1 Name and Scope of the Study Programme

The programme is provided by the University of Skövde and is named Sustainable Management of Biological Resources - Master’s Programme. It comprises 60 credits.

2 General Objectives

Courses and study programmes on the advanced level shall involve the acquisition of specialist knowledge, competence and skills in relation to courses and study programmes on the basic level, and in addition to the requirements for courses and study programmes on the basic level 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 considerably autonomy, or for research and development work.

(Outcomes for courses and study programmes on the advanced level, The Higher Education Act)

3 Programme Objectives

The main area of education is Bioscience.

Objectives for Master’s Degree according to the Higher Education Ordinance

Knowledge and Understanding

For a Master’s Degree the students shall be able to
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both an overview of the field and a considerable in depth knowledge within certain parts of the area as well as deeper insight into current research and development, and
- demonstrate in depth knowledge of methodology within the main field of study.

Proficiency and Ability

For a Master’s Degree the students shall be able to
- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and analyze, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues autonomously as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames,
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to report clearly and to discuss their 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 employment in some other qualified capacity.

Ability to Evaluate and Relate

For a Master’s Degree the students shall be able to
- 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 human beings’ responsibility for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for their ongoing learning.

Local Objective for the Programme at The University of Skövde
After completing the study programme, the students shall be able to

- demonstrate wide and thorough knowledge and understanding of the ways human management of biological resources impact ecosystems and biodiversity,
- demonstrate in depth knowledge regarding how digitalization can be used to reach a sustainable development from an ecological viewpoint.

4 Programme Content
The study programme provides in depth knowledge regarding how humans' management of biological resources impact ecosystems and biodiversity. Initially the study program introduces advanced theories regarding the effects that management and conservation of biological resources have on ecosystems and biodiversity. A methodology course in bioscience introduces basic methods in bioscience. Thereafter the students take a training course aimed at developing applied skills in bioscience and to provide connections to the relevant labor market. An additional methodology course in multivariate analysis further enhances the students’ knowledge in the methods of bioscience. The last part of the study programme consists of a 22.5 credits master degree project. In the personal master degree project the student will independently apply his or her gained knowledge to solve a relevant research problem in bioscience.

The study programme comprises the following courses

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management A1N, 15 credits

Experimental Design and Data Analysis for Life Science A1N, 5 credits

Training in Bioscience A1N, 10 credits

Multivariate Biological Analysis with R A1F, 7.5 credits

Master Degree Project in Bioscience A1E, 22.5 credits

5 Admission Requirements
To be eligible for the program a Bachelor’s Degree (equivalent to a Swedish Bachelor’s Degree) with a major in bioscience (or equivalent) is required. Additionally at least a 7.5 credits course in bioscience with a focus on ecology (or equivalent) is required, within or outside of the degree in bioscience.

A further requirement is proof of skills in English equivalent of studies at upper secondary level in Sweden, known as English course 6 / English course B. This is normally demonstrated by means of an internationally recognized test, e.g. IELTS or TOEFL or the equivalent.

The above admission requirements apply for admission to the programme. For further studies within the programme, the admission requirements for each course must be complied with. These admission requirements are specified in each separate course syllabus.

6 Degree
A student who passes the courses in the programme fulfills the requirements for obtaining a Degree of Master of Science (60 credits) with a major in Bioscience.

Degrees are awarded after application. Information about how to submit an application can be found on the University’s website.

7 Approval of Study Programme and Programme Syllabus
The study programme was approved by the Vice-Chancellor at the University of Skövde on 4 June 2018. This programme syllabus was approved by the Faculty Board at the University of Skövde on 19 June 2018. It is valid from the autumn semester of 2020.

8 Changes to the Programme Syllabus
The programme studies are carried out in accordance with the current programme syllabus in effect at the time when the studies were initiated, provided that the structure of the programme is followed and that no leave of studies has been granted.
In the event of continued studies after a period of approved leave of studies, the students is to follow the programme syllabus in effect the term that the student resumes his/her studies. If substantial changes to the programme syllabus have been made, the student may contact a student and career counsellor in order to set up an individual study plan.

Reservations are made for the fact that the programme syllabus and its courses are subject to change, within the framework of the objectives of the programme.

9 Additional Information
The teaching is conducted in English.

Further information about the study programme will be available on the University’s web pages prior to a programme start.

National and local regulations for higher education are available on the University’s website.

During the programme, as well as after its completion, there are follow-ups. The main purpose of these follow-ups is to contribute to improvements of the programme. The students’ experiences and views constitute one of the criteria for the follow-up and are gathered by means of programme evaluations. The students will be informed of the results of the follow-up and any decisions regarding actions that are to be taken.