



Faculty of Economic Sciences, Communication, and IT

Programme Study Plan

Programme Code	SAMIM
Programme Title	Master of Innovation Management
ECTS credits	60
Approval	The programme study plan was approved by the Faculty Board of Economic Sciences, Communication, and IT on 16 October 2009 and is valid from the spring term of 2010.
Language of Instruction:	Swedish and Norwegian
Degree Level:	Master's
Degree Type:	General
Prerequisites	Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS cr.) and one year of documented work experience at management level. Upper Secondary Swedish course B or Swedish as a Second Language course B and English course A or equivalent.

General Information

In the global economy of the 21st Century the capacity for renewal and innovation is central to economic growth nationally, regionally and locally. Expertise in innovation management, innovation processes and innovation systems might be the decisive factor of success for public agencies, businesses and entrepreneurs. The field is complex and comprises the study of the action and interaction of the individual, group and

organisation. Useful theories have been developed in several disciplines, e.g business administration, economics, human geography, psychology and sociology.

The study programme Innovation Management was developed at Karlstad University in conjunction with Högskolan i Hedmark. It centres on the relation between innovation and economic growth in an interdisciplinary perspective and is designed for graduates who are employed in public or private development organisations or who have career ambitions in these areas. It is a one-year programme of 60 ECTS credits leading to a Master's degree. The teachers come from the disciplines business administration, human geography and psychology. A degree project, in which students apply acquired knowledge to an authentic problem, concludes the studies.

Aims and Learning Outcomes

The following general requirements for a Master's Degree are stated in the Higher Education Ordinance:

Knowledge and understanding

For a Master's Degree (One Year), students should be able to demonstrate:

- knowledge and understanding of the main field of study including a broad command of the field and deeper knowledge of selected areas as well as insight into current research and development, and
- deeper knowledge of theory and method in the main field of study.

Skills and abilities

For a Master's Degree (One Year), students should be able to demonstrate:

- the ability to integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, problems and situations, even with limited amount of background information,
- the ability to work independently in identifying and formulating problems, and the ability to plan and carry out tasks and assignments within a given deadline,
- the ability to communicate and interact with various groups in presenting and discussing information and conclusions both orally and in writing, and
- the skills required to take active part in research and development or to work in other qualified areas.

Attitude and assessment abilities

For a Master's Degree (One Year), students should be able to demonstrate:

- the ability to make appropriate judgements in the main field of study with respect to relevant scientific, societal and ethical aspects, and an awareness of ethical issues in research and development,
- insight into the possibilities and limitations of scientific research, the role of science in society, and our responsibility for its use,

- the ability to identify their own need for further knowledge and training.

In addition to the general Master's degree requirements, Innovation Management students at Karlstad University should be able to:

- give an in-depth account of thematic knowledge regarding innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, management, organisation development and networking,
- analyse regional industrial development using research methods in terms of their previous work experience, using research methods,
- discuss the importance of innovation systems for local, regional and global development, and
- discuss regional innovation systems from a power and gender perspective.

Programme Structure

The programme consists of three thematic courses, each 15 ECTS cr, and a degree project 15 ECTS cr. The courses treat innovations from a behavioural perspective, contemporary social and environmental analysis, and innovation processes. Together they provide a broad perspective on innovation management in the light of the different disciplinary theoretical approaches. Each course includes a methodological component (1.5 ECTS cr) contributing to an overview of theory of science, research ethics and research methods. The methodological components total 4.5 ECTS cr.

Instruction is in the form of lectures, seminars and laboratory work at a number of on-campus meetings. In-between meetings students and teachers communicate via the Internet.

Programme Curriculum

The course "Innovations from a Behavioural Perspective" deals with theories in individual and group psychology formed to understand and explain creativity and innovation. Cognition and action, cognition and idea development, creative environments and learning environments are central components.

The course "Contemporary Social and Environmental Analysis: Local and Regional Processes in a Global Context" takes its starting-point in the local community and its position in the regional, national and global actor arena to clarify how structures, processes and actors are interrelated. The aim is to identify and explain the factors that influence the location and development of business and other activities in certain regions and the characteristic features of successfully innovative regions.

The course "Innovation Processes" deals with creative processes at the individual level and with innovation processes in organisations with a focus on management, culture and new organisational forms. Concepts and theories related to creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship are treated.

The degree project further advances student skills in planning, conducting and presenting an academic study related to the problem areas treated in the innovation management programme. For formal reasons the project must be linked to a main field of study but in the process students are expected to incorporate knowledge acquired from at least two of the programme courses.

Degree Title

Upon completion of the programme, students are awarded a Master of Science Degree of 60 ECTS cr in the major to which the degree project is related, that is, business administration, human geography or psychology. The degree title is one of the following alternatives:

1. *Degree of Master of Science in Business and Economics (one year)*
Major: Business Administration
2. *Degree of Master of Social Science (one year)*
Major: Human Geography
3. *Degree of Master of Social Science (one year)*
Major: Psychology

Students who change majors when moving to Master's level are awarded a degree without the Science prefix:

4. *Degree of Master (one year)*
Major: Business Administration/Human Geography/Psychology (one alternative)

Credit Transfer

According to the Higher Education Ordinance (Ch. 6, § 12-14), students may transfer credits from previously completed university courses subject to approval. Transfer of credits for a full course, or other credits, is subject to approval by the Student Centre. Transfer of credits from a course module is subject to approval by the course examiner.

Additional Information

The local regulations for first and second level studies at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.