

LOCAL SYSTEM OF QUALIFICATIONS AT MÄLARDALEN UNIVERSITY

for first-cycle, second-cycle and
third-cycle courses and study
programmes

Table of Contents

	Page
1. National provisions	1
2. Local provisions	2
3. Qualifications	2
3.1 Qualifications at Mälardalen University	2
4. General provisions for qualifications	3
4.1 Application for degrees	3
4.2 Degree certificate	4
4.3 Miscellaneous	4
5. Interim regulations	5
6. Appeal	5

Appendices

1. Main fields of study for general qualifications at Mälardalen University	
2. Qualification requirements	
General qualifications at first-cycle:	
2.1.1 Higher education diploma	
2.1.2 Degree of Bachelor	
Qualifications in the fine, applied and performing arts at first-cycle:	
2.2.1 Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts	
Professional qualifications at first-cycle:	
2.3.1 Degree of Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy	
2.3.2 Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Pre-School Education	
2.3.3 Degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering	
2.3.4 Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing	
2.3.5 Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work	
General qualifications at second-cycle:	
2.4.1 Degree of Master (60 credits)	
2.4.2 Degree of Master (120 credits)	
Professional qualifications at second-cycle:	
2.5.1 Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery	
2.5.2 Degree of Master of Science in Engineering	
2.5.3 Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing	
2.5.4 Postgraduate Diploma in Special Needs Training	
2.5.5 Postgraduate Diploma in Special Educational Needs	
Professional qualifications at first cycle or second cycle	
2.6.1 Degree of Master of Arts in Primary Education	
2.6.2 Degree of Master of Arts in Secondary Education/Upper Secondary Education	
General qualifications at third-cycle:	
2.7.1 Degree of Licentiate	
2.7.2 Degree of Doctor	
Qualifications in the fine, applied and performing arts at second-cycle:	
2.8.1 Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits)	

Local System of Qualifications at Mälardalen University

The Local System of Qualifications at Mälardalen University relates to qualifications at first-, second- and third-cycle levels pursuant to SFS 1993:100 and describes the University's application of national provisions relating to qualifications. The Local System of Qualifications was ratified by the Vice-Chancellor on 15 December 2008, Reg. No. CF10-506/06, and replaces the previous Local System of Qualifications dated 30 October 2006. The latest revision was on 20 June 2023 after a decision by the Vice-Chancellor Reg.no 2023/1560.

Students who began their studies before 1 July 2007 are assessed according to these provisions if a course has been completed after 1 July 2007. The provisions for the Degree of Bachelor/Master of Arts in Education, in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100 prior to 1 July 2007), are valid up to and including 30 June 2023, along with certain qualifying degrees for professional status qualification as a teacher and a teacher in pre-school education that are valid up to and including 30 June 2030. Interim regulations are found under Section 5 in this Local System of Qualifications.

References to other provisions that regulates qualifications

- The Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100).
- Processing rules for establishing a qualification and degree programme 25 January 2022 Reg.no 2021/2846
- Regulations for qualification descriptors for education at first cycle and second cycle level at Mälardalen University. Reg.no MDU 2015/1614
- The Local System of Credit Transfer at Mälardalen University for courses and study programmes at first-cycle and second-cycle. Reg.no 2023/1559

In the local System of Qualifications attachments refer to decision regarding former MDH (Mälardalen University). The decision is valid for Mälardalen University.

1. National provisions

National provisions concerning qualifications, which are common to all universities and university colleges in Sweden, are to be found in the Higher Education Ordinance, HF, (1993:100), Chapter 6. In Appendix 2 to the Higher Education Ordinance (System of Qualifications) the qualifications which may be awarded at first, second and third-cycle level, and also what requirements are to be fulfilled for the award of each qualification are stated (Qualification descriptors). For each qualification descriptor the following is stated:

- The exact number of credits the qualification comprises.
- Descriptions of expected credits awarded on graduating. These shall express what the student is expected to know, understand, relate to or be able to carry out to obtain a certain qualification.

For all qualifications at first and second-cycle there are requirements for a degree project to be conducted. For a licentiate and Degree of Doctor at third-cycle level there are requirements for a scientific academic paper and a scientific thesis (doctoral thesis) respectively.

