



JÖNKÖPING UNIVERSITY
School of Education and Communication

PROGRAMME SYLLABUS
Swedish Preschool Education (One Year), 60 credits

Programmestart: Autumn 2020



PROGRAMME SYLLABUS

Swedish Preschool Education (One Year), 60 credits

Swedish Preschool Education (One Year), 60 högskolepoäng

Programme code: LASWO

Programmestart: Autumn 2020

Confirmed by: Dean 2019-11-13

Education Cycle: Second-cycle level

Version: 1

Reg number: VD §19/111

Title of qualification

Degree of Master of Science (60 credits) with a major in Education

Programme overview

The international masters program provides an interdisciplinary education in the policies, pedagogies and research related to Nordic early childhood education broadly, and Swedish preschool provision, specifically. This program combines classroom-based training in relevant theories and methods (research and pedagogical) with field visits in Swedish preschools and other childcare education institutions. Program instruction is English. The program is open to Swedish and international students with backgrounds in education and other relevant fields. The training provided is designed to help students be well-positioned for employment as preschool educators, leaders, and researchers.

The main area of the program is Education with a focus on preschool.

Student coursework, including the thesis project, is, where possible, tailored to fit the research and teaching interests of the student, while at the same time ensuring that the educational objectives of the program are met.

Objectives

The overall objective is to provide a quality education in the history, policies, pedagogies, and research of Swedish preschool education model, EDUCARE. The program emphasizes (a) a reflective approach to critically examining this model, and (b) clearly linking research and practice.

Students will acquire:

- knowledge about the development of Swedish preschool philosophies and policies from a historical perspective where care, nurturing and learning are central as well as the Swedish preschool's role in today's education systems (10 credits)
- theoretical knowledge of the various preschool didactic perspectives with a focus on play, exploration and learning (10 credits)
- knowledge of systematic documentation and evaluation work and leadership in preschool (10 credits)
- in-depth knowledge of research methods, especially with a focus on methods used in early childhood education research (15 credits)

According to the Higher Education Act (SFS 1992: 1434 change 2006: 173 1 chap. 8 §), the second-level education involves a deepening of knowledge, skills and abilities relative to first level education and, in addition to what applies to the first level:

- further develop the students' ability to independently integrate and use knowledge
- develop the students' ability to deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, and
- develop the students' potential for professional activities that demand considerable independence or for research and development.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated in the Higher Education Ordinance (SFS) No. 2006:1053, students shall demonstrate the following:

Knowledge and Understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the field of preschool education, including both a broad overview of the field's current research and development work, and a theoretical and historical understanding of preschool education specifically in the Swedish socio-cultural context,
- demonstrate specialized theoretical and methodological knowledge in preschool education pedagogy and research, including understanding of theories of human development and learning,

Skills and Abilities

- demonstrate the ability to identify and to critically and systematically integrate knowledge needed for designing, implementing and studying educational and leadership activities in preschool settings,
- demonstrate the ability to integrate theories and methods of preschool pedagogy and research in the documentation and analysis of complex phenomena, issues and situations,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate research questions independently and to develop corresponding research methods,
- demonstrate, the ability to independently communicate to a variety of audiences, using various media, about preschool educational and policy practices,
- demonstrate, the ability to independently communicate to a variety of audiences, using various media, about their own and other's research,

Judgement and Approach

- demonstrate the ability to plan and implement preschool education and research based on relevant interdisciplinary, social and ethical issues,
- demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work related to preschool education,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used,
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and the ability to take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Independent work (thesis)

For the Master's Degree to be awarded the student must complete, in addition to successfully completing the core courses, an independent project (degree project) of 15 credits in the main

field of study.

Contents

The one-year Master's degree program is implemented at the advanced level and consists of five required core courses:

Semester 1

History and Policy of Swedish Preschool Provision, 10 Credits

Preschool Pedagogies Focused on Play, Exploration and Learning, 10 Credits

Documentation, Assessment and Leadership in Swedish Preschool Provision, 10 Credits

Semester 2

Research Methods in Early Childhood Education, 15 Credits

Thesis project in Early Childhood Education Research, 15 Credits

The courses include seminars and lectures by Swedish and international scholars. The kind of thesis project pursued by the student (e.g. empirical study, literature review) will depend on the availability of research field sites where the student can independently conduct their research using the language preferred by the research participants. Each course is based on an established curriculum with specified entry requirements. The 60 credit program runs on an academic calendar of 40 weeks, with 1.5 credits, on average, equivalent to a week to a minimum of 40 hours.

Teaching and examination

To pass a course, the student needs to fulfill all the course requirements. Examination is carried out by means of written exam, oral exam or term papers. Different methods of examination can be used within a single course. The student will be offered at least three opportunities to pass an exam. The university is not obligated to offer re-examination in courses a student has already passed. Some courses may involve mandatory workshops and assignments.

All courses will be graded according to the ECTS system. A-E constitute passing grades while FX and F constitute failing grades.

For most workshops and mandatory group assignments, only Pass (G) or Fail (U) is given.

The master's degree is awarded after the student has completed course requirements of 60 credits, including an independent project (degree project) of 15 credits.

Prerequisites

The applicant must hold the minimum of a bachelor's degree (i.e. the equivalent of 180 ECTS credits at an accredited university) with at least 90 credits in behavioral science, social work, educational sciences, or related field, including independent, theoretical based work, i.e. a thesis or the equivalent. Proof of English proficiency is required.

Continuation Requirements

For students to proceed to the second semester within the program they must have submitted for evaluation all of the course work required for completing each of the three program courses that are offered during the first semester, and they must have passed at least one of these courses (i.e. be awarded 10 credits from successfully completing the course).

To proceed to conduct the required thesis project (15 credits), the student must have submitted for evaluation all of the course work required for the research methods course (15 credits) offered in the first half of the second semester.

Qualification Requirements

To obtain the Master of Science degree with a major in Education, the student must successfully pass all the courses that are listed in the Contents section. This includes completing the thesis project.

The degree certificate will be issued after formal application from the student.

Quality Development

The program is evaluated at the end of the second semester. The evaluation is carried out collaboratively between students and the program coordinator. Each course is also evaluated according to the regulations and guidelines for first, second and third cycle education at Jönköping University.

Other Information

The program is taught by members of the School of Education and Communication's Preschool Didactics Research Group. International experts in early childhood education will also be invited to contribute with lectures and in leading workshops. The Preschool Didactics Research Group is part of an international network of early childhood education researchers with members in Canada, Finland, Japan, Lithuania, Norway and the United States. Through this network the group sponsors educational and research exchanges.