

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE



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**Programme curriculum for the MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN POLITICAL  
SCIENCE, THE 2018 CURRICULUM  
COMMENCEMENT ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2018**

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## **1. Introduction**

This programme curriculum should be read in conjunction with the Curricula's Common Part for the Faculty of Social Sciences, which applies to all bachelor and master's degree programmes run by the faculty. The Curricula's Common Part lays out rules that apply to all of the faculty's programmes.

The programme curriculum was approved by the dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences on 19 January 2018 and is valid from 1 September 2018.

## **2. Title and affiliation**

Graduates who have completed the master's degree programme in political science are entitled to use the title of cand.scient.pol.(candidatus/candidata scientiarum politicarum), Master of Science (MSc) in Political Science.

This programme curriculum was drawn up by the Board of Studies in the Department of Political Science at the University of Copenhagen. External examiners for the programme are provided by the Corps of External Examiners for the programmes in political science and social science, cand.soc., the professional master's programmes at the universities of Southern Denmark, Aarhus and Copenhagen, and the professional master's programmes at Copenhagen Business School.

If the student chooses to write a thesis within the selected core disciplines, this gives the right to use one of the following additions to the title:

- with specialisation in Organisation and Management
- with specialisation in Political Theory
- with specialisation in Political Behaviour
- with specialisation in International Political Economy
- with specialisation in International Relations and Conflict Resolution
- with specialisation in Foreign Policy
- with specialisation in European Politics

## **3. The programme's objectives, competency profile, etc.**

### **3.1 Objectives**

The master's programme in political science is an independent and complete study programme which builds on and develops the knowledge and skills acquired from a relevant bachelor programme in political science. The focus of the master's programme is academic immersion in problems within political science, with a special view to problem identification, problem analyses and problem solving. Based on choices between compulsory core-subject lines and a broad academic range of elective courses, the programme will enable students to independently and critically select and apply political- and social-science theory and methodology to conduct their own analyses of academic problems at a high international academic level.

Through both research-based instruction and independent academic study, students will also acquire more wide-ranging and varied knowledge in a series of different subject areas within political science and related disciplines. On this basis, graduates of the programme are qualified to:

- 1) take highly qualified jobs in the labour market within the area covered by the programme, and undertake academic jobs in general within both the public and private sectors, nationally and internationally
- 2) participate in academic work and further education, including the PhD degree programme

### **3.2 Competency profile**

During the study programme, which is based in an international research environment, the students acquire thorough and specialised insights into the key problems, processes and conditions covered by political- and social science, as well as the theories, methods and concepts used in the various fields of political science. The master's programme in political science has a particular focus on preparing students for careers in an increasingly more internationalised working environment in both public and private organisations, institutions and companies. In addition, there is emphasis on progression in the degree programme, so that there is clear development in the students' knowledge level, competencies and skills, which is enabled by the choice between the compulsory core-subject lines. Students can also select and combine subject elements equivalent to one year's full-time study on an individual basis, so that there will be a certain amount of variation in the individual graduates' academic profile. The competency profile below reflects the general competencies acquired by all political-science graduates.

**On successful completion of the programme, graduates have the following qualification profile:**

#### **Knowledge**

- Give an account of political-science theories and methods at a high academic level, based on advanced and well-founded knowledge of the subject's subdisciplines and empirical fields (Danish and comparative politics, political theory, public administration and politics, international politics)
- Identify and critically relate to the interrelationships between the fields of political science and relevant knowledge of and insights into the other social sciences, e.g. economics, law and sociology
- Understand international conditions and the consequences of international aspects for local, regional, national and global politics

#### **Skills**

- Analyse issues within the political- and social-science areas, and be able to assess the appropriateness of various different theories and methodologies
- Identify, analyse and illustrate problems relevant to current and future social conditions
- Transform theoretical, methodological and empirical knowledge into practice, in the form of empirical analyses within the field of the programme
- Adopt an analytical and critical approach to the theories and methodologies in tangible research or work contexts
- Prepare analysis models in an academic or practical context
- Make informed and reasoned decisions about problem solving and solution models, with critical reflection and perspectives on the use of these models

- Argue independently and systematically at an advanced academic level in the dialogue on academic problems within the field of political science and in relation to other subject areas
- The ability to communicate the results of their own and others' research in academic and clear language, orally and in writing, to different groups (fellow political scientists, other specialists and non-specialists)

### **Competencies**

- Head academic and interdisciplinary collaboration with various academic groups concerning practical issues
- Apply and communicate their specific and general knowledge in this context
- Plan and manage a process with due consideration of the timeframes set and the academic quality requirements
- Manage, plan and implement projects and development work
- Fulfil academic functions within the public and private sectors at home and abroad
- Anticipate and act in relation to ethical issues, both in the research world and in specific work contexts
- Engage in further education within the key political-science subject areas

### **3.3 Admission requirements and restrictions**

The following programmes give direct admission to the master's degree programme in political science at the University of Copenhagen:

- The bachelor programme in political science at the University of Copenhagen
- The bachelor programme in political science at Aarhus University
- The bachelor programme in political science at the University of Southern Denmark

Graduates with a bachelor degree in political science at the University of Copenhagen have a legal right to admission to the master's degree programme if they apply directly after completion of the bachelor programme.

