



AALBORG UNIVERSITET

**REGULATIONS AND CURRICULUM FOR  
THE MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,  
EUROPEAN STUDIES, 2017 WITH  
AMENDMENTS 2018**

MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSC) IN SOCIAL SCIENCES  
AALBORG

Regulations and Curriculum for The Master´s Programme in International Relations, European Studies, 2017 with amendments 2018

[Link til denne studieordning](#)

Link(s) til andre versioner af samme studieordning:

[Master of Science \(MSc\) in Social Sciences, Development Studies and International Relations.](#)

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## **§ 1: PREFACE**

Pursuant to Act 261 of March 18, 2015 on Universities (the University Act) with subsequent changes, the following curriculum is established. The programme also follows the Joint Programme Regulations and the Examination Policies and Procedures for The Faculty.

## **§ 2: BASIS IN MINISTERIAL ORDERS**

The Master's programme is organised in accordance with the Ministry of Higher Education and Science's Order no. 1328 of November 15, 2016 on Bachelor's and Master's Programmes at Universities (the Ministerial Order of the Study Programmes) and Ministerial Order no. 1062 of June 30, 2016 on University Examinations (the Examination Order). Further reference is made to Ministerial Order no. 111 of January 30, 2017 (the Admission Order) and Ministerial Order no. 114 of February 3, 2015 (the Grading Scale Order) with subsequent changes.

## **§ 3: CAMPUS**

The programme is offered in Aalborg.

## **§ 4: FACULTY AFFILIATION**

The Master's programme falls under The Faculty of Social Sciences, Aalborg University.

## **§ 5: STUDY BOARD AFFILIATION**

The Master's programme falls under Study Board of International Affairs

## **§ 6: AFFILIATION TO CORPS OF EXTERNAL EXAMINERS**

The Master's programme is associated with the external examiners corps on International Studies

## **§ 7: ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Admission to the Master's Programme in International Relations, European Studies, presupposes a social sciences Bachelor's degree, such as a Bachelor's degree in political science, economics, sociology, history, anthropology, business economics, business law, law etc.

Students with other Bachelor's degrees may be admitted on the basis of an application to the Study Board, which will make an individual academic assessment of the applicant's educational competences and determine whether these are comparable to competences acquired through the above Bachelor's programmes. The University may require that applicants take supplementary tests prior to study start.

## **§ 8: THE PROGRAMME TITLE IN DANISH AND ENGLISH**

The Master's programme entitles the graduate to the Danish designation Cand.soc.. The English designation is: Master of Science (MSc) in Social Sciences in International Relations.

## **§ 9: PROGRAMME SPECIFICATIONS IN ECTS CREDITS**

The Master's programme is a 2-year, research-based, full-time study programme. The programme is set to 120 ECTS credits.

## **§ 10: RULES CONCERNING CREDIT TRANSFER (MERIT), INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY FOR CHOICE OF MODULES THAT ARE PART OF ANOTHER PROGRAMME AT A UNIVERSITY IN DENMARK OR ABROAD**

The Study Board can approve successfully completed (passed) programme elements from other Master's programmes in lieu of programme elements in this programme (credit transfer). The Study Board can also approve successfully completed (passed) programme elements from another Danish programme or a programme outside of Denmark at the same level in lieu of programme elements within this curriculum. Decisions on credit transfer are made by the Study Board based on an academic assessment. See the Joint Programme Regulations for the rules on credit transfer.

## **§ 11: EXEMPTIONS**

In exceptional circumstances, the Study Board can grant exemption from those parts of the curriculum that are not stipulated by law or ministerial order. Exemption regarding an examination applies to the immediate examination.

## **§ 12: RULES FOR EXAMINATIONS**

The rules for examinations are stated in the Examination Policies and Procedures published by the faculty on their website.

## **§ 13: RULES CONCERNING WRITTEN WORK, INCLUDING THE MASTER'S THESIS**

In the assessment of all written work, regardless of the language it is written in, weight is also given to the student's formulation and spelling ability, in addition to the academic content. Orthographic and grammatical correctness as well as stylistic proficiency are taken as a basis for the evaluation of language performance. Language performance must always be included as an independent dimension of the total evaluation. However, no examination can be assessed as 'Pass' on the basis of good language performance alone; similarly, an examination normally cannot be assessed as 'Fail' on the basis of poor language performance alone.

The Study Board can grant exemption from this in special cases (e.g., dyslexia or a native language other than Danish).

The Master's Thesis must include an English summary (or another foreign language: French, Spanish or German upon approval by the Study Board). If the project is written in English, the summary must be in Danish (The Study Board can grant exemption from this). The summary must be at least 1 page and not more than 2 pages (this is not included in any fixed minimum and maximum number of pages per student). The summary is included in the evaluation of the project as a whole.

## **§ 14: REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE READING OF TEXTS IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

It is assumed that the student can read academic texts in his or her native language as well as in English and use reference works etc. in other European languages.

