



Faculty of Social Sciences

SAMSE, Master Programme in Politics and Society of the Contemporary Middle East, 120 credits

*Masterprogram i politik och samhälle i det samtida Mellanöstern,
120 högskolepoäng*

**Second cycle degree programme requiring previous university study / Program
med akademiska förkunskapskrav och med slutlig examen på avancerad nivå**

Decision

The syllabus was approved by Pro dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 07-06-2023 (Dnr U 2023/445) and was last revised on 19-09-2024 by Faculty Board of Social Sciences (U 2024/576). The revised syllabus comes into effect 15-10-2024 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

Programme description

This interdisciplinary Master's Programme aims for students to develop a deep social-scientific knowledge about the Middle East of today. It trains students in critical thinking and gives them the ability to apply this to current events and debates in and about the region. The social-scientific focus of the programme means that students will learn how to apply various theories and research methodologies to study the societies, politics, and contemporary history of countries in the region and their populations. Particular emphasis is given to the processes, norms and flows that continuously shape the Middle East, such as legal, political, social, and economic conditions, as well as culture and gender constructs.

The programme uses a comprehensive definition of the Middle East and North Africa region to include some of the members of the Arab League (Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen) in addition to Iran, Israel/Occupied territories, and Turkey.

The programme provides a basis for third-cycle (PhD) studies as well as professional

careers in areas such as diplomacy, aid and development work, work linked to migration, integration and societal development, as well as educational and journalistic work with a connection to the Middle Eastern.

Goals

In accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance, students studying for a Master's degree shall be able to demonstrate the following:

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study, Middle Eastern Studies.

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously and creatively as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and so contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing both nationally and internationally to clearly report and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Master (120 credits) the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study, Middle Eastern Studies, informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

In addition to the aims specified in the Higher Education Ordinance, students on the Master's degree programme shall be able to

- demonstrate knowledge about, and understanding of, how the Middle East has

- been conceptualised historically, in political as well as scientific terms,
- demonstrate knowledge about the processes and debates that characterise the Middle East of today as well as the diasporic context.

Course information

The programme offers a combination of compulsory and elective courses. It emphasises the students' development through supervision as well as in contacts with the research network to which the programme offers links.

The first course of the first semester, Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies (15 credits), introduces the student to core themes of the programme. This is followed by courses in theory of science for the social sciences, and/or in research methods, which provides the student with the skills required for independent research.

The second semester starts with the profile course Middle Eastern Studies: Theory and Society (15 credits). This is followed, in the second half of the semester, by courses in theory of science and/or research methods.

The third semester consists of elective courses to be taken at Lund University or any other recognised university in Sweden or abroad. It is for example possible for the student to choose an internship course or exchange studies. The courses are chosen with the approval of the programme coordinator, and enables the student to tailor the programme to suit his or her particular interests.

The programme's final semester consists of a degree project within Middle Eastern Studies (30 credits) with supervision and seminars.

Semester 1

Middle Eastern Studies: Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies, 15 credits

Theory of science and/or research methods, 15 credits

Semester 2

Middle Eastern Studies: Theory and Society, 15 credits

Courses in theory of science and/or research methods, 15 credits

Semester 3

Elective courses, to be reviewed by the programme coordinator, 30 credits

Semester 4

Middle Eastern Studies: Master's (Two Years) Thesis, 30 credits

Degree

Degree titles

Degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Middle Eastern Studies

Major: Middle Eastern Studies

Filosofie masterexamen i mellanösternstudier

Huvudområde: Mellanösternstudier

To be awarded a Degree of Master of Science within the programme requires the student to have completed the courses stated under "Course Information" or equivalent courses at another higher education institution.

Requirements and Selection method

Requirements

To be eligible for the programme the applicant must have the equivalent of a Swedish Bachelor's degree with a major (i.e. at least 90 ECTS credits) in a Social Sciences discipline or in History, Economic History, Economic Development, Area Studies, or equivalent.

A good command of English language both spoken and written, equivalent to English B/6 (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalence assessments will be made according to national guidelines.

Selection method

The applicant's estimated capacity to complete the programme is the primary criterion for selection. Students are selected on the basis of their previous study results (grades on courses and thesis in the Bachelor's degree), proficiency in English and a statement of purpose.

Other information

Students who have previously studied corresponding courses within the programme can apply to have these credits transferred. English is the language of instruction, which means that teaching sessions and exams are conducted in English.