



## Programme syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Internationella relationer, masterprogram, 120 högskolepoäng  
International Affairs, Master Programme, 120 credits

### **Level**

Second cycle

### **Date of Ratification**

Approved 2017-09-11.

Revised 2025-09-25.

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2026.

### **Prerequisites**

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies and specific entry requirements:  
Minimum of 90 credits in a main field of study in the social sciences or economics,  
including a degree project of at least 15 credits.

English 6 or the equivalent

## Description of Programme

After completing the degree studies, students will have developed both their knowledge and skills to, independently and on scientific grounds, carry out professional political and/or administrative assignments and handling/investigative services within both the public and private sectors, both domestically and internationally. The programme specifically aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to carry out contemporary social and environmental analyses and, therefore, this is a central element in the programme's courses in international affairs. The programme also prepares students for third-cycle studies.

## Objectives

### **Qualitative Targets in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance**

#### *Knowledge and Understanding*

For a Degree of Master, the student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding within the main field of study, including both a breadth and depth of knowledge with special focus given to certain areas within the field, and of current research and development work,
- demonstrate deepened knowledge of methodology within the main field of study.

### *Competence and Skills*

For a Degree of Master, the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, evaluate, and manage complex phenomena, question formulations, and situations providing limited information,
- demonstrate the ability to critically, independently, and creatively identify and produce question formulations, plan and with appropriate methodology, complete advanced assignments within stated timeframes, and thereby contribute to the development of knowledge as well as evaluate this work,
- demonstrate the ability, in both domestic and international contexts, to verbally and in writing, clearly report and discuss one's results and conclusions as well as the knowledge and reasoning on which they are based in dialogue with various groups, and
- demonstrate the appropriate proficiency required to participate in research and development work or to work independently in other professional organisations.

### *Judgement and Approach*

For a Degree of Master, the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to, within the main field of study, make judgements while taking into consideration relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects as well as show an awareness of the ethical aspects of research and development work,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of science, its role in society, and society's responsibility for how it is used,
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for additional knowledge and take responsibility for their own knowledge development.

## Content

The programme is offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences. There is a programme coordinator who is responsible for the programme's administration, organisation, and quality development.

### *Programme Overview*

The programme consists of two years of studies equivalent to 120 credits, of which at least 45 credits are comprised of subject specific courses and 30 credits are comprised of an independent project within the main field of study. The master's programme is comprised of the following four course categories:

- Subject Specific Courses\* (45 credits) in the main field of studies political science with a focus on international affairs
- Theory of Science and Research Methodology (15 credits) on second-cycle level
- Elective Courses (30 credits) in international affairs, social sciences, or the humanities
- Independent Project\* (30 credits)

## **Courses in the Programme**

### **Year 1**

During the first academic year, 45 credits of mandatory courses in the programme's main field of study, international affairs, and 15 mandatory credits in qualitative and quantitative methods will be given.

#### **Semester 1**

European Integration, 7.5 credits, A1N\*, and  
Global Politics, 7.5 credits, A1N\*

The courses in European Integration and Global Politics focus on current issues, development trends, and challenges in a regional and global context.

Qualitative Methods in Social Science, 7.5 credits, A1N\*, and  
Quantitative Methods in Social Science, 7.5 credits, A1N\*

The courses in Qualitative Methods and Quantitative Methods cover central stages of the research process such as research ethics, problem formulation, research design, choice of method, analysis methods, and presentation of results. The courses strive to provide both a breadth and depth of instruction covering, in the qualitative course, ethnographic method, interview method, case study methodology, and text analysis and, in the quantitative course, the bases for quantitative analysis, univariate/bivariate/multivariate analysis, and issues dealing with selection and significance.

#### **Semester 2**

The second semester provides a breadth and, to a certain degree, a depth of subject specialisation within the main field of study.

International Organizations, 7.5 credits, A1N\*, and  
Foreign Policy Analysis, 7.5 credits, A1N\*, and  
International Security, 7.5 credits, A1N\*, and  
Democracy and Dictatorship, 7.5 credits, A1N\*

The aim of the courses is to provide a breadth as well as depth of the students' knowledge of main themes within the subject international affairs.

### **Year 2**

#### **Semester 3**

The student chooses between three options:

1) Elective courses, 30 credits, A1N

The student selects courses from a range of courses offered and should either broaden or deepen their knowledge within the Faculty of Social Sciences or within some other faculty. The student shall apply to the elective courses after consultation with the programme coordinator, or

2) Internship semester, 30 credits

It is the students' own responsibility to arrange such internships/external investigatory work requests. The internship may be completed abroad, or

3) Elective courses, 15 credits, A1N, and Internship, 15 credits

The student shall apply to elective courses after consultation with the programme coordinator. The internship may be completed abroad.

#### **Semester 4**

Independent project, 30 credits, A2E\*

The programme is concluded by the student writing an independent project, in which empirical and methodological skills acquired through the studies are presented in a written advanced study project.

(\*=courses within the main field of study)

#### **Societal relevance**

Within the scope of the programme, specialised and methodological training is provided to prepare students for third-cycle studies as well as for professions entailing qualified administrative and investigative tasks (contemporary social and environmental analyses) within both the public and private sectors. Within the programme, students are also given the opportunity to complete an internship in close connection with international organisations to improve future employment opportunities.

#### **Internationalisation**

The programme has a clear international profile. Political science is, from both a content and research point of view, anchored in an international context. A number of globalisation and internationalisation topics are covered within the programme, and guest lecturers from foreign universities and international organisations may be invited. Internationalisation permeates the entire programme since courses are taught in English and international guest lecturers and practitioners are included, and also since the programme is aimed at Swedish as well as international students. Students are given the opportunity to study abroad through the various exchange agreements at Linnaeus University. There is also the opportunity to do an internship in an international environment in Sweden or abroad. Exchange studies and internships are to be planned in consultation with the programme coordinator.

#### **Sustainable Development**

In the programme, theoretical perspectives are discussed which especially relate to analysing sustainability in society as pertains to political, economic and social aspects and, particularly in relation to the programme's international subjects.

At Linnaeus University, equal terms means diversity, racial and gender equality, equal

treatment for all, and accessibility. These aspects are taken into consideration in the content of the programme, such as in terms of political equality, representativity and justice.

## Quality Development

Student influence takes place primarily through course and programme evaluations but also through representation in the programme council. A programme coordinator is responsible for the ongoing work and day to day operations associated with the programme as well as its organisation and quality.

## Degree

After completed studies in accordance with the objectives specified by the Higher Education Ordinance's system of qualifications and Linnaeus University's system of qualifications, the student can apply for a diploma. Those who have completed the Master in International Affairs may receive the following degree:

Degree of Master of Science (120 credits) with Specialisation in International Affairs  
*Main field of study: Political Science*

Filosofie masterexamen med inriktning mot internationella relationer.  
*Huvudområde: Statsvetenskap*

The degree certificate is written in Swedish and English. Graduates also receive a diploma supplement (English).

## Other Information

Any additional costs that may arise in connection with a possible internship semester, internship courses or studies abroad are paid for by the students themselves.