



Faculty of Social Sciences

## **SAKFS, Master of Science Programme in Climate Change and Society, 120 credits**

*Masterprogram i klimatförändringar och samhälle, 120 högskolepoäng*

**Second cycle degree programme requiring previous university study / *Program med akademiska förkunskapskrav och med slutlig examen på avancerad nivå***

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### **Decision**

The programme syllabus was approved by Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 25-04-2024 (U 2021/146). The syllabus comes into effect 25-04-2024 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

### **Programme description**

The International Master of Science Programme in Climate Change and Society (LUCAS) addresses challenges related to climate change from a social science perspective.

The programme builds on the knowledge and skills the student acquired in the first cycle and aims to give them the expertise needed to better understand and act on societal climate challenges. The programme provides the student with the theoretical and practical knowledge needed to contribute to long-term political, economic, and social solutions. The programme has a strong transdisciplinary ambition and places great emphasis on practical approaches and broad cooperation with organisations in society.

The programme consists of four semesters. The first semester provides a foundation for understanding the scientific basis of climate change research, as well as the causes and consequences of climate change. The semester also includes basic methodological approaches, as well as a course that covers the main debates around the topic of climate politics and economics. The second semester covers the impacts of climate change, various approaches to mitigate and adapt to climate change and

major societal transformations related to climate change. During this semester the student will apply the basic knowledge they acquired in the first semester to specific cases and societal contexts, and work towards putting their knowledge into practice. This semester also includes the programme's second methodology course, which introduces methods and tools for both understanding and acting on climate challenges. This course has a more practical orientation and serves as a bridge to the third semester's internship course. During the third semester, the student will undertake an internship with an organisation in society and put into practice the concepts and tools of climate action. In the fourth semester the student will complete a degree project worth 30 credits where they have the opportunity to develop the knowledge they acquired in the first three semesters.

A student who has obtained a Degree of Master in Climate Change and Society will have acquired a scientific approach that provides the basic skills needed for third-cycle education and a solid foundation to conduct advanced work in both companies and organisations that address the challenges of climate change. The student develops problem-solving skills and will be able to work on a broad front in research, the public sector, business, or civil society. The programme prepares the student for third-cycle studies in areas that focus on the challenges of climate change from an integrated environmental, social, and economic perspective. Upon completion of the programme, the student is as well-equipped to work in consulting, industry, and the public sector as in non-profit organisations, in both Sweden and abroad.

## Goals

Pursuant to the Higher Education Ordinance, for a degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall demonstrate the following:

### 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 to 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.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated in the Higher Education Ordinance, for a degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Climate Change and Society the student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the complexity and challenges of climate change – their drivers, dynamics, and impacts – from interdisciplinary and global perspectives,
- be able to identify and analyse sustainable technological, political, and economic measures to address the challenges of climate change,
- demonstrate the ability to design, implement, and evaluate measures to mitigate or manage climate change in different social contexts, on different scales, and in cooperation with various societal actors, and
- demonstrate the ability to work in and lead groups whose members have different perspectives, values, and goals.

## **Course information**

The first semester includes three compulsory courses:

- Drivers and Dynamics of Climate Change, 15 credits
- Methodological Approaches to Climate Change, 7.5 credits
- Climate Change Politics and Economics, 7.5 credits

The second semester includes four compulsory courses:

- Mitigation – Technologies, Controversies and Opportunities, 7.5 credits
- Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, 7.5 credits
- Transformational Approaches to Climate Change, 7.5 credits
- Methods for Climate Action, 7.5 credits

The third semester consists of a 30-credit internship course. The student can find an internship in the private sector, a public authority, or civil society, in Sweden or abroad. If the student is unable to do an internship, it is possible to take optional courses. The optional courses can be taken at Lund University or any other recognised university in Sweden or abroad. The courses are to be chosen in consultation with the programme coordinator and allow the student to tailor the programme to their particular areas of interest.

During the fourth semester, the student will complete a degree project comprising 30 credits, which is to constitute a synthesis of the knowledge and skills acquired during the programme. Work on the degree project develops the student's potential for professional activities that demand considerable independence or for research and development work by developing their ability to synthesise and use knowledge autonomously.

## **Degree**

Degree titles

Degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Climate Change and Society

Major: Environmental Studies and Sustainability Science

*Filosofie masterexamen i klimatförändringar och samhälle*

*Huvudområde: Miljö- och hållbarhetsvetenskap*

## **Requirements and Selection method**

### **Requirements**

To be admitted to the programme, the student must hold a Bachelor's degree corresponding to at least 180 ECTS. Proficiency in spoken and written English, equivalent to English 6/B in the Swedish upper secondary school system, is required. Recognition of qualifications is carried out in accordance with national guidelines.

### **Selection method**

Selection is based on academic grades, statement of purpose and recommendations.

### **Other information**

The language of instruction is English, which means that teaching and assessment are conducted in English.