Programme syllabus

Master's Programme, Spatial Planning, 120 credits
Masterprogram, samhällsplanering

120.0 credits

Valid for students admitted to the education from autumn 09 (HT - Autumn term; VT - Spring term).

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, programme syllabus.

Programme objectives

In addition to the general objectives for Masters programmes as stated in the national degree ordinance and the local degree policy of KTH, specific learning outcomes are defined for the Masters programme Spatial Planning

Knowledge and understanding

After completing the programme requirements students shall:

• be acquainted with the theoretical foundations of urban and regional planning.
• have sound knowledge on the processes that determine urban change and regional development, the actors that are involved, and the social, economic and environmental determinants that contribute to a sustainable society.
• have a deeper understanding of the tools and methods that can be applied to analyse the current status of cities and regions, and the prerequisites for future change

Skills and abilities

After completing the programme requirements students shall:

• Understand theoretically and practically the complexities of spatial planning issues and relate them to their social, economical, environmental, political context
• Be able to carry out advanced studies on current problems, opportunities and future needs in the field of planning at the local, national and international level
• Ability to apply concepts, tools and theoretical approaches in the planning process
• Be able to carry out analyses on current trends and future needs regarding the development of cities and regions.

Ability to make judgements and adopt a standpoint
After completing the programme requirements students shall be able to:

- Analyse the merits of theoretical concepts, policies, plans and projects based on a comprehensive assessment
- Detect the implicit assumptions in theoretical and societal views on planning problems
- Contextualize planning objectives and policies in different timely, cultural and institutional backgrounds
- Develop their own opinion on the nature and manner of dealing with new planning problems

**Extent and content of the programme**

The Masters programme Spatial Planning counts 120 hp and consists of three terms of coursework and one term for the master’s thesis, together 2 years.

The programme focuses on strategic issues related to the long-term development of cities and regions. The coursework encompasses a substantial share of problem-based teaching and learning that aim to train students practical skills in planning and to gain a better understanding of planning practice.

The programme consists of 120hp of courses at advanced (2nd cycle) level; half of these (60hp among these the Degree project). The language of instruction in all courses is English.

**Eligibility and selection**

*General admission requirements*

The general admission requirements are the same for all programmes General admission requirements (http://www.kth.se/studies/master/application?l=en)

*Specific admission requirements*

The specific requirements may be assessed as not fulfilled if

1. the average grade is in the lower third on the grading scale used (above pass level)
2. the degree awarding institution is not considered to meet acceptable quality standards by the authorities of the country in which the institution is located
3. the degree does not qualify for admission to equivalent Master level in the country where the degree is awarded

The specific admission requirement for the Master’s programme Spatial Planning is a Bachelor degree in the field of architecture, civil engineering or social science relevant to the scope of the programme. The students are required a good knowledge of English, equivalent to Eng B.

The selection process for the Masters programme Spatial Planning is based on an overall assessment of the following selection criteria: university, GPA, course work related to the programme, thesis proposal, motivation letter, working experiences and references.

**Implementation of the education**
Structure of the education

The academic year covers 40 weeks, starting in September divided into two terms, which each consists of two study periods (KTH-Handbook 2, Flap 4.2). Each study period concludes with a regular examination period of at least one week. If no exams are scheduled, the regular examination period can be used for seminars and concluding studios.

The first term starts with a common introduction consisting of two courses, Planning the Sustainable City and Urbanism Worldwide. In the second period a set of primary courses are offered which provide basic knowledge for the specialization in spatial planning.

The second and third term comprise courses that provide students with deeper knowledge and skills in spatial planning. The programme offers courses with a focus on analysis, conceptualization and implementation of development potentials for cities and regions.

In the beginning of the second year students are expected to prepare a proposal for the Degree project as part of the course requirements. The programme concludes with a Degree project in which students address selected problems in spatial planning.

Courses

The programme is course-based. Lists of courses are included in appendix 1.

All courses in the programme are mandatory except for the elective course in the second period of year two when students can choose a course that is offered in any of the other Master’s programmes. A full list of courses is included in appendix 1.

Grading system

Courses in the first and the second cycle are graded on a scale from A to F. A-E are passing grades, A is the highest grade. The grades pass (P) and fail (F) are used for courses under certain circumstances.

