



FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization, 120 credits

Nordiskt masterprogram i offentlig förvaltning, ledarskap och digitalisering, 120 högskolepoäng

Programme code: S2PLD

Second cycle / Avancerad nivå

1. Confirmation

This programme syllabus was confirmed by the Faculty Board of Social Sciences on 05-09-2019 (GU 2019/1485) and was last revised on 16-06-2022 (GU 2022/1731) to be valid from 29-08-2022, Autumn semester 2022.

Responsible Department/Equivalent: School of Public Administration

2. Purpose

An important aspect of the programme is the creation of sustainable management and leadership in the era of digitalization from both a Nordic and a global perspective. The programme aims to educate and train the next generation of professionals, within academia as well as for civil servants within public sector organizations from a global perspective, with a special focus on effective use of public resources. The programme is characterized by a specific Nordic context through the collaboration with NORD University in Bodø (Norway) and the Åbo Akademi University (Finland), where framing and collaboration on the public sector in a digitalized age can be developed.

The programme's pedagogical approach has been designed to align with the learning objectives by introducing and working with flexible pedagogical methods such as blended learning, student-centered learning, problem-based learning, and peer learning.

The programme strives to take gender, diversity, and gender equality perspectives into account in all aspects of teaching, learning activities, and teaching materials.

The programme is aimed towards students who have a social science background and who want to specialize specifically in the context of how the public sector is developed and transformed by and through digitalization processes.

The programme is aimed at students from the Nordic countries as well as from Europe and the rest of the world. The programme prepares students from different national contexts and cultures to work in the public sector, while the programme's clear research base offers an opportunity to seek and continue education at the research level.

3. Entry requirements

Access to the Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization a Bachelor's degree of at least 180 credits within the social sciences education field or an equivalent Swedish or foreign degree, including at least 7,5 credits in research methods. Applicants must be able to demonstrate proficiency in English at the level of at least English 6/English B or equivalent at an internationally recognized test such as TOEFL or IELTS.

The applicant will be asked to submit a letter of motivation with an account of academic background and work experience as well as a reflection on how the programme will advance their stated career goals.

Prerequisites for admission to courses within the Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization specified in the respective course syllabus.

4. Higher education qualification and main field of study

This programme leads to a Degree of Master of Science in Political Sciences (120 credits) with a major in Public Administration (Politices masterexamen med huvudområdet Offentlig förvaltning).

After completing the programme of 120 credits, diplomas are issued at the request of the student with the title Degree of Master of Science in Political Sciences with a major in Public Administration (Politices masterexamen med huvudområde offentlig förvaltning).

The degree refers to the advanced level.

The programme can also lead to a double degree in collaboration with the NORD University in Norway and/or Åbo Akademi University in Finland. The degree is determined by the students' individual choice of elective courses and the national requirements set at each educational institution.

Possible additional degrees are:

- Master of Politics (with a major in Political Science)
- Master of Science in Global Management

5. Outcomes

The Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization is a two-year Master's programme focusing on a research-based multidisciplinary Nordic approach to governing and managing the digitalized public sector.

The programme aims to educate and train the next generation of professionals, both in academia as doctoral students or as civil servants in public sector organizations in the Nordic region as well as in the rest of the world, with a special focus on effective use of public resources.

The specific Nordic context that characterizes the programme enables a new and innovative approach to such education, where frameworks and collaboration around the public sector in the digital age can be developed.

After completing the education, the student must have achieved the applicable outcomes in relevant higher education qualification contained in the Swedish Higher Education Ordinance (Swedish Code of Statutes - SFS 1993:100, Qualifications Ordinance, Appendix 2).

Local outcomes

After completing the education the student must also be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge concerning Nordic governance and management models applicable for public administration
- compare and critically assess governance and management models within and between the Nordic countries
- demonstrate in-depth knowledge concerning the digitalization as a concept and its implications on leadership in public administration.

Competence and skills

- demonstrate the ability for critical reading of scientific texts and an ability to compare and assess such literature within the fields of public administration, leadership and digitalization
- across disciplinary boundaries to develop a new understanding of complex governance and management models in the Nordic countries
- demonstrate an ability to undertake systematically and logically assessments with specific reference to governance and management models in the Nordic countries
- develop an ability to critically analyze and identify key challenges for efficient and effective leadership in different areas of digitalization processes in public administration.

