



Programme syllabus

Faculty of Social Sciences

Internationella samhällsstudier, inriktning politik och samhällsanalys,
180 högskolepoäng

International Politics Studies, specialization Political Analysis, 180
credits

Level

First Level

Date of Ratification

Approved 2009-09-15

Revised 2021-12-02 by the Faculty Board within the Faculty of Social Sciences

The programme syllabus is valid from autumn semester 2022

Prerequisites

General entry requirements + English 6.

Description of Programme

In an increasingly internationalised world, people are needed who on the basis of historical as well as contemporary perspectives are able to analyse and conduct environmental scanning and analysis. The International Politics Studies Programme combines the main field of study political science with various social scientific, historical and linguistic perspectives, focusing on Sweden, Europe and the rest of the world. The aim of the programme is to turn out students who have acquired advanced knowledge and skills required for more qualified work such as environmental scanning and analyses, inquiries and processing in national as well as international administration, in the public as well as the private sector.

Objectives

Qualitative Targets in accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance

Knowledge and Understanding

In order to obtain a bachelor's degree the student shall:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including knowledge of the disciplinary foundation of the field and an understanding of applicable methodologies in the field, carry out specialised study in some aspect of the field as well demonstrate awareness of current research issues.

Competence and Skills

In order to obtain a bachelor's degree the student shall:

- demonstrate the ability to search out, compile, evaluate and critically interpret

- relevant information in their approach to a problem as well as critically discuss phenomena, issues and situations,
- demonstrate the ability to independently identify, formulate and solve problems as well as carry out assignments within a given time frame,
 - both verbally and in writing, demonstrate the ability to present and discuss information, problems and solutions in dialogue with various groups,
 - demonstrate the proficiency required to independently work within the field at which the education is aimed.

Judgement and Approach

In order to obtain a bachelor's degree the student shall:

- within the main field of study, demonstrate the ability to make assessments with regard to relevant scientific, societal and ethical aspects,
- demonstrate insight into the role of knowledge in society as well as an understanding of the responsibility of the individual for how it is used,
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and to develop the individual competence.

More specific intended learning outcomes are stated in the course syllabuses.

Content

Programme Overview

The first year of the programme starts with studies in the profile of the programme in international politics studies and in international politics studies with a specialisation in English, language, culture and society, equivalent to one semester of studies in each subject. These courses are studied in parallel. Year 2 starts with first-cycle studies in the main field, Political Science I (30 credits), followed by advanced studies in Political Science II (30 credits) during semester 4. The students study optional courses comprising 30 credits in semester 5, in Sweden or abroad. They are also given the opportunity to carry out an internship semester. The programme is concluded by the Bachelor's courses in Political Science III (30 credits).

The programme profile is international politics studies, focused on during the first two semesters in the programme, on the basis of different social scientific, political scientific, historical as well as linguistic perspectives. The main field of study Political Science also comprises international politics studies focusing on politics, social analysis and environmental scanning and analysis as natural components in most of the courses included. By the optional course in semester 5 or by studies abroad, the profile may be additionally strengthened. Studies abroad may be carried out in semester 4, 5 or 6. The students also have the opportunity to conduct internship in Sweden or abroad, focusing on environmental analysis.

The courses in year 1 are given at 50% pace on campus. Mandatory courses in year 2 and 3 are given at 100% pace on campus. The language of instruction is primarily Swedish, with the exception of the course in English: language, culture and society which is given in English. Optional courses chosen by the students themselves may have another study format than on campus, other language of instruction than Swedish, and may be given at any level and at any rate of study. The order of the courses given during one and the same semester may vary.

Programme Courses

(*=included in the main field of study)

Semester 1-2:

Studies of the International Society I, 15 credits (G1N)

The aim of the course is to provide introductory knowledge and perspectives of studies of the international society, in which a number of themes and environmental scanning and analyses are discussed, such as global challenges and crises, democracy and dictatorship, as well as international relations in Europe.

Studies of the International Society II, 15 credits (G1N)

The aim of the course is to provide introductory knowledge and perspectives of studies of the international society, in which a number of themes and environmental scanning and analyses are discussed, such as Sweden as a part of Europe, global security perspectives, and other issues within the field of global politics and social sciences.

English: Language, Culture and Society, 30 credits (G1N)

The first year also includes courses providing basic knowledge and skills in the English language, applied in oral as well as written presentations on international societal and intercultural issues.

The courses are given in parallel during the first year.

Semester 3:

First-cycle courses equivalent to Political Science I, 30 credits (G1N)*

The following courses are included: Political Ideas (7.5 credits), Swedish Politics and Public Administration (7.5 credits), Comparative Politics (7.5 credits) and International Politics (7.5 credits).

