



## 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*

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#### **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 01-10-2020 (GU 2020/2515) to be valid from 30-08-2021, Autumn semester 2021.

*Responsible Department/equivalent:* School of Public Administration

#### **2. Purpose**

An important aspect of the program is the creation of sustainable management and leadership in the era of digitalization from both a Nordic and a global perspective. The program 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 program is characterized by a specific Nordic context through the collaboration with Nord University in Bodø (Norway) and the Åbo Akademy University (Finland), where framing and collaboration on the public sector in a digitalized age can be developed.

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

The program 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 program is aimed at students from the Nordic countries as well as from Europe and the rest of the world. The program prepares students from

different national contexts and cultures to work in the public sector, while the program's clear research base offers an opportunity to seek and continue education at the research level.

### 3. Entry requirements

The applicant must have obtained a bachelor's degree of at least 180 ECTS in the social sciences education field or equivalent Swedish or foreign degree, including at least 7,5 ECTS 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 program will advance their stated career goals.

There may be specific prerequisites for advanced courses within the program. These are documented in the respective syllabus.

### 4. Higher education qualification and main field of study

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

The program can also lead to a double degree in collaboration with the Åbo Akademy University in Finland and/or NORD University Norway. 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 program focusing on a research-based multidisciplinary Nordic approach to governing and managing the digitalized public sector.

The program 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 program enables a new and innovative approach to such education, where frameworks and collaboration around the public sector in the digital age can be developed.

#### Local outcomes

##### *Knowledge and understanding*

- demonstrate in-depth knowledge concerning Nordic governance and management models

applicable for public administration.

- demonstrate advanced understandings concerning methodological practices regarding the social sciences generally and public administration specifically.
- 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***

- acquire an enhanced 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.
- expertly advance a capability to think across disciplinary boundaries and to advance novel understandings 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.
- advance an awareness of ethical considerations when implementing governance and management models within public sector organizations.
- enhance the ability of ethical aspects in social science research.

### ***Judgement and approach***

- be able to formulate theoretically and empirically relevant research problems.
- be able to independently plan and execute scientifically valid research with focus on leadership strategies in digitalization processes of public administration.
- be able to summarize and present considerable volumes of high-quality research information in a practice-relevant manner.
- be able to present novel and innovative research findings and to discuss and collaborate with relevant research communities.

## **6. Content and structure**

The program focuses on how the public sector in the Nordic region and globally is affected and transformed by ongoing digitalization processes. The program 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 program challenges and engages students' critical thinking and assessment of public leadership, with a direct link to economic and political idea traditions.

The program 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 program requires students to participate in at least 30 ECTS at at least two of the collaborative educational institutions within the framework of their two-year master's program. At least one semester (30 ECTS) at the University of Gothenburg is mandatory within the program.

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

The overall structure of the program looks as follows:

Semester 1

Core course:

Introduction to Public Administration in a Digitalized Era (15 ECTS)

Core course:

Advanced Methods in Social Science (15 ECTS)

Semester 2

Electable semester, second course(s):

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

Semester 3

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

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

or

Internship UoG (30 ECTS)

Semester 4

Second course:

Master Thesis (30 ECTS)

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

## 7. Guaranteed admission

Students who follow the program at the prescribed pace have a place guarantee for compulsory core and second courses. For elective courses within the program, 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 program are offered individual study planning to enable individualization and flexibility.

## 8. Other information

Prerequisites for continuing within the program, as well as knowledge, skills and competences; the content and implementation or forms of evaluation and examination are specified in

respective course syllabus.

The program 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.

An application group evaluates all applications. Selection to enter the program is based on an overall assessment of the applicant's academic and professional experience as described in the motivation letter and how well the program fits his or her defined professional career goals.

To continue the program, the student must have met the following criteria:

- to begin semester 2, the student must have received at least 22.5 ECTS,
- to begin semester 3, the student must have obtained at least 45 ECTS including the credits for the courses (a) "Introduction to Public Administration in a Digitalized Era" and (b) "Advanced Methods in Social Sciences", and
- to begin semester 4, the student must have received at least 75 ECTS including the credits for the courses (a) "Introduction to Public Administration in a Digitalized Era " and (b) "Advanced Methods in Social Sciences".

The study 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*).