

Programme Description

Work-Integrated Learning Specializing in Sustainable Development, Masters Program

SAWIS-H26

Beslutande	Institutionsnämnd
Dokumentansvarig	Laurence Piper, Linnéa Carlsson
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bindande.*

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Grunddata

Department	School of Business, Economics and IT
Section	Division of Urban Planning and Development
Name of Programme, Swedish	Arbetsintegrerad hållbar utveckling, masterprogram
Name of Programme, English	Sustainable Development, Masters Program
HE credits (number of credits)	120
Level (1st Cycle, 2nd Cycle)	2nd Cycle
Entry requirements, Swedish	Kandidatexamen om 180 hp eller motsvarande. Engelska 6 eller motsvarande
Entry requirements, English	Bachelor degree, 180 credits or equivalent. English 6 or equivalent
Main field of study, Swedish	Arbetsintegrerat lärande
Main field of study, English	Work Integrated Learning
Degree, Swedish	Filosofie masterexamen med huvudområde arbetsintegrerat lärande med inriktning mot hållbar utveckling
Degree, English	Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits) in work-integrated learning, with a specialization in sustainable work
Rate of study (full-time, part-time)	Full-time
Type of instruction (on campus, distance teaching)	On campus
Language of instruction (Sw, Eng)	Eng

1 Background

Sustainable development aims to achieve societal well-being and economic development, while maintaining a balance with the Earth's ecological system. This is a complex task that requires knowledge about facts, perspectives, and norms, as well as methods that can be used to drive and practice sustainable development on local and global levels over a prolonged time. Our interdisciplinary program, centered around Work Integrated Learning (WIL), prepares students to understand the complexity and challenges in navigating sustainable development in theory and practice. The program structure and outline are framed and connected to the overall WIL research environment.

2 Program overview

The main field of study is Work Integrated Learning (WIL), leading to a Master of Arts degree (120 credits) in WIL with a specialization in sustainable development. In the program, WIL becomes a lens to explore the relationship between working life and learning, encompassing conditions, organization, processes, content, forms, and consequences related to sustainability. Through WIL, students gain insight in leading, developing, and organizing diverse tasks to tackle sustainable development.

The program's pedagogical philosophy is based on the belief that students learn more effectively if knowledge and skills are applied through internships and authentic workplace activities. This WIL philosophy aligns well with the principles of lifelong learning that are required in a constantly changing world, posed by challenges such as digital transformation and the development of new technologies.

Students will be challenged to write a substantial thesis on WIL specializing on sustainable development as a culmination of their 2-year studies.

3 Program structure and overview

The program is structured into four terms, each comprising 30 credits in total.

The second term is the practice term, which means that students have the opportunity to conduct a more traditional research internship, see course FOP600, or an authentic workplace practice module, see course FPP600.

Students enrolling in FOP600 are recommended to take the course Reflection and Portfolio (AIL612) to gain the most from their internship experience. This combination of courses also opens up the possibility of going abroad for an internship.

Term 1

AIL601 | WIL in Theory and Practice | 15 hp

HTH600 | History and Theory of Sustainability | 15 hp

Term 2

Of the program's mandatory courses, you can choose one 15-credit option from the courses below:

FOP600 | Research Internship | 15 hp

FPP600 | From Problem To Prototype: Work-Integrated Learning Through Collaborative Problem Solving | 15 hp | A1N | Work-Integrated Learning

In addition, students are to choose an additional 15 credits. You can choose from the courses below:

AIL612 | WIL: Reflection and Portfolio | 15 hp

LIS600 | Literature Review – structured reading with supervision 15 hp | A1N | Social Science

Term 3

PHP700 | Paradoxes and Sustainability Practices | 15 hp

TFM700 | Applied Research Methods | 15 hp

Term 4

EXA920 | Thesis: WIL with a Specialization in Sustainable Development | 30 hp

4 Research basis of the programme

Work-integrated learning (WIL) is an interdisciplinary subject related primarily to the social sciences and the humanities. The subject is focused on the relationship between working life and learning. Working life is broadly defined and includes forms other than wage work, for example care work in the home. The concept of learning is

understood in a broad sense and includes change and socialization processes linked to knowledge and competence. Research interests are linked to working and learning conditions, organization, processes, content, forms, and consequences. Research in the subject includes, but is not limited to, studies on work in changing processes, the relationship between education and work, and social conditions for learning in work. The focus of the studies can be individuals, groups, organizations, mechanisms, or structures.

WIL scholars at University West come from four thematic areas: Transition, management, and digitalization; professionals' learning in working life; student learning in higher education; co-creative societal development. WIL, as an approach to working life and learning, can be linked to any social science field, and the complete academic environment of WIL consequently encourages a transdisciplinary approach. This means that students from any social science background can find their place in the WIL master's program.

The program is based on WIL and enables an approach that integrates academic studies and research on contemporary challenges regarding sustainable development. Students get to reflect on how different stages in the research process are applied to development challenges. Moreover, students are exposed to authentic work practices and real-world scenarios and are encouraged to propose solutions to various issues faced by society and organizations. The program places a contextual emphasis on sustainable development, guiding the selection of theoretical concepts and literature.

5 The labor market and collaboration

By focusing on sustainable development through a WIL lens, the program is a good academic training that includes exposure to the world of work. While it does not guarantee a job, as is the case with any degree, it will enhance students' preparedness for employment. Upon graduation, students will have the skills and knowledge to be competitive in pursuing various job opportunities within the broad sustainability sector. Some potential job titles for graduates of this program include, although not limited to: sustainability officer, project officer, sustainability specialist, consultant, or advisor in both the public and private sectors.

6 Internationalization

The program has a strong international character and exposes students to different global approaches and perspectives. Additionally, international case studies enable students to reflect on a global context in relation to sustainable development. Throughout the program, students are invited to analyze and reflect on cultural, economic, and political factors that influence WIL across the globe.

Even though University West is a small player on the global university map, the program draws the interest of students from many different countries. Emphasizing the value of diversity, we actively encourage students to engage in multicultural teams for projects, assignments, and other coursework.

Recognizing that sustainability is a critical global consideration, the program incorporates these key themes. In this context, Sweden has long been recognized for its comprehensive environmental policies, ambitious climate goals, and pioneering role in developing green technologies and practices. By integrating these elements into the program, an international perspective can pervade the degree, providing students with a rich and diverse learning experience that prepares them for careers in the field of sustainable development on a global scale.

7 Other information

Upon graduation, you receive a master's degree in Arts with a major in Work Integrated Learning, specialized in sustainable development. The degree opens up opportunities for doctoral studies in many fields of social science, including the PhD program in Work Integrated Learning at University West.