

# Education plan

for

**International Master's Programme in Political Science**  
**Internationellt masterprogram i statsvetenskap**

**120.0 Higher Education**  
**Credits**  
**120.0 ECTS credits**

**Programme code:** STVEO  
**Valid from:** Autumn 2009  
**Date of approval:** 2008-12-11  
**Department:** Department of Political Science

## Decision

The education plan is affirmed by the social science faculty board at Stockholm University 2008-12-11.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Bachelor's degree with political science as main subject along with Swedish upper secondary school course English B, or equivalent.

## Programme structure

The International master's programme in political science has a stress on broad courses that are employment preparatory and aim to increase the employability of the students. The programme also provides research preparative options and includes advanced frontline courses in political science that aim to increase the students' analytical skills and research competence. The programme consists of a mix of mandatory and facultative courses. The latter includes a number of thematic courses representing eight sub-disciplines in political science. All facultative courses are also free-standing and can be read apart from the programme. During the third semester students on the programme may do an employment preparative internship corresponding to 15, 22,5 or 30 education credits. During the same semester students on the programme may also read facultative courses abroad. For further information, see: [www.statsvet.su.se](http://www.statsvet.su.se).

## Goals

The programme has the following goals and expected study results:

Knowledge and insights.

Upon completion of the programme the student is expected to possess:

-A deepened knowledge in political science including knowledge about the scientific basis of the subject, knowledge about applicable methods, and an orientation in topical research questions.

-A deepened insight in central analytical approaches in social science including knowledge about normative

analysis, rational agent analysis, structural analysis, and post-structural analysis.

Skills and abilities:

Upon completion of the programme the student is expected to possess:

- The skills to use methods in social science, which includes the ability to discuss a research question critically and the ability to search, assemble, evaluate and critically evaluate the information relevant to that research question.
- The ability to conduct and present an independent research paper, which includes the skill to independently identify, formulate and carry out a scientific study, the ability to account for and to discuss the material of the study, and the skill to present, defend and critically evaluate one's own research.

Valuation skills and approach:

Upon completion of the programme the student is expected to be able to:

- Evaluate research results in political science, which includes the ability to make relevant judgments of research in political science on the basis scientific and normative premises.
- Relate societal development, political events and issues, and knowledge to theories in social science, which includes the skill to apply social science theory in empirical analysis and the ability to reflect upon the role of knowledge in society and research.

## **Courses**

Courses:

The programme includes courses representing the following sub-disciplines in Political Science: European politics, International relations, Politics and economy, Politics and gender, Politics and development, Political theory, and Swedish and comparative politics.

The courses on the programme:

Semester 1

Analytical approaches in social science and the study of power, 15 education credits

2 facultative thematic courses, 7,5 education credits each

Semester 2

Institutions and governance, 7,5 education credits

1 facultative thematic course, 7,5 education credit

2 facultative method courses, 7,5 education credits each

Semester 3

Employment preparative internship, 15, 22,5 or 30 education credits, and/or

3 facultative thematic courses, 7,5 education credits each

1 facultative method course, 7,5 education credit

Semester 4

Independent research paper in Political Science, 30 education credits\*

\* Independent research paper

The master's education includes the writing of an independent research paper (30 education credits) during semester 4. The research paper is recommended to comprise 15.000-20.000 words (normally 40-50 pages, 1,5 spacing, 12 points).

## **Degree**

The programme leads to a Master of Political Sciences degree with a major in political science

## **Misc**

Students who have been admitted to the programme and who have not completed the planned two years on the programme can request to complete the master's programme even after the education plan has ceased to be valid. In those cases the limits defined by the course plans for the courses on the programme are valid.

Language of instruction: English.