the course is to provide basic knowledge of Social Science theories and concepts of relevance to Social Work. A general aim is that students, on completion of the course, possess knowledge, skills and approaches that serve as a firm foundation for professional knowledge and acquisition of further knowledge about people and the communities they shape and live in.

### **Semester 3**

*Legal issues in social work 1, 15 credits*

The aim of the course is to provide students with knowledge and skills in applying the legal norms affecting social work. Students are introduced to perspectives of the sociology of law on the interaction between rights and society and to the diversity of critical perspectives on law and law enforcement.

*Legal issues in social work 2, 15 credits*

The aim of the course is to provide students with knowledge of legislation primarily within the social services sector and with training in applying legal norms through exercises in investigation methodology. In addition to the social services sector, students are introduced to social insurance law, health service law and to the management of cases in accordance with legislation on public administration, confidentiality and social services.

**Semester 4***Perspectives on social problems and interventions, 15 credits*

The course aims to provide understanding of people's life situations, health and social contexts and specialised knowledge of the origins and construction of social problems, the way in which clients experience their situation and client-creating processes. The knowledge of concepts and theories of relevance to social work gained by students in the previous semesters will be studied in depth.

*Communication and intervention in social work, 15 credits*

The aim of the course is to provide students with specialised knowledge and skills needed to investigate, assess and carry out social interventions based on professional decision-making, tested experience, scientific principles and ethical considerations. A further aim of the course is to provide students with skills in communication with and professional approaches to target groups.

**Semester 5***Social work placement, 30 credits*

The aim of the course is to enable students to develop a professional role and a critical and reflective approach to social work. Students are provided with knowledge and understanding of the professional role of social workers in different organisations, from the perspective of the experiences of both the organisation and the target group. The knowledge of the professional fields of social work gained by students in the previous semesters are deepened and students are provided with the opportunity to practise, develop and hone skills in social work while critically reviewing the experiences and relating them to knowledge of social problems and intervention strategies.

**Semester 6***Organising social work, 7 credits*

The aim of the course is to provide students with specialised knowledge of the institutional and organisational terms of social work and understanding of the consequences and effects of organising social work from a concrete and practical perspective and from the perspective of clients/users. The course enables students to relate their knowledge and experiences of social work to theoretical concepts.

*Knowledge production in social work, 8 credits*

The course aims to provide specialised knowledge of and skills in applying the theory of science and research methods of relevance to social work.

*Bachelor's thesis (degree project), 15 credits*

The aim of the degree project is to practise the scientific production of knowledge and written communication of knowledge, and to provide an opportunity to gain specialised knowledge of one area in the field of social work practice and knowledge. The project is to be in the form of an independent research investigation. As part of the project, students take independent responsibility for considering the ethical aspects of the planning of the investigation and of contact with the people studied and the area of study.

**Semester 7 Second cycle, credits 181–210**

Pursuant to Chapter 1 Section 9 of the Higher Education Act (1992:1434), second-cycle courses and study programmes shall involve the acquisition of specialist knowledge, competence and skills in relation to first-cycle courses and study programmes, and in addition to the requirements for first-cycle courses and study programmes shall:

- further develop the ability of students to integrate and make autonomous use of their knowledge
- develop the students' ability to deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, and
- develop the students' potential for professional activities that demand considerable autonomy, or for research and development work.

#### *Elective specialisation course, 15 credits*

A number of elective second-cycle courses are offered each semester, aiming to enable students to specialise and problematise their knowledge, skills and judgement in social work in a certain field of knowledge or practice. The course can be included in a one- or two-year Master's degree specialising in Social Work.

#### *Professional social work, 15 credits*

The course aims to provide specialised knowledge of the conditions related to professional social work, in relation to the legal, administrative and organisational framework of social work. In the course, the knowledge, skills and abilities gained by students on the programme are pursued, integrated and related to complex issues in social work. A further aim is to enable students to develop their ability to reflect and analyse critically and to problematise ethical considerations in professional and research contexts. The course can be included in a one- or two-year Master's degree specialising in Social Work.

### **Teaching and assessment**

The programme requires full-time studies mainly on campus. The teaching methods used are varied and aim to stimulate students to seek information independently. The language of instruction is mainly Swedish but some components may be taught in other Scandinavian languages or English.

Part of the programme takes the form of field studies in workplaces that perform social work. The goal is for students to gain experience and knowledge of the societal, organisational and professional context in which social work is carried out.

Methods of assessment vary according to the content and form of the course. Assessment may be based on written or oral exams or on the presentation of assignments individually or in a group. Student performance is assessed on an individual level, irrespective of the method of examination.

The courses on the programme are to be studied in the order specified in this syllabus. The admission requirements are stated in individual syllabi. Each course syllabus also specifies the content, learning outcomes and assessment of the course.

### **Degree**

On completion of the programme students can apply for a degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work. Students who have passed the required courses on the programme for a Bachelor of Science in Social Work will receive a degree certificate.

After six semesters of study (180 credits) students can apply for a degree of Bachelor specialising in Social Work.

**Admission requirements**

To be admitted to the Bachelor of Science programme in Social Work students must have basic eligibility for higher education studies in Sweden and meet the following requirements for special eligibility:

**Field-specific entry requirements 5**

Mathematics B or first year studies on the HSENTTe programme or second year studies on the SoEkMuDu programme or Stage 2.

Social Studies A or second year studies on the two-year or three-year upper secondary school programme or Stage 2.

At least a Pass or level 3 on each of the courses required for eligibility.

**Credit for previous courses taken in Sweden or abroad**

In accordance with Chapter 6 Sections 6–8 of the Higher Education Ordinance, students may, on application, be able to receive credit for certain courses taken in Sweden or abroad.

**Further Information**

Students who were admitted in accordance with the regulations from 1993 in the spring semester of 2007 or earlier are entitled to complete the programme until the end of June 2015. This also applies to students who started their studies in the period from the spring semester 1990 to the spring semester 1993, and who were admitted according to the regulations from 1977. During this period the School of Social Work had special exemption from the Swedish Board of Universities and Colleges (UHÄ) to provide education according to the regulations from 1993.