



Faculty of Social Sciences

SAMES, Master Programme in Middle Eastern Studies, 120 credits

Masterprogram i mellanösternstudier, 120 högskolepoäng

Second cycle degree programme requiring previous university study / Program med akademiska förkunskapskrav och med slutlig examen på avancerad nivå

Decision

The programme syllabus is established by Faculty Board of Social Sciences 23-11-2017 (U 2017/544) and most recently amended by Pro dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences 27-09-2021 (U 2021/568). The amended syllabus is valid from 27-09-2021, autumn semester 2021.

Programme description

The interdisciplinary Master's Programme in Middle Eastern Studies aims to develop deeper knowledge about the Middle East of today. The programme trains students in critical thinking and gives them the ability to apply this to current events and debates in and about the region. The programme also aims to educate students in social sciences theories and various research methodologies, as well as provide opportunities for the application of methodological skills.

The Middle East is analysed as a historically changeable concept, rather than a delimited geographical region. Particular emphasis is given to the processes, norms and flows that continuously shape the Middle East, such as migration, refugeeship, legal, political, social and economic conditions as well as cultural and gender constructs.

In terms of teaching, the programme is based on a close connection to research within Middle Eastern Studies, in which the students are integrated in ongoing research in the field. Besides lectures and seminar-based teaching, the programme has an emphasis on supervision and mentoring, and offering individually designed field studies and applied exercises. During the programme, students conduct

independent field work under supervision and are trained to academically review the work of other students.

Furthermore, the programme offers one course relating to the current trends in the Middle East and diasporic groups with origins in the region.

The programme provides a basis for third-cycle studies as well as professional careers in areas such as diplomacy, aid and development work, work linked to migration, integration and societal development as well as educational, journalistic and cultural work with a connection to the Middle Eastern and diasporic contexts.

Goals

In accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance, students studying for a Master's degree shall be able to demonstrate the following:

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study, Middle Eastern Studies.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously and creatively as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and so contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing both nationally and internationally to clearly report and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study, Middle Eastern Studies, informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and

- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

In addition to the aims specified in the Higher Education Ordinance, students on the Master's degree programme shall be able to

- demonstrate knowledge about, and understanding of, how the Middle East has been conceptualised historically, in political as well as scientific terms,
- demonstrate knowledge about the processes and debates that characterise the Middle East of today as well as the diasporic context.

Course information

The programme offers a combination of compulsory and elective courses. It emphasises the students' development through supervision as well as in contacts with the research network to which the programme offers links.

The first course of the first semester, *Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies* (15 credits), introduces the student to core themes of the programme. This is followed by a course in research methods, which provides the student with the skills required for independent research.

The first course of the second semester, *Middle Eastern Studies: Theory and Society* (15 credits) links to research areas at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies. This is followed, in the second half of the second semester, by courses in theory of science and/or research methods.

The first half of the third semester is elective, and the student can choose to apply for a field course (15 credits), internship course (15 credits), elective courses (15 credits) or exchange studies (30 credits, or 15 credits, if an exchange agreement with 15 credit option is available). The second half of the semester comprises a thematic profile course in Middle Eastern Studies. Students admitted to exchange studies for a full semester (30 credits) need to find the equivalent of at least 15 credits within the main field of study at the partner university.

The programme's final semester consists of a degree project within Middle Eastern Studies, 30 credits, with supervision and seminars.

Additional information in appendix Programme overview SAMES.

Degree

Degree titles

Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits) in Middle Eastern Studies

Major: Middle Eastern Studies

Filosofie masterexamen i mellanösternstudier

Huvudområde: Mellanösternstudier

To be awarded a Degree of Master of Arts within the programme requires the student to have completed the courses stated under "Course Information" or equivalent courses at another higher education institution.

Requirements and Selection method

Requirements

To be admitted to the programme, students are required to have a Bachelor's degree equivalent to 180 credits. Oral and written language skills in English corresponding to English 6/B from a Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. Recognition of qualifications is based on national guidelines.

Selection method

The applicant's estimated capacity to complete the programme is the primary criterion for selection. Students are selected on the basis of their previous study results (grades on courses and thesis in the Bachelor's degree), a statement of purpose including CV, proficiency in English and academic writing.

Other information

Students who have previously studied corresponding courses within the programme can apply to have these credits transferred. English is the language of instruction, which means that teaching sessions and exams are conducted in English.

Appendix

Programme overview

Semester	Course	Course	Course	Course
1	Middle Eastern Studies: Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies, 15 credits		Methods for Research in the Social Sciences, 15 credits	
2	Middle Eastern Studies: Theory and Society, 15 credits		Courses in theory of science and/or research methods, 15 credits	
3	Field course, 15 credits or Internship course, 15 credits or Elective courses, 15 credits or Exchange studies, 15 credits (if an exchange agreement with 15 credit option is available at the elective semester.)		Profile course in Middle Eastern Studies, 15 credits	
	OR Exchange studies, 30 credits, with at least 15 credits in Middle Eastern Studies as main field of studies			
4	Middle Eastern Studies: Master's degree project, 30 credits			