A. Master of Science Programme (120 credits) in Sociology of Law (Masterprogram i rättssociologi)

Credits: 120 credits
Cycle: Second cycle
Programme code: SASOL
The language of instruction is English.

The syllabus for the Master of Science Programme in Sociology of Law, was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on February 5th 2015. The revised syllabus was approved by the Dean on June 23rd, 2015 October 16 2015 and March 31st 2016.

The syllabus is valid from the autumn semester 2016.

B. Programme Description

The Master of Science Programme in Sociology of Law is an interdisciplinary programme aimed at introducing students to the study of law, legal institutions and legal behaviour in a social context. It offers an advanced overview of Sociology of Law with the possibility of specialisation in socio-legal areas, such as criminal justice, criminology, legal cultures, human rights, the legal profession, governance, law and gender, law and globalisation and regulation (in the following, we shall use “socio-legal research” and “sociology of law” interchangeably).

The objective of the programme is to increase the students’ knowledge of how the law and legal institutions work at the national and transnational levels and how they impact upon the everyday life of ordinary citizens. The programme will provide the students with the skills they need to critically examine, analyse and evaluate the interplay between socio-legal theory and practice, explore legal developments, and study implementation problems at the national, international and global levels.

These skills will help students to gain the deeper social scientific understanding that is required of those who seek to continue with third-cycle courses and study programmes. They will also enable the students to pursue careers within fields which deal with public and private inquiries, project assessments, and policy evaluation.

Furthermore, the programme will provide students with the vital knowledge required of those who wish to work as policy-makers, instructors and practitioners who work with issues related to law and legal institutions, the
criminal justice system, the EU and EU regulation at the level of regional authorities and government agencies as well as within the private sector (businesses and firms) and the NGOs at both national and international levels.

C. Learning Outcomes

In accordance with the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance (2006:1053) for a degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Social Science, Major Sociology of Law, students are expected to demonstrate the following skills and competences:

Knowledge and understanding

● demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the socio-legal field, including a broad knowledge of theory and research within sociology of law, in general, as well as an enhanced knowledge of one of the main specialised areas of socio-legal research.

● demonstrate a deeper methodological knowledge in the field of sociology of law.

Skills and abilities

● demonstrate an ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, even when limited information is available.

● demonstrate an ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate social scientific research questions, plan, and with appropriate methods, carry out advanced tasks within specified time limits, so as to contribute to the development of knowledge within the area of sociology of law as well as evaluate this work.

● demonstrate an ability to clearly present and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them, in dialogue with different groups, orally and in writing, in national and international contexts.

● demonstrate required skills to participate in research and development work, or to work independently in other advanced contexts.

Making judgements

● demonstrate an ability to make assessments within the field of Sociology of Law taking into account relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects, and demonstrate an awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work.

● demonstrate insight into the potential and limitations of knowledge in the social sciences, its role in society and people’s responsibility for how it is used.
• demonstrate an ability to identify their own need for further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing their knowledge.

In addition to these objectives, on completion of the programme students shall:

- demonstrate knowledge about scientific channels of communication, and be able to monitor the academic development within their field of study and employ referencing systems.

• demonstrate an ability to operationalise theoretical and empirical knowledge in sociology of law in order to provide concrete suggestions for law and policy making and its implementation at national and EU level.

D. Course Information

The Master of Science Programme in Sociology of Law comprises a total of 120 credits, including 30 second cycle courses in Sociology of Law, 30 second cycle credits in the theory of Science and methodology (of which at least 7,5 credits in the theory of science and at least 15 in methodology), 30 credits elective courses and a Master’s thesis in Sociology of Law, 30 credits.

The first semester begins with an advanced introduction to the sociology of law, which introduces students to classical and modern socio-legal research and theory. This will be the first “profile” course within the programme. (15 credits).

The introductory course is followed by courses (15 credits) in theory of science for social scientists, or research methods, in which students are encouraged to advance their academic thinking and deepen their understanding of how knowledge is produced and reproduced, and in research methods, which provide the students with the skills required for independent research.

The second semester begins with the second profile course (15 credits) in sociology of law, which directly builds upon the knowledge and skills gained in the first term. While the first profile course emphasised the theoretical and disciplinary development of the subject, this second course in sociology of law focuses on the major research traditions within sociology of law. The students will become familiar with various socio-legal approaches and learn how to plan theoretically informed and methodologically viable studies of law in society. As part of this second course, they will be encouraged to identify a discrete socio-legal problem, which they may further investigate in their Master’s thesis.

This course is followed, in the second half of the second term, by courses in theory of science and research methods, each 15 credits.

The third semester consists of elective courses to be taken at Lund University, or at any other recognised university in Sweden, or abroad. It will also be possible to choose an internship (30 credits). The courses are chosen with the approval of the programme coordinator and should enable students to tailor the programme to suit their particular interests and to develop their own specialisation within the field of sociology of law.
The fourth semester the students complete the programme by writing a thesis, which provides them with the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of socio-legal theories, methods, and argumentation.

The courses are studied in the following order:

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<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>Semester I</td>
<td>Profile course I – Introduction to sociology of law, 15 credits.</td>
<td>Theory of science and/or research methods, 15 credits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester II</td>
<td>Profile course II – Socio-legal theory and practice, 15 credits.</td>
<td>Theory of science and/or research methods, 15 credits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester III</td>
<td>Elective courses, 30 credits (at Lund University or other recognised</td>
<td>institutions of higher education), or internship, 30 credits.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester IV</td>
<td>Master’s thesis in Sociology of Law, 30 credits.</td>
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E. Degree

Upon the completion of the programme a degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Sociology of Law is awarded. To acquire a Master’s degree within the programme the student must have taken the courses required under section D above (or corresponding courses at other universities). Of the required 30 course credits in theory of science and research methods, at least 15 credits must be in research methods and 7.5 in theory of science.

It is also possible to acquire a degree of Master of Science (60 credits) after completion of the following courses:

1. Profile course I – Introduction to the sociology of law, 15 credits
2. Theory of science and/or research methods, 15 credits (at least 7.5 credits in research methods
3. Profile course II – Socio-legal theory and practice, 15 credit

F. Admission Requirements and Selection Criteria

At least a Bachelor’s degree including three terms (1-90 credits) of studies in Sociology of Law or another subject of relevance to the programme, e.g. Sociology, Law, Criminology, Political Science, Social Work, or the equivalent within social science.

A good command of spoken and written English, equivalent to English 6/B (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalent assessments will be made according to national guidelines. Foreign
students are exempted from the basic university eligibility requirement of the Swedish language.

The applicant’s estimated capacity to complete the programme is the primary criterion for selection. Students who fulfil the specific eligibility requirements are selected on the basis of their previous study results (grades on courses and thesis in their Bachelor’s degree), proficiency in English, and the letter of intent.

G. Further Information

The language of instruction is English, which means that all lectures and seminars will be delivered in English, examinations will be conducted in English, and students’ essays will be written in English.

Instructions regarding teaching and examination are given in the syllabus for each course respectively.

Students who have previously completed courses, which are equivalent to those offered within the programme, may apply to have them accredited.

Transitional provision: A student who started the programme no later than the autumn semester 2015 is entitled to be awarded a degree in accordance with the programme syllabus of SASAM:SELA approved 28 October 2010 until the end of August 2018.