



FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Master's Programme in Psychological Science, 120 credits

Masterprogram i psykologisk vetenskap, 120 högskolepoäng

Programme code: S2MAP

Second cycle / Avancerad nivå

1. Confirmation

This programme syllabus was confirmed by the Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 11-10-2018 (G 2018/364) and was last revised on 10-06-2021 (GU 2021/1639) to be valid from 29-08-2022, Autumn semester 2022.

Responsible Department/equivalent: Department of Psychology

2. Purpose

The programme aims at preparing the student for highly qualified job positions and a successful career in the public and private sectors as well as in academia, including third cycle education (e.g., PhD studies).

Using an approach that highlights integrated learning of methods and content, the programme equips the student with current knowledge of the main areas of psychological science as well as in-depth skills in methodology. The course content and the learning activities progresses across courses with the respect to depth, breadth, and complexity.

The programme is highly research-oriented. This includes doing an internship with a research group and receiving research mentoring, within or outside of the department, as part of the course work across the first three semesters.

To promote the student's employability, the programme courses are designed to build and develop sustainable knowledge and skills that promote life-long learning. Specifically, the programme aims at promoting the student's learning of generic skills like generating and formulating hypotheses, critically reviewing and evaluating concepts and ideas, planning and organizing projects, presenting projects orally and in writing, collaborating in science, and peer reviewing.

The pedagogical approach of the programme aligns with these learning outcomes by implementing evidence-based practices in higher education such as active, student-centred

learning, problem-based learning, and peer learning.

The programme strives to implement gender and diversity perspectives in all aspects of teaching, including gender balance and visibility of minority groups in learning activities and materials.

3. Entry requirements

The applicant needs to have achieved a Bachelor's degree of at least 180 credits with a major in Psychology (or equivalent), and a minimum of 15 credits in research methods. The applicant must also prove skills in the English language at the level of at least English 6 / English B or equivalent level on an internationally recognized test such as TOEFL or IELTS.

Potential candidates will be asked to submit motivation letters indicating their academic and professional background/experience as well as how the programme will benefit their defined professional career goals.

4. Higher education qualification and main field of study

This programme leads to a Degree of Master of Science (120 credits) with a major in Psychology (Filosofie masterexamen med huvudområdet Psykologi).

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5. Outcomes

General outcomes for Degree of Master (120 credits)

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, 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 main field of study.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student 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 identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously and creatively as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and so contribute to the formation 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 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 autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main 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 his or her ongoing learning.

Local outcomes

Furthermore, the student shall achieve the following local learning outcomes:

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability to assess, document, actively plan for, and engage in their own personal and professional development by means of learning portfolios
- demonstrate the ability to collaborate with others in assessing, analysing, and critically evaluating current issues in psychological science and its practical implications

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate the ability to select, apply, and provide justifications for the use of various psychological perspectives in assessing, analysing, and critically reviewing complex phenomena, issues and situations

6. Content and structure

The Master's Programme in Psychological Science combines fourteen courses in research-based psychological theory and findings; advanced research methods; internship/practicum, during which the student works with a researcher or research group; and the writing of a master's thesis. All courses are obligatory and every student's progression towards the learning outcomes is monitored closely on a semester basis. The courses are highly integrated. The programme is a full-time, campus-based study programme. It builds on and is designed to promote active involvement and engagement of the student.

1. Psychology as a Science, 9 credits

This course provides an introductory exposé of essential concepts in psychological science. The course content addresses core ideas, including philosophy of science, measurement, data, research ethics, theories, and models. To contextualize the development of the field, the course also reviews the history of psychological science. This course provides an epistemological foundation for students to better understand the

materials presented throughout the programme.

2. Methods I, 5 credits

This course provides an introduction to qualitative research methods, as well as in-depth knowledge and skills in qualitative data collection (e.g., focus groups, interviews, observations) and analysis (e.g., thematic analysis), including analysis software.

3. Practicum, 6 credits

This course provides students with hands-on experience of research, connection to working life and to promote employability. Students have a senior research mentor and partake in multiple aspects of research practice together with their mentors. Students build their own learning portfolios and career plans in connection to the practicum course.

4. Personality Psychology, 9 credits

This course focuses on contemporary influential personality theories and how they describe and explain personality development, stability, change, and individual differences. The course explores possibilities and problems in combining different levels of analyses and different methods in order to investigate important questions in the personality domain. The course covers methodological and research issues as well as applications of personality theories.

