



Programme syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Internationella relationer, masterprogram, 120 högskolepoäng

International Affairs, Master Programme, 120 credits

Level

Second Level

Date of Ratification

Approved 2017-09-11

Revised 2018-12-06 by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Social Sciences

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2019

Prerequisites

General entry requirements for second-cycle studies and specific entry requirements for the programme:

- Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 90 credits in one of the following main fields of study: social sciences, humanities or economics
- 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

In order to achieve the 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

In order to achieve the 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 academic 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

In order to achieve the 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 one's competence development.

Independent Project (Degree Project)

To achieve the degree of master, the student shall within the scope of the course requirements, complete an independent project (degree project) of at least 30 credits within the main field of study. The independent project may comprise less than 30 credits, but at least 15 credits, if the student has previously completed a second-cycle independent project of at least 15 credits within the programme's main field of study, or the equivalent as part of a foreign programme/ qualification.

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) within 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) within international affairs, social sciences, or humanities
- Independent Project* (30 credits)

Courses in the Programme

Semester 1 and 2 (A1N)

During the first academic year, 45 credits of mandatory courses handling the programme's main subject, international affairs, and 15 mandatory credits handling qualitative and quantitative methods will be given. The admission requirements for these courses include only first-cycle courses (A1N). The first semester will introduce

students to international affairs (7.5 credits)* and European affairs (7.5 credits)* as well as qualitative (7.5 credits)* and quantitative (7.5 credits)* methods. The international and European affairs courses focus on current issues, development trends, and challenges in the context of the regional and global perspectives. The qualitative and quantitative methods courses cover central stages of the research process such as research ethics, problem formulation, research design, method choice, 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.

The second semester provides a breadth and, to a certain degree, depth of instruction within the main field of study and covers central subjects such as international organisations (7.5 credits)*, foreign policy analysis (7.5 credits)*, international security (7.5 credits)*, and democracy and dictatorship (7.5 credits)*. The aim of the courses is to provide a breadth of knowledge concerning central subjects within international affairs through discussion on how international relations between different parties look and are affected.

Semester 3 (A1N) and 4 (A2E)

The second academic year starts with a semester of optional courses (30 credits) and is completed with an independent project (30 credits). Students choose to either broaden or deepen their knowledge within the Faculty of Social Sciences or within some other faculty. Within the scope of the optional courses, the possibility also exists to carry out an internship and complete investigatory work (15/30 credits). It is the students' responsibility to arrange such internships/external investigatory work requests. The internship and/or study of optional courses may be completed abroad. All optional courses are only to be applied for after consultation with the programme coordinator. The third semester offers three alternatives:

- Optional courses (30 credits)
- Internship semester (30 credits)
- Optional courses (15 credits) and internship (15 credits).

The fourth semester concludes the programme studies with an independent project (30 credits)* where empirical and methodological skills acquired from the programme are presented in a written advanced study project. The course has certain second-cycle courses as admission requirements, comprising at least 30 credits within the main field of study and at least 15 credits in methodology courses, and also includes a degree project.

(*=courses within the main field of study)

Societal Relevance

Within the scope of the programme, specialised and methodological training is provided which prepares students for both third-cycle studies and professions entailing qualified administrative and investigative tasks (contemporary social and environmental analyses) within both the public and private sectors. The programme regularly invites practitioners from international organisations to present their experiences from working life. Within the scope of the programme, students are also given the opportunity to complete an internship in close connection with international organisations which can lead to improved 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. Additionally, guest lecturers from foreign universities and international organisations may also be invited. Internationalisation permeates through the entire programme, partly as courses are taught in English and include international guest lecturers and practitioners and partly as the programme is aimed at both Swedish and international students. Students are given the opportunity to study abroad through the various exchange agreements at Linnaeus University. There also exists the opportunity to complete an internship in an international environment in Sweden or abroad. Exchange studies and internships are to be planned in consultation with the programme administrator.

Programme Perspectives

Sustainable Development

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

Equal Terms

At Linnaeus University, equal terms means diversity, racial and gender equality, equal treatment for all, and accessibility. This applies to aspects concerning the makeup of student groups, the formation of teaching staff, selection of teachers for courses, and the objective contents of courses and degree projects.

Broadened Knowledge Perspective (Education)

Within political science and the programme's international subjects, a number of classic works are used as a starting point to understand both research and current societal debates related to each subject.

Entrepreneurial Approach

During the programme and as a part of those courses where it is applicable, for example the internship semester, students learn to analyse any occurrences of political entrepreneurship within different organisations.

Quality Development

The board of the Faculty of Social Sciences is responsible for the overall quality of the programme. Student influence takes place primarily through course and programme evaluations but also through representation in the faculty board, working committee, and the programme council. The students' viewpoints form the foundation of the board's quality assurance procedures. Summaries of different evaluations are available at the university. 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. Furthermore, there is a programme council consisting of programme coordinator, teacher and student representatives, and the head of the department (or person appointed by the head of the department) whose responsibility it is to continually develop the programme.

Degree Certificate

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:

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

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

Other Information

In order to be admitted to the programme courses, the specific entry requirements for each course as stated in the relevant syllabus must be met when the course starts.

Any costs above and beyond that which normally can be expected of higher education studies, for example voluntary study tours and/or internships etc., are to be paid for by the students themselves.