SAMES, Master of Science (120 credits) in Middle Eastern Studies, 120 credits
*Masterprogram i Mellanösternstudier, 120 högskolepoäng*

Second cycle degree programme requiring previous university study

Details of approval
The syllabus was approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences 23 November 2017. It is valid from 1 January 2018.

Programme description
The aim of the programme is to develop expertise about the present-day Middle East and provide a foundation for careers in social analysis, politics, diplomacy, development, culture and business, as well as for academic specialisation and research studies, in close association with the strategic research area *The Middle East in the Contemporary World* (MECW) at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies. A further aim is to provide students with academic expertise enabling future PhD studies.

Learning outcomes
In accordance with the Higher Education Ordinance, for a degree of Master (120 credits), students shall demonstrate the following:

Knowledge and understanding
For a degree of Master (120 credits), students shall
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the interdisciplinary concepts, theories and methods of relevance to analyse, explain and critically examine the processes and debates expressive of the diversity of the present-day Middle East with regard to social, political, cultural, geographical, economic, strategic, environmental and religious factors
- demonstrate specialised knowledge of the historical contexts affecting individual regions and states in the Middle East from both qualitative and quantitative perspectives
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the main issues, theoretical points of departure, special methods, considerations of research ethics and socioeconomic aspects of all the specialisations offered within the programme (Islamic studies, peace and conflict studies, development studies, civil society and social movements, film and media studies, migration and mobility, and human rights studies)
• demonstrate specialised knowledge and understanding of the main issues, theoretical points of departure, special methods, considerations of research ethics and socioeconomic aspects of one of the specialisations offered within the programme

Competence and skills
For a degree of Master (120 credits), students shall

• demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to systematise, apply and present, independently and critically of sources, qualitative and quantitative research data and research debates of relevance to the situation of people in the Middle East with regard to democratisation, state formation, development, social movements, conflicts, migration, business and industry, religion, culture, gender, minorities and human rights, as well as to reflect on and discuss strengths and weaknesses in analyses and presentations, individually and in groups

• demonstrate the ability to discuss the conditions for planning theoretically, methodologically and ethically well-informed research and development projects applicable to the present-day Middle East and to identify any relevance of the projects for future research studies and/or professional life

• demonstrate the ability to conduct research and development assignments and/or cooperate and present concrete results of assignments completed during the fieldwork studies of the programme (or the equivalent)

• demonstrate the skills required to independently identify, formulate, plan and, using relevant theories and methods, complete and report in writing advanced research assignments within predetermined time frames, and to evaluate this work

• demonstrate the ability in speech and writing and in different national and international contexts to present the results of their own research and/or development work and discuss and justify their arguments and conclusions as well as to critically review the work of others objectively and from several perspectives

• demonstrate the ability to summarise, visualise and explain key processes, debates and conflicts of Middle Eastern societies

Judgement and approach
For a degree of Master (120 credits), students shall

• demonstrate the ability to judge single events as well as major social processes and trends in the Middle East objectively and from several perspectives, with a view to assessing the consequences for the living conditions of people in the Middle East and making forecasts for the future

• demonstrate insights into short as well as long-term aspects of research ethics concerning professional work within development, research, journalism, business and industry and/or diplomacy in the present-day Middle East, with regard to sustainable development, gender equality and intercultural understanding

• demonstrate the ability to use source criticism to review and reflect on theoretical and/or political approaches to current information on the Middle East both within the academic production of knowledge and within political and religious debates, military propaganda, news media, the arts, popular culture and social media

• develop independence, sensitivity and constructive approaches in interaction with colleagues within research, development or other tasks, in local contexts in the Middle East and/or in organisations and institutions engaged in projects associated with the Middle East
• demonstrate the ability to self-critically and creatively reflect on their own learning process, identify the personal need of further knowledge and assess their theoretical, practical and communicative skills in relation to potential future employers.

Course details
The programme offers a combination of compulsory and elective courses, and emphasises student development through supervision, internship and network building. The first semester includes three core courses, whereas semester 2 consists of elective specialisation courses, in collaboration with the strategic research area, and a compulsory methodology course. Semester 3 allows students to choose internship or fieldwork in a field course combined with independent study courses and supervision. Students are encouraged to conduct the internship or fieldwork in the Middle East, but it is also possible to complete the course in other parts of the world of relevance to the degree project. The final semester of the programme consists of a degree project including supervision and seminars. See the appendix Course details SAMES.

Degree
Degree titles
Master of Arts (120 credits) in Middle Eastern Studies
Filosofie masterexamen i Mellanösternstudier

To be awarded the degree, the student must have successfully completed the courses listed above under “Course details” (or equivalent courses at other higher education institutions).

Admission requirements and selection

Admission requirements
To be admitted to the programme, students must have a Bachelor’s degree and show proof of proficiency in the English language equivalent to English 7/C (advanced) from Swedish upper secondary school. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines.

