

Graduate School

Graduate School Board, 2023-06-09

In attendance

Board members

Lena Karlsson	Director of Studies, Graduate School
Leysan Storie	Program Director, Middle Eastern Studies
Catia Gregoratti	Program Director, Global Studies
Marta Kolankiewicz	Program Director, Social Studies of Gender
Christopher Swader	Program Director, Social Scientific Data Analysis
Terese Anving	Gender Studies
Rikard Gustavsson	Political Science
Elsa Hilltorp	Student representative, Global Studies
Angela Kinyanjui	Student representative, Development Studies

Other

Lucie Larssonova	Graduate School, Secretary in the Board
Helen Wiman	Graduate School, Administrative team leader
Bulëza Emerllahu	Graduate School
Katherine Ahlstedt	Graduate School
Yağmur Yilmaz	Graduate School
Frank Schreier	Graduate School

Absent

Anna Sonander	Sociology of Law
Mimmi Barmark	Sociology
Anne Jerneck	Program Director, Development Studies
Nils Holmberg	Methods Director, Graduate School
Mikhail Martynovich	Human Geography
Leili Laanemets	School of Social Work
Patrycja Natołoczna	Student representative, Social Studies of Gender
Vitus Mayr	Student representative, Global Studies
Mason Hay	Student representative, Global Studies

§ Decision item

1. Meeting opens

Meeting opens at 13.15.

2. Election of a Board member to check the minutes

The Board decides to elect Catia Gregoratti to, together with the Chair, check the minutes.

3. Confirmation of the agenda

The Board decides to confirm the agenda without changes.

4. Minutes from the Graduate School Board meeting April 17, 2023

Minutes from the meeting 17 April 2023 are confirmed.

5. Information from the student representatives

- Elsa, on behalf of Mason, follows up on thesis supervision discussion from the last meeting, to see if there have been any moves in terms of better coordinating the level of supervision students are experiencing based on their majors/departments.
- Angela brings up the lack of study spaces available at the department which has led to some frustration among students. She suggests sharing information on the study spaces that are available with students if possible.
- Elsa adds that it could also be good to inform students about scholarship opportunities that are available, as there are a lot of tuition-fee-paying students that are struggling and not aware of how and/or where to access scholarship and funding information.
- Lena responds:
Regarding the thesis supervision issue, this is a quality question so we are awaiting comments from the current thesis students; once we receive this feedback, we will discuss it in the form of dossiers at the Board meeting in September. That said, it's a bit difficult for Graduate School to address the issue because it's the departments that are responsible for thesis supervision, but we of course need to communicate and inform students on the facts.
In terms of study spaces, this is not something we can do anything about now since we're approaching the move as a result of the Faculty's building project, but we can definitely be better on informing students about the study spaces that are currently available to them.
- Frankie addresses the question of scholarships: Graduate School does not don't currently have its own scholarships, but this is perhaps something we can look into developing in the future. The global scholarship is currently really the only option.
Chris mentions that this year is the first year he's noticed that many students are working quite a bit alongside their studies in order to support themselves.

6. Information from Graduate School

- *Teaching*: Lena aims to be able to better align planning and hours with the departments. There have been some struggles with Retendo but going forward we should be able to make earlier requests and improve the communication with the departments. Lena will talk to all the directors of studies at the departments in August.
- *Thesis submission, May 2023*: Katie reports that this May submission is a record for Graduate School with 84 submissions. Grades are currently being registered in Ladok.
- *Program admissions 2023*: Frankie gives a status update on numbers but notes that students may still drop out before September, so the numbers are not 100% official. Currently there are 45 students admitted to SADVS, 61 to SAGLS, 46 to SASME, 46 to SASDA, and 35 to SASSG. Continued problems with Migration Agency as processing time for residence permits is said to be five months but there are only four months between admission results and program start. Apart from SAGLS, we're basically on track with numbers. SASME was open for late application and 15 more students were admitted in this round. SASSG was also open for late application, but we have so far only received two or three additional applications in this round. Target marketing seems to be working.
- *Internships/fieldwork*: Lucie reports that we currently have 20 students who have submitted agreements for the full-term, 30-credit internship course – of those, 9 are SAGLS students, 9 are SADVS students, and 2 are SASSG students. We have 14 students who have submitted the 15-credit internship agreement, so for a half-term internship – 9 SASDA students, 3 SAMES, 1 SASSG, and 1 SADVS. No fieldwork agreements as of yet. The deadline for agreements for both internship and fieldwork agreement forms is June 20th, so these numbers will of course go up.
- *SI leaders*: Yağmur reports that we have hired five SI leaders and this year, for the first time, we've hired them under the amanuens or teaching assistant employment type rather than hiring them as hourly employees, so they'll be working 10%. We've hired Lisa van Gorp for SASSG, Camila Salazar for SADVS, Firat Berk Sivaslioglu for SASME, Necla Guclu Altintas for SASDA, and Minahil Malik for SAGLS – Minahil is actually a SASDA student but we had no applicants for SAGLS and were unsuccessful in recruiting anyone, so we had to go with another program student. This year the SI leaders will also be more active in the coordination of social events for our student body. We will send the names of the SI leaders together with more information to the program directors.

7. Course dossiers

Appendices §7 a-c

- Dossiers for the following courses are confirmed:
 - SIMP02 *Globalisation, Conflict, Security and the State*, spring 2023
 - SIMP38 *Historical Aspects of Development*, spring 2023
 - SIMP56 *Using Social Theory*, spring 2023

8. Establishment of Graduate School examiners, fall 2023Appendix §8

- The establishment of Graduate School examiners, fall 2023, is approved.

9. Changes in course syllabusAppendix §9 a-b

- The Board approves the following course syllabus changes:
 - SIMM34 *Social Sciences: Digital Media Research*, spring 2024
 - SIMM52 *Social Sciences: Designing Research in Social Sciences*, fall 2023

10. Establishment of new course literatureAppendix §10 a-f

- The Board approves the establishment of the following course literature:
 - SIMM52 *Designing Research in Social Sciences*, fall 2023
 - SIMM53 *Methods in Contemporary Middle Eastern Studies*, fall 2023
 - SIMM54 *Methods in Social Studies of Gender*, fall 2023
 - SIMM57 *Research in Global Studies*, fall 2023
 - SIMM58 *Methods in Development Studies*, fall 2023
 - SIMM59 *Document Research*, fall 2023

11. Change in course literature: SIMR50 *Social Sciences: Fieldwork*, fall 2023Appendix §11

- The suggested course literature change is approved.

12. Next meetings

- 29 September 2023
- 28 November 2023

13. Other questions

- Discussion on fieldwork course and difficulty of gathering data for thesis when students do not yet have their thesis supervisors or an approved thesis proposal. Graduate School is considering fazing out autumn fieldwork option but needs to remove the option from program syllabi. Needs to be discussed further.
- Suggestion of putting SI leaders and students representatives together for collaboration.

14. Meeting closes

Meeting closes at 14.53