## **§ 15: COMPETENCE PROFILE ON THE DIPLOMA**

The following competence profile will appear on the diploma:

A Candidatus graduate has the following competency profile:

A Candidatus graduate has competencies that have been acquired via a course of study that has taken place in a research environment.

A Candidatus graduate is qualified for employment on the labour market based on his or her academic discipline as well as for further research (PhD programmes). A Candidatus graduate has, compared to a Bachelor, developed his or her academic knowledge and independence so as to be able to apply scientific theory and method on an independent basis within both an academic and a professional context.

## **§ 16: COMPETENCE PROFILE OF THE PROGRAMME**

*The objective of the programme*

The objectives of the Master's Programme in International Relations, European Studies, are that students will:

- develop the academic knowledge and skills which they acquired during their Bachelor's studies, and increase their theoretical and methodological qualifications and independence as compared to their Bachelor's degree level.
- acquire an interdisciplinary insight into European studies from a social scientific perspective
- acquire qualifications within identifying and analysing complex societal phenomena within European studies and international relations from a historical perspective on the basis of theoretical and methodological knowledge and skills
- be able to apply advanced elements of theory and method in the field of European studies and international relations in an independent and cross-disciplinary manner on the basis of scientific study.
- qualify to participate in scientific development work, including research training (PhD programme) within European integration processes
- qualify for specialised job functions in international institutions and organisations, diplomacy, and private and public businesses.

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## Courses and options for specialisation

The Master's Programme in International Relations, European Studies, comprises compulsory modules (constituent elements) of 90 ECTS credits, including the Master's thesis of 30 ECTS credits, as well as optional modules of 30 ECTS credits within international relations, European studies, or other electives approved by the Study Board. The Master's programme offers options for specialisation within Chinese Area Studies, Latin American Area Studies or Global Gender Studies, cf. section 7, subsections 3-7. The specialisation in China and International Relations (CIR) is described in a separate appendix to these regulations and curriculum.

## Academic and professional competence objectives

In terms of field of knowledge, understanding and reflection, the overall objectives of the students' acquisition of **knowledge** are that students, on completion of the Master's programme, will have acquired:

- knowledge on key aspects of European integration processes
- ability to critically and independently reflect on key aspects within European studies and international relations on a scientific basis, as well as identifying scientific problem areas
- knowledge of various theoretical approaches to the study of European integration processes and international relations
- knowledge of the organisation of the international system and the social, cultural, political and economic dynamics that affect developments in international relations, both globally and specifically in Europe
- understanding of principles of academic integrity and of dilemmas of research ethics within the relevant subject areas of the programme.

The overall objectives of the students' acquisition of **skills** are that, on completion of their Master's studies, students will have the abilities to:

- apply scientific theories, methods and tools within European studies and international relations in an independent manner
- evaluate and choose among scientific theories, methods and tools within the study of European integration processes and international relations, as well as to develop new analysis models and solutions on the basis of scientific knowledge
- analyse economic, political and social aspects of European integration processes and international relations from an interdisciplinary perspective
- undertake policy studies
- contribute, discuss and communicate research-based knowledge on European integration processes and international relations to peers and non-specialists in fluent and terminologically correct English.

The overall objectives of the students' acquisition of **competences** are that, on completion of their Master's studies, students will have the abilities to:

- cooperate in English on problem based cross-disciplinary projects with international and intercultural perspectives in professional contexts
- master strategies for planning, initiating and undertaking a project based on an issue relevant to the subject field and to take professional responsibility
- manage complex situations and workflows and to find new solutions
- take independent responsibility for their own continued learning and competence development within European studies and international relations
- perform job functions in international institutions and organisations, diplomacy, public and private businesses, and to undertake doctoral studies within European studies and international relations.

The Master's Programme in International Relations, European Studies, also provides each student the opportunity to create an individual competence profile through the choices of specialisation and elective courses.

## **§ 17: STRUCTURE AND CONTENTS OF THE PROGRAMME**

The programme is compiled of modules and organised as a problem based study programme. One module is a subject element or a group of subject elements whose purpose is to provide the student with an entity of disciplinary qualifications within a stipulated time frame stated in ECTS credits, and which is completed by one or a number of examinations according to a certain examination schedule stipulated and defined in these study regulations. 60 ECTS credits correspond to one year of full-time study.

The Master's programme consists of 11 modules, some of which are constituent (C), while others are elective modules (E), including any specialisation. The modules will be offered over four semesters (1st-4th semester). The first nine

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modules on the 1st and 2nd semester include courses, exams and project work at Aalborg University. The third semester module consists of a stay at either an international organisation, company or institution in Denmark or abroad with activities related to European studies and international relations or a stay at a university abroad with studies in the fields of European studies and international relations or similar programmes. The fourth semester will be used for thesis writing.