All degree programmes include requirements so that a student who upon graduation will meet the goals in the System of Qualifications in relation to:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Competence and skills
- Judgement and approach

2. Local provisions

Determining and phasing out qualifications is decided by the Vice-Chancellor. The establishment and revision of the local qualification descriptors and the determining and phasing out of the main field of studies at first cycle and second cycle level are decided upon by the Faculty Board after consultation with the Division of Admissions and Degrees. In the Regulations for qualification descriptors at first and second-cycle at Mälardalen University (Reg. No. MDH 2015/1614) the setting up, revision and phasing out of qualification requirements are regulated.

The Local System of Qualifications is updated continually according to the Faculty Board's decisions on qualification descriptors and amendments in The Higher Education Ordinance. The qualification descriptors are summarised in Appendix 2, in which are stated the national goals as well as the national and local requirements.

3. Qualifications

According to the Higher Education Ordinance, the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) decides at which universities and university colleges each qualification may be awarded. Powers to award a degree may be granted only if the education fulfils the requirements made under the provisions of the ordinance. The Swedish Higher Education Authority can decide that a higher education institution may no longer be allowed to award a degree.

Current title of qualifications and qualification requirements are stated in the appendices, one for each type of qualification, see below. For current main field of study for the degrees of Bachelor, Master (60 credits) and Master (120 credits), see Appendix 1.

3.1 Qualifications at Mälardalen University

Mälardalen University has the power to award the following qualifications, see Appendix 2:

General qualifications at first-cycle:

Higher education diploma
Degree of Bachelor

Qualifications in the fine, applied and performing arts at first-cycle:

Degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts

Professional qualifications at first-cycle:

Degree of Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy
Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Pre-School Education
Degree of Bachelor of Science in Engineering
Degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work

General qualifications at second-cycle:

Degree of Master (60 credits)
Degree of Master (120 credits)

Professional qualifications at second-cycle:

Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery
Degree of Master of Science in Engineering

Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing
Postgraduate Diploma in Special Needs Training
Postgraduate Diploma in Special Educational Needs

Qualifications at first cycle or second cycle:

Degree of Master of Arts in Primary Education
Degree of Master of Arts in Secondary Education/Upper Secondary Education

General qualifications at third-cycle:

Degree of Licentiate
Degree of Doctor

Qualifications in the fine, applied and performing arts at second-cycle:

Degree of Master of Fine Arts (120 credits)

4. General provisions for qualifications

4.1 Application for degrees

A student who fulfils the requirements for a degree shall upon request receive a degree certificate from the University (Chapter 6, Section 9 of the Higher Education Ordinance). The application is done in Ladok for students or on an application form.

A qualification can be obtained by the completion of studies within a degree programme as well as by studying freestanding courses. For all qualifications, at least one course shall have been passed at Mälardalen University

Completed course requirements are required for a degree. Before the application is sent in the student shall check that all the details of the credits awarded have been registered and also that all final grades are stated on the courses that are to be included in the degree. If details are missing or are incorrect, the student must contact the School responsible for the course in question.

A student who has been awarded a degree may be awarded a new degree certificate only on condition that a new qualification requirement is fulfilled. However, when a Swedish personal identity number has been corrected, a new degree certificate can be obtained for an already issued degree.

If the degree certificate is awarded for an education undertaken at more than one higher education institution (HEI), it shall be awarded by the HEI at which the student has completed the education, unless the HEIs involved in the individual case in question have reached some other agreement. (Chapter 6, Section 11 of the Higher Education Ordinance). Higher education credits in degrees are not awarded more than once for courses with common or similar contents (known as overlapping contents). If only part of a course has

common or similar content as another course or part of a course, a deduction can be made corresponding to the common content.

4.2 Degree certificate

The content and format of degree certificates is governed by regulations, national provisions and local decisions.

The scope of an education shall be denoted by credits, with full-time study during a standard academic year of 40 weeks corresponding to 60 credits. (Chapter 6, Section 2 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

In the degree certificate the University must state

1. the qualification designation,
2. at which level the degree is taken,
3. whether the degree is included in a joint degree referred to in the Higher Education Act, Chapter 1, Section 17,
4. what courses are included in a degree at first-cycle and second-cycle level, and
5. at which HEI that courses according to point 4, or corresponding parts of a third-cycle education, have been completed.

In the degree certificate the translation of the title of qualification to one or more languages may be stated.

