PROGRAMME SYLLABUS

Data Science - magisterprogram
Data Science - Master’s Programme
60 credits

Programme Code: DSCPA
Academic Level: Advanced level
Version: 6
The Programme Syllabus is valid from: Autumn term 2020
Date of Approval: 7 March 2019

1 Name and Scope of the Study Programme
The programme is provided by the University of Skövde and is named Data Science - 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.

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

3 Programme Objectives
The main area of education is informatics with a specialisation in data science (the science of designing and utilizing information systems for the extraction of knowledge from large volumes of data ("big data")).

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

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both an overview of the field and 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 (60 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to 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 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 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 employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach
For a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student shall
demonstrate the ability to make assessments in
the main field of study informed by relevant di-
sciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to
demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of re-
search and development work

demonstrate insight into the possibilities and li-
mitations 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 responsi-
bility for his or her ongoing learning.

Local Objectives for the Study Programme according
to the University of Skövde
After completion of the study programme, the student
should be able to show:

- wide knowledge and understanding of funda-
mental theories, methods and techniques within
data science, and various tools for data science
including how these tools are utilized in different
domains,
- in depth knowledge regarding current research
and development within intelligent data analysis,
- in depth knowledge regarding current research
and development within programming and sys-
tem sciences for data science, and
- in depth knowledge regarding recent research
and development within decision support for da-
ta science.

4 Programme Content
The study programme provides wide and deep know-
ledge and understanding of the area of education, with
in depth knowledge within the computer science spe-
cialisation of informatics. The main focus of the study
programme is data science, which can be described as
the science concerned with the development and use of
information systems for extracting knowledge from big
data. The programme, which contains a large amount
of practical assignments, provides a holistic perspec-
tive on data science. This entails the study of different
theories, methods and techniques that aim at using all
relevant, most often, complex and heterogeneous, data
for the purpose of supporting and providing insight to
a decision maker. The main contents of the programme
are within artificial intelligence (AI), data mining, pro-
gramming, visual data analysis, business intelligence,
and decision support for big data (large quantities of
complex data).

The study programme has a main theme that focuses on
basic and wide understanding of informatics, the main
area of education, and on central areas of data science,
e.g., programming and AI. This fundamental knowledge
is deepened and applied through different methods
for visual data analysis and data mining. The study pro-
gramme ends with a master degree project where the
student is trained in identifying and approaching a pro-
blem within data science from a scientific perspective.
The student has the possibility to extend and elaborate
upon a problem encountered in the previous courses or,
alternatively, formulate a new problem based on what
has been learned throughout the programme.

The study programme comprises the following cour-
ses

Advanced Artificial Intelligence A1N, 7.5 credits
Advanced Programming A1N, 7.5 credits
Big Data Programming A1F, 7.5 credits
Data Mining A1N, 7.5 credits
Master Degree Project in Informatics with a Specia-
lization in Data Science A1E, 15 credits
Scientific Theory in Informatics A1N, 7.5 credits
Visual Data Analysis A1N, 7.5 credits

5 Admission Requirements
A Bachelor’s degree (equivalent to a Swedish Kandi-
datexamen) within the fields of Informatics, Computer
Science or similar, as well as skills equivalent to 15
credits in Programming and 15 credits in Mathematics
or Statistics.

A further requirement is proof of skills in English equi-
valent 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, TOEFL or the equivalent.

The above admission requirements apply for admission
to the programme. For further studies within the pro-
gramme, the admission requirements for each course
must be complied with. These admission requirements
are specified in each separate course syllabus.
6 Degree
Those who complete the programme’s courses with a pass grade also comply with the requirements for Degree of Master of Science (60 credits) with a major in Informatics.

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 25 September 2015. This programme syllabus was approved by the Curriculum Committee for Informatics on 7 March 2019. It is valid from the autumn semester of 2020 and replaces the programme syllabus approved on 17 May 2018.

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.