Objectives, content, scope, teaching and learning methods, schedule, prerequisite requirements for participation, general and specific learning objectives, assessment criteria and examination forms for the four semesters and their modules are described in chronological order below.

The programme is based on a combination of academic, problem oriented and interdisciplinary approaches and is structured as a mixture of the following study and evaluation forms combining skills and academic reflection:

- lectures
- seminars
- classroom teaching
- problem based project work
- discussion sessions
- feedback from teaching staff
- case work
- simulation games.

### § 18: OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME

***Compulsory and optional modules: The Master's Programme in International Relations, European Studies***

Offered as: 1-professional					
Study programme:					
Module name	Course type	ECTS	Applied grading scale	Evaluation method	Assessment method
<b>1 SEMESTER</b>					
<b>2 SEMESTER</b>					
<b>4 SEMESTER</b>					

Electives european studies					
Module name	Course type	ECTS	Applied grading scale	Evaluation Method	Assessment method

If students choose a credit-awarding study stay at a university abroad, the Study Board must approve the students' choice of subjects at the university in advance. The examinations at the university abroad will replace any examination(s) at Aalborg University.

Furthermore, an optional course where students participate in a simulation game is also offered by the programme.

<b>Offered as: 1-professional</b>					
<b>Specialisation: European Studies, Chinese Area Studies</b>					
<b>Study programme: European Studies, with a specialisation in Chinese Area Studies</b>					
Module name	Course type	ECTS	Applied grading scale	Evaluation method	Assessment method
<b>1 SEMESTER</b>					
<b>2 SEMESTER</b>					
<b>4 SEMESTER</b>					

<b>Electives, European Studies, China Area Studies</b>					
Module name	Course type	ECTS	Applied grading scale	Evaluation Method	Assessment method
<b>3 SEMESTER</b>					

If students choose a credit-awarding study stay at a university abroad in 3. semester, the Study Board must approve the students' choice of subjects at the university in advance. The examinations at the university abroad will replace any examination(s) at Aalborg University.

<b>Offered as:</b>					
<b>Specialisation: European Studies, Latin American Studies</b>					
<b>Study programme: European Studies, with a specialisation in Latin American Area Studies</b>					
Module name	Course type	ECTS	Applied grading scale	Evaluation method	Assessment method
<b>1 SEMESTER</b>					
<b>2 SEMESTER</b>					
<b>4 SEMESTER</b>					



Elective European Studies, Latin American Area Studies					
Module name	Course type	ECTS	Applied grading scale	Evaluation Method	Assessment method
<b>3 SEMESTER</b>					

If students choose a credit-awarding study stay at a university abroad in 3. semester, the Study Board must approve the students' choice of subjects at the university in advance. The examinations at the university abroad will replace any examination(s) at Aalborg University.

Offered as: 1-professional					
Specialisation: European Studies, Global Gender Studies					
Study programme: European Studies with a specialisation in Global Gender Studies					
Module name	Course type	ECTS	Applied grading scale	Evaluation method	Assessment method
<b>1 SEMESTER</b>					
<a href="#">Global Gender Studies</a>	Course	5	7-point grading scale	Internal examination	Oral exam
<b>2 SEMESTER</b>					
<a href="#">Gendering Global Governance</a>	Course	5	7-point grading scale	Internal examination	Written exam
<b>4 SEMESTER</b>					

Elective: European Studies with a specialisation in Global Gender Studies					
Module name	Course type	ECTS	Applied grading scale	Evaluation Method	Assessment method
<b>3 SEMESTER</b>					

If students choose a credit-awarding study stay at a university abroad in 3. semester, the Study Board must approve the students' choice of subjects at the university in advance. The examinations at the university abroad will replace any examination(s) at Aalborg University.

Furthermore, an optional course where students participate in a simulation game is also offered by the programme.

#### **Option of individual specialisation**

Students have an option of creating an individual competence profile within International Relations, European Studies, combined with one of the three area studies without choosing the full specialisation of that area study; this option applies to the following modules: modules 5 and 12 of Chinese Area Studies, modules 6 and 13 of Latin American Area Studies, and modules 7 and 14 of Global Gender Studies .

## **§ 19: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Study Board will issue more detailed information on the programme, including examinations, on its website and the study programme's intranet.

## **§ 20: COMMENCEMENT AND TRANSITIONAL RULES**

These Regulations and Curriculum have been approved by the dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and will enter into force on 1 September 2017.

Students who wish to complete their studies according to the 2014 Regulations and Curriculum, must complete their studies no later than at the summer examinations in 20120; after this time period no examinations will be offered according to the 2012 Regulations and Curriculum.

## **§ 21: AMENDMENTS TO THE CURRICULUM AND REGULATIONS**

As of 1st September 2018, the following changes have been approved:

Module 8 and Module 15: The maximum number of members allowed in a group is 6.

Minor editorial changes have been made in connection with the digitisation of the study curriculum