



University of Gothenburg  
Faculty Board of Social Sciences  
School of Global Studies

PROGRAMME SYLLABUS

**Programme syllabus for the  
Master's Programme in Global Studies  
120 higher education credits  
Second Cycle**

Confirmed by the Faculty Board of Social Sciences  
2014-06-19

**1. Degree Programme: title and credits**

The Degree Programme is named Master's Programme in Global Studies (*Master Programme in Global Studies*). Credits: 120 higher education credits (S2GLS).

**2. Confirmation**

The programme syllabus for the Master's Programme in Global Studies, 120 higher education credits, was approved by the Faculty Board of Social Sciences, University of Gothenburg, 2006-10-24, to be valid from fall of 2007. The syllabus was revised on 2013-09-19, to be valid from fall of 2013. The syllabus was further revised 2014-06-19, to be valid from 2014-09-01.

The School of Global Studies is responsible for the Degree Programme.

**3. Aim of the Degree Programme**

The overall aim of the Master's Programme in Global Studies is to provide advanced knowledge within the interdisciplinary field of Global Studies. The programme will provide students with a basis for both post-graduate research and professional employment within a range of international and national organisations. Skills taught will be useful in areas such as development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, conflict resolution, cultural diversity and integration programmes, and environmental planning and analysis. Special emphasis is placed on independent work methods, critical assessment and the ability to solve problems.

**4. Degree**

After the completed Degree Programme, the student can apply for a diploma with the denomination Degree of Master of Science (120 credits) with a major in Global Studies (*Filosofie masterexamen med huvudområdet globala studier*).

**5. Main field of studies**

The main field of the Degree Programme is Global Studies (*Globala studier*).

**6. Objectives**

After completing the Degree Programme, students shall, in addition to the objectives stated in the Higher Education Ordinance, Annex 2, have the ability to:

*Knowledge and understanding*

- demonstrate an in-depth understanding of key concepts and theories in the interdisciplinary study of globalization
- theoretically and empirically analyze global processes and their bearings on social, economic, political, cultural and environmental aspects of society

*Skills and competences*

- independently formulate research questions related to contemporary and historical processes of globalization and their consequences

*Judgement and approach*

- demonstrate an independent and advanced ability to assess scientific, social and ethical perspectives on globalization

**7. Degree Programme content and structure**

The Master's Programme in Global Studies comprises two years (four semesters) of full time study. The first semester comprises two compulsory core courses. In the second semester the student chooses two electives in-depth courses. In the second year, students will take one compulsory methodology course and one elective proficiency course.

The programme is inter- and multidisciplinary and reflects the many subjects at the School of Global Studies: Development Studies, Human Ecology, International Relations, African Studies, Asian Studies, Latin American Studies and Middle Eastern Studies (Regional Studies), and Social Anthropology. It addresses globalisation in terms of a broad range of topics such as cultural diversity, migration, global security and political economy, conflict resolution and sustainable development.

	Module 1	Module 2
Semester 1	Global Studies: Theories and Perspectives, 15 hec <i>(core course)</i>	Global Studies: Thematic Issues, 15 hec <i>(core course)</i>
Semester 2	<i>In-depth courses, 15 hec</i>	<i>In-depth courses, 15 hec</i>
Semester 3	Research Design and Methods, 15 hec	<i>Proficiency course, 15 hec</i>
Semester 4	Global Studies: Master Thesis, 30 hec	

*The first semester consists of two modules that together provide a foundation of theoretical and empirical knowledge of salient issues within Global Studies.*

**Module 1, GS2121 - *Global Studies: Theories and Perspectives***, 15 higher education credits, compulsory core course. The first module provides an overview of theories and concepts of globalization across the social sciences and other applicable fields of knowledge.

**Module 2, GS2122 - *Global Studies: Thematic Issues***, 15 higher education credits, compulsory core course. The second module focuses on a selection of themes that spring from the first module and that are related to contemporary and historical processes of globalization.

*The second semester consists of two elective courses that provide students with in-depth knowledge on relevant themes and subfields of Global Studies. In this semester, insights from the first semester are deepened and developed through engagement with current research issues and knowledge production within the field. The semester is divided into two modules.*

**Module 3, *In-depth courses***, 15 higher education credits.

The students will choose one in-depth course from among a list of approved courses deemed relevant to the field of Global Studies. Exceptions will be decided on a case by case basis.

**Module 4, *In-depth courses***, 15 higher education credits.

The students will choose one in-depth course from among a list of approved courses deemed relevant to the field of Global Studies. Exceptions will be decided on a case by case basis.

*In the third semester a course on research design and methodology equips the students with knowledge and skills that are valuable when applying and developing their theoretical knowledge within a work environment, during the internship, or, alternatively, in relation to specific skills, during a proficiency course.*

**Module 5, GS2321 - *Research Design and Methods***, 15 higher education credits. The first half of this module provides an overview of epistemology, research design, research ethics, and research methods, while the second half provides opportunities for exploring different methodological approaches.

**Module 6, Proficiency course, 15 higher education credits.**

The proficiency course can be an internship or a relevant proficiency course offered at the department or elsewhere. The internship or the proficiency course can also be linked to the final module where students write a master's thesis. Material for the thesis may be collected during the internship.

The internship course provides the student with the possibility to work actively with global and social issues in a global and interdisciplinary perspective within international and national organisations.

A proficiency course can be any course that enables the student to practice and develop proficiency skills relevant within the field of Global Studies. To be eligible as a proficiency course this must be approved by the programme management.

*In the final semester the student makes use of the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the previous modules by writing a thesis in the field of Global Studies.*

**Module 7-8, GS2534 - Global Studies: Master Thesis, 30 higher education credits.**

**8. Prerequisites**

Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 30 higher education credits (hec) within the field of Global Studies. To provide the requirement in English by an internationally recognized test, for example TOEFL, IELTS, the English proficiency should be equivalent to the level of English 6/English Course B from Swedish Upper Secondary School.

**9. Guaranteed admission**

Students admitted to the program are guaranteed admission to all required courses within the programme provided that they 1) apply according to the assigned administrative procedures, and 2) have completed the requisite courses. See below under 'Additional information'.

**10. Transition rules**

Non applicable.

**11. Additional information**

- The program is taught in English
- A minimum of 15 higher education credits in core courses in the second cycle will give admission to in-depth courses (unless otherwise is specified in the separate syllabus description). Active participation in the methodology course is required for admission to the proficiency course. Admission to the thesis course requires completion of the first year as well as the methodology course.

- Students will be required to pay their own travel expenses in relation to the internship.
- Student evaluations of each module as well as of the programme in general will be performed regularly and taken into account in the evaluation and development of the master programme.