Details of approval

The programme syllabus was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 7 June 2018 (U 2018/337) and is valid from 7 June 2018, autumn semester 2019.

Programme overview

The interdisciplinary Master’s Programme in Middle Eastern Studies aims to develop deeper knowledge about the Middle East of today. The programme trains students in critical thinking and gives them the ability to apply this to current events and debates in and about the region. The programme also aims to educate students in social sciences theories and various research methodologies, as well as provide opportunities for the application of methodological skills. The Middle East is analysed as a historically changeable concept, rather than a delimited geographical region. Particular emphasis is given to the processes, norms and flows that continuously shape the Middle East, such as migration, refugeeism, legal, political, social and economic conditions as well as cultural and gender constructs.

In terms of teaching, the programme is based on a close connection to research within Middle Eastern Studies, in which the students are integrated in ongoing research in the field. Besides lectures and seminar-based teaching, the programme has an emphasis on supervision and mentoring, and offering individually designed field studies and applied exercises. During the programme, students conduct independent field work under supervision and are trained to academically review the work of other students.

Furthermore, the programme offers several elective course relating to the current trends in the Middle East and diasporic groups with origins in the region.

The programme provides a basis for third-cycle 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, journalistic and cultural work with a connection to the Middle Eastern and diasporic contexts.
Learning outcomes
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, Middle Eastern Studies, 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 design
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 semester consists of four compulsory courses. Semester two consists of elective specialisation courses in Middle Eastern Studies. The elective courses are linked to the research conducted at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies. The
students are informed about which courses are available before the application period for courses begins. The third semester consists of a field course in which the students carry out scientific field work or an internship in combination with individualised distance courses and supervision. The third semester can also be devoted to exchange studies comprising 7.5 second-cycle credits in methodology. The programme’s final semester consists of a degree project, with supervision and seminars. See appendix SAMES course assignments.

Assessment
Academic title
Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits) in Middle Eastern Studies, Major: Middle Eastern Studies
Filosofie masterexamen i Mellanösternstudier Huvudområde: Mellanösternstudier
To be awarded a Degree of Master of Arts within the programme requires the student to have completed the courses stated under “Course assignments” or equivalent courses at another higher education institution.

Entry requirements and selection method

Entry requirements
To be admitted to the programme, students are required to have a Bachelor’s degree equivalent to 180 credits. Oral and written language skills in English corresponding to English 6/B from a Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. Recognition of qualifications is based on national guidelines.

Selection method
The students’ ability to complete the programme is the main criterion for selection. Students are ranked on the basis of previous study results (course grades and Bachelor degree project), and letter of intent including CV, English language skills and academic writing.

Further 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.
Appendix

SAMES course assignments

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<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
<td>The Formation of Middle Eastern Modernities, 7.5 credits</td>
<td>Introduction to Middle Eastern Debates, 7.5 credits</td>
<td>Key theories in Middle Eastern Studies, 7.5 credits</td>
<td>Key methods in Middle Eastern Studies, 7.5 credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
<td>Elective courses amounting to 30 credits within the scope of SAMES: Master’s Programme in Middle Eastern Studies.</td>
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<td>Semester 3</td>
<td>Field work, 15 credits or Internship, 15 credits</td>
<td>Individual specialisation course, 7.5 credits</td>
<td>Individual methodology, 7.5 credits</td>
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<td>The student can also choose exchange studies corresponding to 30 credits including 7.5 second-cycle credits in methodology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 4</td>
<td>Master’s degree project, 30 credits</td>
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