5. Methods II, 5 credits

This course provides an introduction to quantitative research methods, discussing core concepts such as statistical inference, measurement, data, reliability and validity. It provides students with in-depth knowledge and skills in quantitative data collection and analysis, including analysis software, with focus on concepts such as test construction and test theory, and related analysis techniques (e.g., correlation, factor analysis).

6. Cognitive Psychology, 9 credits

The cognitive psychology course provides students with methodology and state-of-the art research in mental functions and processing, such as memory, learning, decision making, attention, and executive functioning. Students will learn how to generate relevant research questions, formulate hypotheses, which can be operationalized and tested with appropriate methods, as well as how to communicate a research plan orally and in writing.

7. Methods III, 5 credits

This course provides students with in-depth knowledge and skills in quantitative data collection and analysis, including analysis software, with focus on concepts such as experimental design, and analysis techniques for testing hypotheses regarding differences between groups and conditions (e.g., t-test, ANOVA) and non-parametric statistics.

8. Social Psychology, 9 credits

This course combines state-of-the art research with classical and contemporary theories in social psychology. The main areas covered in the course include social cognition, group processes, and intergroup relations. There is a strong emphasis on social psychological research methods and a connection to current discussions about research practices in the field.

9. Methods IV, 5 credits

This course provides students with in-depth knowledge and skills in quantitative data analysis, including analysis software, with focus on analysis techniques for testing hypotheses regarding relationships between variables (e.g., linear and logistic regression, path analysis).

10. Lifespan-developmental Psychology, 9 credits

This course integrates the full lifespan from infancy through old age. It takes a multidisciplinary and dynamic perspective addressing personal relationships, cognitive development, social, emotional and physical changes and their interactions in relation to the socio-cultural and institutional context of lifespan development. The course integrates current methodology and research questions from both ends of the lifespan and links these to more applied contexts.

11. Methods V, 5 credits

This course provides students with in-depth knowledge and skills in quantitative data analysis, including analysis software, with focus on concepts such as latent variables, longitudinal design and analysis, and analysis techniques such as structural equation modelling.

12. Human neuropsychology, 9 credits

This course provides a macro-perspective of biological underpinnings of human behavior and psychological processes. Students will receive an introduction to brain anatomy and neuroimaging and electrophysiological methods. This course highlights the neuronal perspective on state-of-the art topics in cognition, lifespan developmental, social and personality psychology and at the same time integrates the behavioral and social perspectives discussed in the different prior courses of this programme.

13. Methods VI, 5 credits

This course provides students with in-depth knowledge and skills in qualitative data analysis, including analysis software, with focus on analysis techniques (e.g., discourse analysis, narrative analysis, IPA). This course will also address mixed methods, combining and integrating qualitative and quantitative research designs and methods.

14. Master thesis, 30 credits

This course builds on and extends what students have learnt in the previous courses. The practicum and the collaboration with active researchers in the field is the basis for the master thesis. The student's thesis is required to meet the standards of APA style and for publication in international, scientific psychology journals. In addition to the written report, students present their theses orally to a diverse audience.

7. Guaranteed admission

Students who have been admitted to the programme and who follow the programme at the prescribed pace have guaranteed admission to all courses within the degree programme.

8. Transitional regulations

None.

9. Other information

The programme is taught in English and requires that students take active part, orally and in writing. Communication proficiency in general and English proficiency in particular are therefore needed.

The Programme's Admission Panel evaluates all applications. Selection to enter the programme is based on an overall assessment of the applicant's academic and professional experiences as described in the motivation letter, and how well the programme suits his or hers defined professional career goals.

In order to continue the program, the student needs to have earned to following course credits:

to begin semester 2, the student must have earned the credits for the Methods I and the Psychology as a science course;

to begin semester 3, the student must have earned at least 45 credits including the credits for the Methods I, II, III and the Psychology as a science courses;

to begin semester 4, the student must have earned at least 75 credits including the credits for the Methods I, II, III, IV, V and the Psychology as a science courses.

The program coordinator follows up and evaluates the programme and its' courses in accordance with the applicable Policy for the Quality assurance and Quality Development of Education at the Department of Psychology, together with, and based on feedback from, the program students.

The study programme will be followed up and evaluated in accordance with the applicable *Policy för kvalitetssäkring och kvalitetsutveckling av utbildning vid Göteborgs universitet* (Policy for the Quality assurance and Quality Development of Education at the University of Gothenburg).