A degree certificate shall be accompanied by an Appendix, describing the study programme and its place in the education system. The Swedish Council for Higher Education may issue more detailed regulations regarding the contents of an attachment as laid down in the first paragraph. (Chapter 6, Section 10a of the Higher Education Ordinance).

According to Appendix 2 of the Higher Education Ordinance, all degrees apart from a Degree of Licentiate will comprise an exact number of credits. At Mälardalen University one exemption from this rule is allowed: If the only way for a student to fulfil the qualification requirements is by exceeding the scope of credits for the degree applied for, an exemption may be made. If there are several completed courses to choose between, the composition of the courses shall be done in such a way that the total sum comes as close to the qualification requirements as possible.

The degree certificate is issued bilingually, in Swedish and English.

The degree project title is stated in degree certificates at first and second-cycle level if the student requests this. The title of the Research Thesis and the Doctoral Thesis is always stated in degree certificates at third-cycle.

4.3 Miscellaneous

Education to be included in a degree shall be equivalent to Swedish higher education standards. Access programme education can never be included in a degree.

Courses in Mathematics/Applied Mathematics can be included in a degree of Bachelor, Master (60 credits) and Master (120 credits) of Science as well as a Bachelor and Master of Science in Engineering only provided that they are considered to have sufficient Mathematics/Applied Mathematics of higher education level (for example Didactics, the History of Mathematics, or courses in which the admission requirements are lower than Mathematics 3b/3c from upper secondary school may not as a rule be included).

See Reg.no UKK 2.2.3-413/09.

Courses from a qualifying degree of 180 credits may not be included in a second-cycle qualification. For qualifying degrees containing more than 180 credits, it may be possible to include credits exceeding 180 credits as long as the courses are not required to meet the degree requirements of the qualifying degree. The possibility of including excess credits is assessed in each individual case.

5. Interim regulations

General interim regulations for teaching qualifications:

SFS 2011:689

Section 4 Those who have begun an education that according to previous regulations could have led to a degree that can be such a qualifying degree for registration as teacher and teacher in pre-school education referred to in Chapter 2, Section 16 Swedish Education Act (2010:800), may apply for a degree for the education.

This regulation shall enter into effect on 23 June 2011 and applies until 30 June 2030. (Date revised according to 2016:958)

SFS 2007:129:

4. Those who commenced courses and study programmes leading to the award of a teaching qualification pursuant to the earlier provisions before 1 July 2007 and those admitted to such a programme before that date but allowed to defer commencement of the programme until later are entitled to complete their studies and obtain a teaching qualification pursuant to the older provisions, although until no later than the end of June 2023. (Date revised according to 2016:958)

5. The scope of a teaching qualification that may, pursuant to 3 and 4, be awarded pursuant to the earlier provisions after the end of June 2007, is to be denominated in credits as laid down in the earlier provisions. The degree certificate issued for a teaching qualification referred to in point 4 is also to indicate the corresponding scope of the qualification in credits in accordance with the stipulations in item 6 of the entry into effect and transitional provisions in the Ordinance (2006:1053) concerning Amendment of the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100).

SFS 2010:541:

2. Those who began a teacher education programme or a programme leading to the award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Special Needs Training before 1 July 2011 according to the previous regulations and those previously admitted to such a programme who had been granted deferment of commencement of their studies until a later date are entitled to complete their studies for the award of a qualification according to the previous regulations until the end of June 2018 where Postgraduate Diploma in Special Needs Training are concerned or up to an including the end of June 2023 where teacher education programmes are concerned. (Date revised according to 2016:958)

6. Appeal

Decisions concerning rejecting a request for a degree certificate can be appealed by the applicant to the Higher Education Appeals Board. In case of rejection the appeal reference shall be enclosed. The appeal shall be addressed to the Higher Education Appeals Board (ÖNH), but sent within three (3) weeks of the day on which the student was informed of the decision to:

Mälardalen University
Regstrar
Box 883
721 23 Västerås

The Higher Education Appeals Board is the public authority responsible for hearing appeals against certain decisions made in the higher education sector and in the sector for post-secondary vocational education and training. The Higher Education Appeals Board is the final appeal body in these matters, which is to say the decisions of the Higher Education Appeals Board may not be challenged. For more information please visit www.onh.se.