

## Call for master theses at Skaraborg Hospital Group (SHG)

SHG is excited to invite master students to participate in the continuous development and innovation of healthcare services to meet ongoing and future healthcare challenges.

### What is SHG?

SHG is a specialist hospital group in Skaraborg that consists of four hospitals in the towns of Lidköping, Skövde, Mariestad, and Falköping. SHG offers healthcare services including acute and planned care in 30 different medical specialities and has two emergency departments at the Skövde and Lidköping hospitals. SHG has a long-term, ongoing collaboration with Chalmers at various levels - PhD-students, master students, joint research projects, learning networks to mention but a few of our common initiatives.

### What will you do?

You will be involved in the ongoing projects to set the scene and scope the problem for your master thesis. Based on the knowledge in the field at SHG and existing literature, you will design the research study together with your supervisors at SHG and at Chalmers. Qualitative and quantitative research methods will be used, including problem solving methodologies such as six sigma method, business analytics, and experimentation (e.g. through nudging). The plan is to start with one or two master theses in January 2021.

### What are examples of ongoing projects?

- *Improving management of patient flows at various levels*  
The pandemic has led to a situation with long patient waiting times, even for high-priority patients. Thus, a core focus at SHG is put on how to manage patient flows at micro-, meso- and macro level to improve overall patient flow efficiency.
- *Management of patient groups with complex care needs*  
Many patients suffer from multiple diseases and have complex care needs that needs to be fulfilled. The traditional linear process model does not sufficiently grasp how various care providers need to collaborate to fulfill the unique care needs of the individual patient. SHG is developing networked care models that entail all care providers.
- *Improving patient safety in real-time*  
Unavoidable adverse events such as care related infections, falls, medication errors, poor communication are but a few examples of the challenges that need to be addressed. Currently, probably around 1000 patients die each year in Sweden due to avoidable adverse events. Hitherto, patient safety methods have been focused on "off-line" methods to improve safety.

### How can you proceed?

If you are interested in any of these areas or have your own thoughts for related themes, please contact us for further discussion. The successful student(s) should have a technical and organizational background with an interest in healthcare. A distinct advantage would be knowledge in quality and operations management. The thesis will be conducted at SHG as a joint master thesis project between Chalmers Centre for Healthcare Improvement (CHI) and the Skaraborg Hospital Group.

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