Strategy for first and second cycle education at the Faculty of Social Sciences 2015–2020

Introduction

The faculty’s strategy for first and second cycle education is based partly on Lund University’s strategic plan and current policies and action plans, and partly on the development work which is taking place within the faculty’s departments.

Vision

The Faculty of Social Sciences contributes to Lund University’s work to understand, explain and improve our world and the human condition.

Overall objectives

- The faculty’s study programmes equip students with knowledge, abilities and skills which can be applied in a changing and globalised society
- The faculty’s research clearly contributes to the way in which courses and programmes are developed
- The faculty is characterised by the implementation of gender equality, equal opportunities and diversity perspectives in education
- The faculty works to promote good finances in education
- The faculty’s educational range is characterised by both breadth and depth, it promotes lifelong learning and is accessible to different student groups
- The faculty’s courses and programmes have a high number of applicants per place and attract students with excellent qualifications from all over the world
- The faculty is noted for research-based teaching methods, environments which stimulate learning and teaching staff with a strong commitment to education and great expertise
Strategies

Study programme quality

The Faculty of Social Sciences shall offer study programmes based to a high degree on research, with an approach which promotes students’ learning. The study programmes are to attract qualified students in competition, who on completion of their studies have acquired a useful education. The study programmes are to maintain a high educational standard and have advanced course content, with both the forms of tuition and the course content promoting the students’ creative and critical thinking. The teaching is to provide space for an open and creative dialogue between students and lecturers, in which the students are given the opportunity to critically discuss and relate to teaching and course literature.

The faculty shall

- promote an organisational culture in which teaching, research and support activities are given great importance and valued with the same care and systematic approach at both the faculty and the department level
- ensure that teaching is based on research to a high degree
- continuously evaluate the content of the faculty’s study programmes
- ensure that teaching is designed in such a way as to promote student learning
- integrate general skills in teaching and make them relevant
- reinforce and highlight the relevance of the study programmes in society and establish links to professional life
- safeguard collective responsibility for teaching and reduce the gap between teaching and research staff

Range of courses and programmes

The faculty’s range of courses and programmes is to be relevant to society and characterised by both breadth and depth, promote lifelong learning and be accessible to different student groups.

The faculty shall

- ensure that there is a progression within all main areas, from undergraduate to research level
- safeguard *both* free-standing courses and degree programmes
- ensure that graduates are prepared for both the labour market and continued education/research careers
work to ensure a solid student base in the second cycle
- work to develop new programmes in cooperation between two or more main fields/departments
- continuously evaluate the range of courses and programmes on the basis of links to research, number of applicants per place, rate of completion and the needs of the labour market

**Internationalisation**

Students at the faculty are to be prepared for professional life in a globalised labour market. The international perspective is to be included in all education. Internationalisation of education in the form of studies or internships abroad is to provide opportunities for new knowledge and broadened perspectives. International students are to contribute to broader perspectives in the local learning environment.

The faculty shall

- reinforce international perspectives in education
- extend the range of courses taught in English in the first cycle
- increase and deepen collaboration with strategic partners and leading universities
- increase the number of outgoing students who spend at least half a semester of their study programme abroad
- strive for balance in our exchange student agreements
- ensure a high level of knowledge of English among lecturers and other staff
- promote mobility among teachers and other staff

**Good educational standards**

Scholarly debate, critical thinking and tolerance for differences are to characterise the entire learning environment. Teaching methods are to be based on the idea of students as participants rather than recipients. Teaching is to provide space for an open and creative dialogue.

The faculty shall

- support the departments’ work with educational leadership, course and programme coordination
- work to ensure that lecturers are given the opportunity to develop their knowledge through their own and others’ research, courses in teaching and learning in higher education, contacts with professional life, etc.
- offer a physical, digital and social work environment centred on education, learning and research
- raise the status of the role of lecturers
- actively integrate the Teaching Academy into its activities
- continuously develop forms of teaching and examination, including e-learning
- promote mentoring activities for students, lecturers and administrators
- reinforce cooperation between the faculty’s library and teaching staff to promote the development of students’ information skills

Responsibility for follow-up

The present strategy document applies until 2020 and is to be followed up annually. The strategies are converted into concrete measures in the Action plan for the development of first and second cycle programmes 2015–2016 and in the Faculty of Social Sciences’ action plan for gender equality, equal opportunities and diversity for 2014–2015.

The faculty’s council for first and second cycle studies (the development council) is to follow up and run development within the study programmes. The development council is also to prepare matters and make proposals to the faculty board within the areas mentioned above. The separate action plan for gender equality, equal opportunities and diversity is to be followed up and developed by the equal opportunities management group.