

MIDM19, Development Studies: Master's Thesis, 30 credits

Development Studies: Master's Thesis, 30 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by Steering committee for the Master of Science Programme in International Development and Management on 2018-11-29 and was last revised on 2025-03-20. The revised syllabus comes into effect 2025-03-20 and is valid from the spring semester 2026.

General information

This course is offered as the only course of the fourth term and is the final course of the Lund University Master of Science Programme in International Development and Management (LUMID).

Language of instruction: English

*Main field of
study*

Specialisation

Development
Studies

A2E, Second cycle, contains degree project for Master of
Arts/Master of Science (120 credits)

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students shall be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of international development, including both broad knowledge in the field of international development and management and substantially deeper knowledge of certain parts of the field, together with deeper insight into current research and development work; and
- demonstrate deeper methodological knowledge in the field of international development and management.

Competence and skills

- be able to apply their knowledge and understanding, and problem-solving abilities to contexts related to the field of international development and management;
- demonstrate an ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and to analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations, even when limited information in the area of international development and management is available;
- demonstrate an ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate research questions and to plan and, using appropriate methods, carry out advanced tasks within specified time limits and to evaluate this work;
- demonstrate an ability to clearly present and discuss their conclusions and the knowledge and arguments behind them, in dialogue with different groups, orally and in writing, in national and international contexts;
- demonstrate the skill required to participate in research and development work or to work independently in other advanced contexts;
- demonstrate an ability to correctly cite and refer to the literature and other relevant materials;
- demonstrate the ability to monitor the academic and non-academic development within their field of study;
- demonstrate an ability to critically, independently and creatively identify and formulate issues and to plan and, using appropriate methods, carry out advanced tasks within specified time limits, so as to contribute to the development of knowledge within the area of international development and management and to evaluate this work.

Judgement and approach

- demonstrate an ability to make assessments in the field of international development and management, taking into account relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects, and demonstrate an awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work;
- demonstrate insight into the potential and limitations of knowledge in the social sciences, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used; and
- demonstrate an ability to identify the need of further knowledge and to take responsibility for developing new knowledge.

Course content

The Master's thesis is an independent piece of work that addresses development issues from a social science perspective within the context of the contemporary developing world. Students may write their thesis together with one other student. Guidelines for the Master's thesis are published by the Lund University International Master of Science Programme in International Development and Management.

Course design

The teaching takes the form of group and individual supervision. To complete the course the student must submit a thesis as well as defend the thesis in a seminar arranged at the end of the course. The student must also participate as an opponent on a thesis written by a fellow student. Written instructions for a defender/opponent will be given to the student well ahead of the seminar. All students are required to actively participate in the seminars and the group supervision sessions.

Assessment

The examiner reviews how the student has planned and conducted the study, if it is based on an independent and thorough analysis, if the results seem reliable, and if it has been conducted according to ethical principles.

The final thesis shall be submitted electronically for open-access publication in a data base belonging to Lund University. In special circumstances, exemptions from open access publication can be granted.

Examinations will be scheduled during the academic year only. Re-examination will be offered after the end of the course. If necessary, a second re-examination will be arranged at a later date.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: U=Fail, E=Sufficient, D=Satisfactory, C=Good, B=Very Good, A=Excellent

The grades awarded are A, B, C, D, E or Fail. The highest grade is A, and the lowest passing grade is E. The grade for a non-passing result is Fail.

The student's performance is assessed with reference to the learning outcomes of the course. For the grade of E the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of D the student must show satisfactory results. For the grade of C the student must show good results. For the grade of B the student must show very good results. For the grade of A the student must show excellent results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

Group supervision sessions are exempted from the grading scale above and will be awarded the grades Pass or Fail. For the grade of Pass the student must show acceptable results. For the grade of Fail the student must have shown unacceptable results.

At the start of the course students are informed about the learning outcomes stated in the syllabus and about the grading scale and how it is applied in the course.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, the student must be registered in the Master of Science Programme in International Development and Management (120 credits), and must have completed the courses Introduction to International Development and Management, (MIDA80, 15 ECTS), Development Studies: Development Cooperation and Practice (MIDM81, 7, 5 ECTS), Development Studies: Theory of Science and Research Methodologies with a Focus on Development Studies (MIDM72, 7, 5 ECTS), Development Studies: Global Health (MIDM73, 7, 5 ECTS), Development Studies: Livelihoods, Environment and Urbanisation (MIDM74, 10 ECTS), Development Studies:

The Development Practitioner (MIDM75, 5 ECTS) och Development Studies: Research Design and Methods in Development Studies (MIDM76, 7,5 ECTS), and Development Studies: Field Studies of Programme Management (MIDM68, 22,5 ECTS), or the equivalent.