Selection criteria
The main selection criterion is the student’s ability to benefit from the programme and will be based on a total assessment of:
1. Academic qualifications of relevance to the programme
2. Two short samples of written English
3. Three letters of recommendation
4. Personal statement
5. CV

Further information
Students who have previously completed courses equivalent to those included in the programme can apply for credit transfer. The language of instruction is English, which means that all lectures and seminars will take place in English, and all assessments and assignments are to be in English.
Programme structure for the MA in Middle Eastern Studies

The Master of Arts in Middle Eastern Studies at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) is an interdisciplinary two-year programme taught in English, which combines compulsory subject-oriented courses and core introductory courses in theory and methodology, elective specialisation courses, opportunities for work placement and fieldwork, individual focus courses and a final degree project course. On completion of the programme, students will be awarded a degree of Master of Arts (120 credits) in Middle Eastern Studies.

Semester 1
During the first semester of the programme, the students take all the compulsory core courses, with the aim of developing a common conceptual, theoretical, methodological and historical framework, as well as an orientation in central debates in Middle Eastern Studies. A further aim is for the students to choose a specialisation for the programme’s second semester, and to establish a preliminary study plan for the forthcoming semesters. Introduction to Middle Eastern Debates and Key Theories in Middle Eastern Studies are closely linked to the strategic research area Middle East in the Contemporary World (MECW) and constitute the basis for the specialisation courses of the second semester. The courses in Semester 1 are:

- Introduction to Middle Eastern Debates (10 credits)
- Key Theories in Middle Eastern Studies (10 credits)
- The Formation of Middle Eastern Modernities (10 credits)

Semester 2
During the second semester of the programme, students attend a course which is compulsory for all:
Key Methods in Middle Eastern Studies (7.5 credits)

In addition, the student studies elective courses (22.5 credits) within the framework of the MA in Middle Eastern Studies. All students choose three elective courses (worth 7.5 credits at part-time speed). At least two of these three elective courses are to be chosen within the strategic research area MECW in the second cycle. The elective courses in the second cycle offer a progression and a gradual specialisation in relation to the courses of the first semester.

The compulsory methodology course of the second semester offers a progressive specialisation in relation to the theoretical course of the first semester. In addition, the methodology course aims to prepare the student for the individual specialisation courses of the third semester and for the planning of the degree project course in the last semester. Within the framework of the methodology course during the second semester, the student sets up a project plan for the next academic year, with regard to collecting material, work placement (where applicable) and the degree project report.

Semester 3

During the third semester of the programme, the students attend a compulsory field study course (corresponding to 15 credits), and two elective, individually designed independent study courses; one subject specialisation study course (7.5 credits) and one methodology course (7.5 credits). Students studying with the goal of continuing on to research studies have the opportunity to study the subject specialisation course as well as the methodology course at another department, to meet the requirements at the relevant department.

During the field course in the third semester, the student is offered opportunities for direct contact with local environments in the Middle East, to develop practical abilities to work within the specialisation chosen for the programme. Through the CMES network, the student gains access to a broad range of varied types of work placements, e.g. within aid and development organisations, think-tanks and research institutes, NGOs and institutes for the monitoring of human rights, embassies, businesses, mass media, charitable foundations and legal firms, in a number of locations in the Middle East.

Students also have the opportunity to carry out field studies at Lund University or at other higher education institutions, and in that case are given the opportunity for collaboration with the relevant department or centre’s projects within research, development or other activities. There are also opportunities to carry out the field studies course at organisations that work with the Middle East, such as SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, transnational companies or other organisations deemed suitable by CMES (and on condition that the student has sufficient qualifications).

The specialisation course and the methodology course in the third semester are partly designed individually on the basis of the student’s specific learning goals, adapted to the conditions of the work placement/higher education institution. One aim of the semester is for the student to define empirical material, and reflect methodologically on the selection and use of this material, in preparation for the degree project of the fourth semester. In brief, the third semester strives for a
holistic approach to field study experiences, subject specialisation and methodological reflection, that prepares the student for research.

All courses during the third semester are offered as distance learning, with ongoing contacts with the examiner/supervisor at the MA in Middle Eastern Studies.

Entry to all the courses in semester 3 requires a pass grade on all the courses in semesters 1 and 2. All the courses in semester 3 are to offer a gradual specialisation in relation to the two courses taken during semester 2 within the student's chosen specialisation for the Master's degree.

**Semester 4**
The programme’s fourth semester consists of a degree project course worth 30 credits. The course comprises compulsory methodology seminars which are offered as campus-based or online teaching in small supervision groups. In addition, the student receives individual supervision. The subject of the degree project, the theoretical and methodological orientation and the empirical material and analysis model are determined by the student after approval by the supervisor.

The degree project course offers a gradual specialisation in relation to the compulsory field course during semester 3, and in relation to the courses taken during semester 2 within the student’s chosen research field (MECW) and the specialisation for the Master’s degree. Admission to the degree project course requires a pass grade on all courses during semesters 1, 2 and 3.