



The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology

HAAST, Masters Programme in Asian Studies, 120 credits *Masterprogram i Asienstudier, 120 högskolepoäng*

Second cycle degree programme requiring previous university study / *Program med akademiska förkunskapskrav och med slutlig examen på avancerad nivå*

Decision

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 29-01-2019 and was last revised on 11-09-2024 by The Pro Dean of First and Second Cycle Studies at The Joint Faculties of Humanities and Theology (U 2024/577). The revised syllabus comes into effect 01-10-2024 and is valid from the autumn semester 2025.

Programme description

The programme is aimed at students who after their undergraduate studies want to gain area expertise on contemporary East and South-East Asia. The programme provides students with advanced knowledge about contemporary issues in East and South-East Asia with the objective that they will have the knowledge and concrete skills necessary to understand and assess social, cultural, economic and political developments in the region.

Asian Studies is an interdisciplinary subject and the programme offers students the opportunity to specialize regionally and thematically. The students choose to focus on a country or a region in East and South-East Asia, but also read courses that are more general and deal with cross-regional issues. The students acquire a scientific approach, which prepares them for doctoral studies within a subject focusing on Asian studies. The program also prepares students for work as "policy-makers", trainers and practitioners in government agencies, private companies and non-governmental organisations.

Goals

In accordance with the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance (ch.6, section 4-5), for a degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Asian Studies the student shall:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of Asian Studies
- be able to demonstrate a broad knowledge in the field Asian studies and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as in-depth insight into current research and social, cultural, economic and political developments in contemporary East and South-East Asia
- be able to apply a critical theoretical and methodological approach to the interdisciplinary field of Asian Studies

Competence and skills

- be able to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations
- critically, independently, and creatively be able to identify and formulate questions, and using appropriate methods plan and undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and so contribute to the knowledge production as well as the ability to evaluate this work
- in national and international contexts, demonstrate the ability to orally and in writing demonstrate and discuss conclusions, and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based
- independently be able to work in research or in some other qualified capacity

Judgement and approach

- in the main field of Asian Studies be able to make assessments with regard to relevant scientific, social and ethical aspects and to show awareness of ethical aspects of the research and its applications
- be able to evaluate the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and people's responsibility for how it is used
- be able to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for on-going learning.

In addition to these general objectives, at the completion of the programme, the student shall:

- be able to apply a holistic view and have an understanding of perspectives that emanate from disciplines other than their own
- be able to handle complex issues related to social, cultural, political and economic developments in East and South-East Asia and be able to analyse their causes, interrelationships, and possible solutions, as well as future trends and developments
- be aware of and be able to analyse social, cultural, political and economic issues in East and South-East Asia from a gender perspective.
- in a multicultural and international environment be able to analyse complex issues in an interdisciplinary way
- by using scientific communication channels, be able to monitor the knowledge development within the field of Asian Studies and command advanced referencing systems

Course information

The programme comprises a total of 120 credits, including, during the fourth and final semester, a thesis comprising 30 credits.

During the first semester, the students acquire knowledge of the main field's complex and interdisciplinary character. The semester begins with a course (6 credits) that introduces the students to Asian Studies. It is followed by two thematic courses (each of 12 credits) that discuss central political and economic issues in East and South-East Asia.

The second semester consists of three courses (the first of 15 credits and the following two of 7.5 credits). The first course is a country or regional specialisation course where the students choose to deepen their studies in contemporary studies of China, Japan/Korea, or South-East Asia, the second course is International Relations of East and South-East Asia, the third course is a methodology course.

During the third semester, the students take four thematic elective courses (7.5 credits each) either at the Centre for East and South-East Asia studies, at another institution at Lund University, or at another approved university in Sweden or abroad. The elective courses should be in line with the student's thesis topic and should be approved by the Director of Study.

The fourth semester is devoted entirely to the master's thesis for a master's degree (30 higher education credits), which consists of a thesis project in Asian Studies. The Master's Thesis course includes applied methodological training. In order to be eligible to begin their thesis work on the fourth semester, students must have completed at least 75 credits of coursework within the programme, including at least 7.5 credits of methods.

The courses are studied in the following order:

First semester (30 credits)

- Introduction to Asian Studies (6 credits)
- The Economic Transformation of East and South-East Asia (12 credits)
- Political Systems, Governance, and Democratization in East and South-East Asia (12 credits)

Second semester (30 credits)

- The student chooses a region specific course (15 credits)
- International Relations of East and South-East Asia (7.5 credits)
- Methods in Asian Studies in Theory (7.5 credits)

Third semester (30 credits)

- Elective courses (30 credits)

Fourth Semester (30 credits)

- Master's Thesis (30 credits)

Degree

Degree titles

Degree of Master of Science (120 credits) in Asian Studies

Major: Asian Studies

Masterexamen i asienstudier

Requirements and Selection method

Requirements

To be admitted to the programme, the student must have a Bachelor's degree (a Swedish Kandidatexamen) in the Social Sciences or Humanities.

Oral and written language proficiency in English equivalent to English 6/B from Swedish upper secondary school is a requirement. International qualifications will be assessed in accordance with national guidelines.

Selection method

Based on previous achievements in the following order: 1) Grades on courses and, if applicable, thesis in the BA degree; 2) English language proficiency; 3) Documented knowledge of and/or interest in the field of Asian studies and the Statement of Purpose; 4) Non-academic knowledge and/or work experience of relevance to Asian studies.

Transition rules

A student who began the programme at the latest in the autumn semester of 2022 is entitled to complete it in accordance with the programme syllabus of 2019 during the period up to and including 30 June 2025.

A student who began the program no later than the autumn term of 2024 is entitled to complete it in accordance with the programme syllabus of 2022 (established on September 16, 2022) until June 30, 2027.

Other information

The language of instruction is English which means that teaching and examination is conducted in English. The courses are taught by teachers with competence from different disciplines.