Judgement and approach

- independently plan and execute scientifically valid research with focus on leadership strategies in digitalization processes of public administration.

6. Content and structure

The programme focuses on how the public sector in the Nordic region and globally is affected and transformed by ongoing digitalization processes. The programme is to a large extent based on the Nordic experience of governance and management models observed in Sweden, Norway, and Finland and offers an understanding of national, local, and global traditions, contexts, and

cultures and also how these have been affected and developed over time.

The programme challenges and engages students' critical thinking and assessment of public leadership, with a direct link to economic and political idea traditions.

The programme is given at full speed in collaboration between the University of Gothenburg (GU), the NORD University of Bodø in Norway (NORD) and the Åbo Akademi University in Finland (ÅA). The overall structure of the programme requires students to participate in at least 30 credits at at least two of the collaborative educational institutions within the framework of their two-year master's programme. At least one semester (30 credits) at the University of Gothenburg is mandatory within the programme.

The programme contains two compulsory core courses (a total of 30 credits) given during semester 1 at the University of Gothenburg and a compulsory advanced course/degree thesis (30 credits) given during semester 4 at one of the three cooperating HEIs. The programme includes an opportunity for operational placement of 30 credits during semester 3, but can be exchanged for elective advanced courses at one of the cooperating educational institutions.

The Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization contains the following courses:

Semester 1

Core courses:

Introduction to Public Administration in a Digitalized Era (15 credits) (University of Gothenburg)

Advanced Methods in Social Sciences (15 credits) (University of Gothenburg)

Semester 2

Electable semester, advanced course(s):

Electable courses (30 credits) (NORD University in Bodø / Åbo Akademi University)

Semester 3

Electable semester, advanced course(s)/proficiency course:

Electable courses (30 credits) (NORD University in Bodø / Åbo Akademi University)

or

Internship for the Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership, and Digitalization (30 credits) (University of Gothenburg)

Semester 4

Advanced course/degree thesis:

Master Degree Thesis within Nordic Master in Public Administration, Leadership and Digitalization (30 credits) (University of Gothenburg / NORD University in Bodø / Åbo Akademi University)

The programme is further characterized by a high degree of flexibility. A total of 60 credits in the programme consist of elective courses (advanced courses; presented in appendix). Students are given the opportunity, in consultation with the student counsellor, to create individual focus areas within the programme in order to be able to meet individual wishes, needs, and thoughts on future career goals.

7. Guaranteed admission

Students who have been admitted to and follow the programme at the prescribed pace have a place guarantee in the compulsory core courses and advanced courses within the programme provided that the student fulfills the eligibility requirements for each course. For elective courses within the programme, a limited place guarantee applies, which means that the student cannot be guaranteed a place in his or her first choice.

All students admitted to the programme are offered individual study planning to enable individualization and flexibility.

8. Other information

Prerequisites for continued studies within the programme, as well as knowledge, skills and competences; the content and implementation and forms of evaluation and examination are specified in respective course syllabus.

The programme is conducted in English and requires students to participate actively both orally and in writing. Communication skills in general and English skills in particular are therefore required.

To continue the programme, the student should have met the following criteria:

- to begin semester 2, the student should have received at least 22.5 credits from courses in semester 1 within the programme
- to begin semester 3, the student should have obtained at least 45 credits from courses in semester 1 and 2 within the programme including the credits for the courses:
 - (a) Introduction to Public Administration in a Digitalized Era, 15 credits and
 - (b) Advanced Methods in Social Science, 15 credits, and
- to begin semester 4, the student should have received at least 75 credits from courses in semester 1, 2 and 3 within the programme including the credits for the courses:
 - (a) Introduction to Public Administration in a Digitalized Era, 15 credits and
 - (b) Advanced Methods in Social Sciences, 15 credits.

Any travel and other additional costs, in connection with fieldwork and degree thesis, are normally paid by the student himself.

The programme will be followed up and evaluated in accordance with the applicable *Policy for the Quality Assurance and Continuous Quality Improvement of Education at the University of Gothenburg* (*Policy för kvalitetssäkring och kvalitetsutveckling av utbildning vid Göteborgs universitet*).