

SGUTV, Bachelor of Science Programme in Development Studies, 180 credits

Kandidatprogram i utvecklingsstudier, 180 högskolepoäng

First-cycle programme not requiring previous university studies / Program utan akademiska förkunskapskrav och med slutlig examen på grundnivå

Decision

The syllabus was approved by on and was last revised on 2026-06-11 by Faculty Board of Social Sciences (U 2026/346). The revised syllabus comes into effect 2026-10-15 and is valid from the autumn semester 2027.

Programme description

The Bachelor of Science Programme in Development Studies is a multi- and inter-disciplinary education that examines development as a set of historically rooted, socially embedded, and geographically uneven processes. The programme focuses on how economic, social, and political transformations unfold across different historical periods and cultural contexts, and how these processes shape - and are shaped by - local, national, and global dynamics, including development cooperation. The overarching aim is to equip students with the analytical tools needed to critically understand the preconditions for development and the diverse pathways through which development has been pursued and contested around the world.

The programme offers the student both a strong foundation in social science theory and professional skills relevant to development-related fields. Through this combination of substantive knowledge and practical skills, the programme prepares students for postgraduate studies in the social sciences, as well as for professional careers within government agencies, international organisations, private firms, and NGOs.

The programme draws on, and combines, the scientific traditions from four different disciplines within the social sciences: Economic History, Human Geography, Political Science, and Sociology. This offers the student a multi- and inter-disciplinary perspectives on development studies, and it provides opportunities to deepen subject-specific knowledge within any of these fields.

Goals

Pursuant to the Higher Education Ordinance, for a degree of Bachelor the student shall demonstrate the following:

Knowledge and understanding

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

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

Competence and skills

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to search for, gather, evaluate and critically interpret the relevant information for a formulated problem and also discuss phenomena, issues and situations critically
- demonstrate the ability to identify, formulate and solve problems autonomously and to complete tasks within predetermined time frames
- demonstrate the ability to present and discuss information, problems and solutions in speech and writing and in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required to work autonomously in the main field of study.

Judgement and approach

For a Degree of Bachelor the student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the chosen field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues
- demonstrate insight into the role of knowledge in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the need for further knowledge and ongoing learning.

In addition to the outcomes stated in the Higher Education Ordinance, for a degree of Bachelor of Science in Development Studies the student shall:

- demonstrate a multidisciplinary perspective on development,
- and demonstrate the ability to apply theories and methods from one of the four constitutive disciplines (economic history, human geography, political science, or sociology) to the study of development.

Course information

The programme comprises a total of 180 credits divided over three years.

The first semester consists of the course Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives in Development Studies I (30 credits). This course is composed of four modules (7,5 credits each). It covers the history behind the idea of "development," introduces classical and contemporary debates in the field of study, and provides a general overview of alternative theoretical perspectives in the study of development. It also introduces the study of development from the perspective of economic history and human geography. The course also runs regular "Programme activities", in coordination with the other mandatory courses in the programme, where the student has the opportunity to learn, reflect on and discuss current debates in the discipline with practitioners and researchers.

The second semester consists of the course "Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives in Development Studies II (30 credits), which is also composed of four modules (7,5 credits each). It introduces the study of development from the perspective of political science and sociology. The course also provides practical training to help students acquire professional skills commonly needed in the field of development, including those related to programme design and evaluation. As part of the course, students also attend regular "Programme activities."

The second year gives students the possibility to choose courses offered by the four departments involved in the programme. To be eligible for a Degree of Bachelor of Science in Development Studies, a minimum of 30 credits must be completed within one of the major disciplines during the second year. Students are also required to complete another 30 credits in elective courses (valfritt) during the second year. These elective courses must be first approved by the Director of Studies. During the fourth semester, students can pursue an internship with an external organisation relevant to development studies to complete 15 or 30 credits of elective courses.

The fifth semester consists of "Research Methods and Current Debates in Development Studies" (30-credits). This course is composed of four modules (7,5 credits each). In this course, the student explores in-depth important issues shaping current debates in the discipline. This course also offers the student an overview of epistemological debates in the social sciences, with a particular focus on the study of development, as well as modules dedicated to quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. As part of this course, the student also attends regular "Programme activities."

The final semester consists of two 15-credit courses at one of the major disciplines. The first course offers students the opportunity to do fieldwork or desk study research. The programme concludes with a 15-credit bachelor's thesis.

The courses that constitute the program are:

Year 1

1. Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives in Development Studies I (30 credits)
2. Multi-Disciplinary Perspectives in Development Studies II (30 credits)

Year 2

1. 30 credits from courses in the chosen discipline (Economic History, Human Geography, Political Science, or Sociology)
2. 30 credits from elective courses, which must be approved by the Director of Studies (including exchange studies or internship)

Year 3

1. Research Methods and Current Debates in Development Studies (30 credits)
2. Fieldwork or Research Overview (15 credits)
3. Bachelor's Thesis in Development Studies with a specialisation in one of the chosen disciplines (15 credits)

Degree

Degree titles

Degree of Bachelor of Science in Development Studies

Main field of study: Economic History

Main field of study: Human Geography

Main field of study: Political Science

Main field of study: Sociology

Filosofie kandidatexamen i utvecklingsstudier

Huvudområde: Ekonomisk historia

Huvudområde: Samhällsgeografi

Huvudområde: Sociologi

Huvudområde: Statsvetenskap

Entry requirements and selection method

Entry requirements

General requirements and studies equivalent to Swedish Upper Secondary School courses English 6/English level 2 and Social Studies 1b or 1a1+1a2/Social Studies level 1b or level 1a2

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

All applicants are granted an exemption from the general entry requirement regarding proficiency in the Swedish language.

Selection method

Seats are allocated according to: The general average (GPA) of your higher secondary school leaving certificate: 66 %, The Swedish national university aptitude test: 34 %. The University board has decided that applicants with equal merits (in the GPA group) should be separated by the use of a valid result from the Swedish national university aptitude test.

Other information

Provided that the Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR) has granted permission, seats in the early international admissions round are allocated entirely through the general average (GPA) of your higher secondary school leaving certificate. In the later national admissions round seats are allocated according to the following: The general average (GPA) of your higher secondary school leaving certificate: 66%, the Swedish national university aptitude test: 34%.

The language of instruction is English. In the second year students may also choose courses given in Swedish.

Instructions regarding teaching and examination is provided in the syllabus for each course.