The courses include the foundations of the study of political science and the aim is for students to demonstrate basic knowledge of the subject Political Science and its subdisciplines, and basic skills required to be able to problematize current issues within the field.

Semester 4

Continuation courses equivalent to Political Science II, 30 credits (G1F)*

The following courses are included: Representative Democracy in Political Systems (7.5 credits), Elective Specialisation (7.5 credits), Methods in Political Science (7.5 credits) and Master Thesis (7.5 credits).

The courses include further studies in political science and the aim is for students to improve their knowledge and skills in the scientific study of politics and issues within the field of political science, and be able to apply general theories and methods of political science and put these in relation to the empiricism within the chosen definition of a problem.

Semester 5:

The student can choose between the below given alternatives.

1. Optional courses offered at LNU, or at other higher education institutions in Sweden or abroad. Studies abroad are carried out through the university's system for study abroad.

2. Internship, one semester 30 credits (G2F).

The student shall in consultation with a placement coordinator arrange a suitable placement relevant to the study programme, in Sweden or abroad. The student completes the placement period under supervision and examination takes place by means of a written internship report.

Semester 6:

First-cycle courses equivalent to Political Science III, 30 credits, of which 15 credits in Master Thesis (G2E)*

The following courses are included: Political Analysis, (7.5 credits), Methods in Political Science II (7.5 credits), and Master Thesis (15 credits).

The courses include specialised studies in political science and the aim is for students to be able to independently and critically reflect on and analyse issues within the field of political science, and be able to apply their advanced skills and knowledge of theories and methods in the writing of a thesis.

Societal Relevance

The programme discusses themes of current interest which in different ways are linked to the studies in international politics and sustainable development in relation to the working life. The link to the working life is emphasized all through the programme and the scope of the programme offers the students the opportunity to work close with organisations or businesses in the surrounding society, for instance in various projects. This is enabled within the scope of the degree project, but also within the scope of the internship which is an important feature in the programme. Students are given the opportunity to conduct a semester of internship in semester 5. The student shall then choose to either carry out a semester of internship at a workplace relevant to the programme and write an internship report, or carry out a major project work (analysis or evaluation work) for an external assigner in Sweden or abroad. Examination of the internship report or the project takes place at the university. Furthermore, by the use of for instance study tours and study visits, the students have the opportunity to meet representatives from different kinds of international organisations and businesses. External guest lectures reinforce various of the courses included in the programme, as well as other lectures and talks to which the students are invited. Labour market days and follow-up of previous students also reinforce the relationship with previous students and provide a good insight into the working life and the conditions of the labour market.

Internationalisation

The programme has an international profile and the subject political science is in its content as well as research rooted in the international context. A number of themes within international politics studies are discussed in the programme and there are also guest lecturers from foreign universities and international practices who give individual lectures. Students have the opportunity to study abroad in semester 4, 5 and 6, and they also have the opportunity to carry out a semester of internship in semester 5.

Sustainable Development

The programme addresses through the thematic semester in international politics studies as well as through the main field of study Political Science, theoretical perspectives and empirical examples dealing with analysing the sustainability of society based on Agenda 2030. Focus is mainly put on the political aspects behind these goals (primarily goal 5, 11, 13, 16 and 17), but other aspects such as economic, social and cultural are also included to some extent. Details of the content are given in the course and general syllabuses for the courses in International Politics Studies and Political Science. At Linnaeus University and within the study of political science equal terms of people are taken into consideration in the teaching content, such as diversity, equality, equal opportunity, equal treatment and availability. This takes place for instance in the study of concepts such as political equality, representativity and equity. Detailed aspects are given in the respective course syllabus.

Quality Development

Student influence takes place through course and programme evaluations and also through representation in the programme council. Course and programme evaluations are followed up on by the faculty staff. Compilations 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 in the Higher Education Ordinance System of Qualifications and the Linnaeus University Local System of Qualifications, the student may apply for a degree. Those having completed the International Politics Studies Programme with a Specialisation in Political Analysis 180 credits, can obtain the following degree:

Bachelor of Science with specialization in Political Analysis

Main field of study: Political Science

The diploma is written in Swedish and English. The degree certificate also comes with a Diploma Supplement (in English).

Courses previously given within the same programme code, SGISS, may also be included in the degree and will then replace courses with equivalent content.

Other Information

The choice to conduct studies abroad, optional courses and internship takes place within the scope of the programme, the latter shall be determined in consultation between the programme coordinator and the student. During the study programme, national as well as international study trips may be arranged, aimed at giving the students an insight into how various political systems and administrations as well as other political bodies work in practice. These study trips are voluntary and are therefore paid for by the students themselves.