Conditions for participation in the programme

Students who have been admitted to the programme have to attend the registration meeting in order to enroll for the programme. If a student is not able to attend the registration meeting for reasons beyond his/her control he/she should register not later than two weeks after the start of the courses.

The second period in year 2 offers an elective course. Information will be supplied during period 1 about the contents of the available courses. Students should inform the course coordinator on their choice before a defined date.

After registration in the programme students will be registered for term 1 and 2. For registration in term 3 students should have completed at least 45hp. For registration in term 4 students should have completed at least 67,5 hp of the compulsory courses.
Through signing the attendance list during the first week of the course, students will be registered for the course. If a student for reasons beyond his/her control is not able to attend during the first week he/she has to contact the course administrator.

**Conditions for being promoted to the next level**

*For studies in study year 2:* At least 45 higher education credits from study year 1 must be completed by the exam period in August. Students which have not fulfilled this requirement must set up an individual study plan. The main goal with the study plan is that the student should complete the remaining courses during the next study year. In the study plan, the remaining elements and also suitable courses from the next study year are included. Special regard should be taken to the courses prerequisites.

**Recognition of previous academic studies**

The Royal Institute of Technology has a policy for recognising previous academic studies. The decision on recognising documented results from similar education at other universities is taken by the vice dean of education at the School of Architecture and the Build Environment upon application by the student.

**Studies abroad**

The programme offers no opportunities for studies abroad except for the Degree project where the student can choose to carry out a study at an organization outside Sweden. However, the School of Architecture and the Built Environment has no resources to provide support so the student should make such arrangements.

**Degree project**

The Degree project comprises 30hp and provides students with the opportunity to investigate a problem in depth under the supervision of experienced practitioners and researchers. For registration of the Degree project students should have completed at least 67,5 hp of the compulsory courses. Spatial Planning students are expected to conduct a Master’s Degree project in Regional Planning at the Department of Urban Planning and Environment.

If a student intends to carry out a Degree project within another field of studies, he/she should apply for exemption from the vice dean of education at the school of ABE (Head of Education.) The Degree project is graded on a scale A-F, where A-E are passing grades with A as the highest grade. Guidelines concerning the grading of Master’s Degree projects are to be developed.

**Degree**

Students who have fulfilled all course requirements in the Master's programme (120 ECTS) will be awarded a ”Teknologie masterexamen", translated into English as "Degree of Master of Science (two years)".
An application for the degree certificate should be submitted to the programme coordinator, together with a copy of a student union card, copy of receipts or a certificate from the student union office, and an attested photocopy of the previous university degree (B.Sc. or a B. Eng, or equivalent). The degree certificate will be mailed to the student’s permanent address by registered mail.

Please note that this degree do not correspond to the Swedish degree "Civilingenjör".

Appendix 1 - Course list
Appendix 2 - Programme syllabus descriptions
# Appendix 1: Course list

Master's Programme, Spatial Planning, 120 credits (TSPPM), Programme syllabus for studies starting in autumn 2009

## General courses

### Year 1

**Mandatory courses (60.0 Credits)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Edu. level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AG2107</td>
<td>Planning the Sustainable City</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2109</td>
<td>Planning Theory, Advanced Course</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2116</td>
<td>City Networks in Regional Contexts</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2117</td>
<td>Regional Planning Project</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2123</td>
<td>Stockholm Urban Lab I</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2171</td>
<td>Futures Studies and Forecasts</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2422</td>
<td>Spatial Planning with GIS</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AI2105</td>
<td>Urban and Regional Economics</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Year 2

**Mandatory courses (52.5 Credits)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Edu. level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AG210X</td>
<td>Degree Project in Regional Planning, Second Cycle</td>
<td>30.0 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2118</td>
<td>Research Methodology and Scientific Writing for Architects and Planners</td>
<td>3.0 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2119</td>
<td>Applied Analysis and International Planning</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2120</td>
<td>Social and Cultural Issues in Planning</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AK2032</td>
<td>Theory and Methodology of Science (Social Science)</td>
<td>4.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Conditionally elective courses
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Edu. level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AG2125</td>
<td>Defining the Elements of Urbanism</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2143</td>
<td>Sustainable Rural and Urban Development</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2501</td>
<td>Human Settlements and Housing</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AG2806</td>
<td>Environmental Aspects of the Built Environment</td>
<td>7.5 hp</td>
<td>Second cycle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Appendix 2: Specialisations

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This programme has no specialisations.