



## Welcome to the master's program Interventions in Childhood



**We are pleased to welcome you** to the international master's program *Interventions in Childhood* at Jönköping University's School of Education and Communication, and to the research group CHILD.

You will be joining a select group of students from around the world and Sweden who share an interest and engagement in children's development and well-being. The program includes a mixture of streamed and live lectures, seminars, group work, and individual work. We expect interesting dialogues among all of you students with reflections about different approaches to children in need of special support.

The fall semester starts in August and it is essential that you attend from the very beginning. During the first weeks, you will have a concentrated schedule including all kinds of information needed for your Swedish studies.

Please, **read the accompanying information** where we provide a detailed description of the program, including specifics regarding what will be required of you in order to successfully complete the program. To prepare for the introduction course, we encourage you to **complete the attached pre-course preparation** and send it to us before the program starts (**August 18 at the latest**). If you have any concerns, you are welcome to contact the program coordinator Madeleine Sjöman.

We hope you will join us in August 2016!

Best,

*Eva Björck-Åkesson*, professor

*Mats Granlund*, professor

*Stefan Engberg*, dean of education

*Anna Karin Axelsson*, course leader

*Madeleine Sjöman*, program coordinator [madeleine.sjoman@ju.se](mailto:madeleine.sjoman@ju.se)



## Supplementary information for students in the Interventions in Childhood

*The Swedish University System.* The education at Swedish universities is based on the principle that students take responsibility for their studies with support from the teaching faculty. Students are expected to work both collaboratively and independently as they pursue their education. It may require a different study technique than what you were used to in your previous education. You are given the freedom to search your own knowledge, which means that you to a high extent take responsibility for your own learning and personal development. It is standard for full time university students to commit to 40 hours of study per week.

The Swedish academic year is divided into two, 20 weeks semesters (fall: Aug-Jan; spring: Jan-June). The only scheduled break falls during the last week of December and first week of January; however, given the organization of the fall semester, you will have assignments to complete during this break and prepare to present at the university in January.

*The master's program.* A master program is an advanced level education that can lead to further studies, such as doctoral programs. This means partly different requirements than a basic level education. Interventions in Childhood is a blended learning program, which contributes to a flexible learning where you learn both on and off campus. Internships are not included. You follow two parallel, half-pace courses in which you are provided streamed lectures by internationally recognized professors from five continents. Each course includes 2-3 mandatory full-day seminars on campus each month in addition to regular resource seminars and a number of group works. The study groups jointly prepare the seminars so that discussions with the teachers provide you advanced knowledge. Your skills are assessed by written tests, individual papers, group papers, and presentations in class. This requires work both independently and in group.

The course *Theory of Science and Scientific Methods* during the first semester is integrated in another web-based learning program, but you will be offered extra teacher support on campus. It helps if you have some basic knowledge about qualitative and quantitative methods, including statistics and SPSS.

*Language.* The master's program is intensive. In order to meet the minimum requirements of all the courses, as well as to be able to complete the master's thesis, you will have to complete daily readings, weekly-to-monthly writing assignments, and participate actively in classroom discussions and presentations. For this reason, proficiency in the English is a must. If your level of English proficiency is low, you can first apply to one of the pathway programs <http://ju.se/en/study-at-ju/our-programmes/pathway-programmes.html>.

*Digital Literacy.* It is important for you to have basic competence in the use of digital technologies. The majority of course communication (e-mail, personal instant messaging) and content delivery is accomplished using *Ping Pong*, the university's e-learning online platform. Having a personal laptop would be a plus; however, if you do not have a personal computer, there are stationary computers on campus that the students can freely access.