Other applicants from universities in Denmark or abroad may be admitted on the basis of a specific, individual, academic assessment provided that they are able to document knowledge, expertise and skills corresponding to the bachelor programme in political science at the University of Copenhagen. This assessment will be based on the following requirements:

- The qualifying bachelor programme must include a minimum of 90 ECTS in political-science subjects, which must be introductory general bachelor courses in, for example, public administration and politics, international politics, comparative politics or political theory.
- The qualifying bachelor programme must include a minimum of 15 ECTS in qualitative and/or quantitative social-science methods with a focus on methodology as a tool.
- English language proficiency corresponding to English at level B in the Danish upper-secondary school.

If there are more qualified applicants than there are places available, applicants will be prioritised according to the following criteria:

- Grade-point average from the qualifying bachelor programme
- The applicant's motivation for taking the master's degree programme in political science (maximum 1 page), including the applicant's motivation for applying, knowledge of the programme and relevant experience (e.g. internships, student jobs, academic publications).
- Curriculum vitae, including academic publications or works (maximum 2 pages).

*Bachelors with a legal right of admission, i.e. students from the Department of Political Science at the University of Copenhagen who start on the master's degree programme directly after completing the bachelor programme will **NOT** be subject to the restricted admission provisions, cf. Section 10(1) of the Ministerial Order on Admission to Master's Programmes at the Universities (the Master's Admission Order).*

### 3.3.1 Supplementary courses

On assessing the basis for admission to the master's degree programme applied for, only the qualifying bachelor programme may count. No supplementary courses may be taken between the bachelor and the master's degree programmes in order to fulfil the specific admission requirements.

However, subject elements that have been passed prior to the completion of the bachelor programme may be included in the basis for admission. This applies to both subject elements taken as single subjects, as well as subject elements taken as part of another study programme. However, these activities must as a maximum account for 30 ECTS of the basis for admission.

## 4. Content and academic profile

The core subject area in the master's degree programme is political science. The table below is an overview of the allocation of subject elements to the master's degree programme in the recommended order. It is possible for the student to put together the individual semesters, subject to the reservation that the core subjects can only be taken in the autumn, and that the student must have passed 60 ECTS to be able to submit the thesis. In addition, students who have not taken public law on the bachelor's programme has to take it on the first semester on the master's programme.

	<b>The master's programme in political science (120 ECTS)</b>			
Semester 1 (Autumn)	Core subject 1 (15 ECTS)		Core subject 2 (7.5 ECTS)	Public Law (7.5 ECTS)
Semester 2 (Spring)	Elective course (7.5 ECTS)	Elective course (7.5 ECTS)	Elective course (7.5 ECTS)	Elective course (7.5 ECTS)
Semester 3 (Autumn)	Elective course (7.5 ECTS)	Elective course (7.5 ECTS)	Elective course (7.5 ECTS)	Elective course (7.5 ECTS)
Semester 4 (Spring)	Master's thesis (30 ECTS)			

### Constituent subject elements

The table below shows how the subject elements are distributed on compulsory and elective elements, respectively:

Compulsory subject elements	
Core subject 1	15 ECTS
Core subject 2	7.5 ECTS
Public Law	7.5 ECTS
Master's thesis	30 ECTS
Elective subject elements	
Elective courses, 8 subjects, prescribed to 7.5 ECTS each*	60 ECTS

*\*Elective courses may be taken as courses at the department, academic internships and study visits in Denmark or abroad.*

*\*\*If Public Law is taken as part of the bachelor programme, an elective course must be chosen instead.*

#### 4.1 Core-subject lines

A core-subject line amounts to a total of 22.5 ECTS and consists of two compulsory core courses for 15 and 7.5 ECTS, respectively.

The core-subject lines are offered each autumn. Core subject 1 and core subject 2 must both be taken during the same semester. A number of core-subject lines are offered, which are all based on the research areas at the Department of Political Science. The core-subject lines are described in further detail in section 6.

#### 4.2 Freedom of choice

On the basis of the course catalogue, students can compose the specific academic content of the subject element options included in the programme. Minimum 90 ECTS credits, including the master's thesis, must be within the political-science subject area, however, cf. the Study Programme Order. The remaining 30 ECTS credits can be in social-science subjects.

**The political-science subject area** covers the following core areas: Danish and comparative politics, political theory, public administration and politics and international politics.

All subjects taken at the Department of Political Science are categorised within the political-science subject area.

**The social-science subject area** concerns (social-science) subject areas related to the political-science subject area, as well as subject areas that the Board of Studies considers to be relevant for the student's individual study programme.

The elective elements may also be taken outside the Department of Political Science. The Board of Studies will assess whether subjects taken outside the Department of Political Science, and which are approved for credit transfer, can be categorised within the political-science or social-science discipline. Read more about credit transfer in section 4.4.

#### **4.2.1 Mobility window**

The student can choose to travel abroad in any semester, with the reservation that the core-subject line can only be taken in the autumn.

#### **4.3 Registration for courses and exams**

Students must themselves register for courses and exams via self-service on KUnet during the announced self-service period prior to each semester. However, the administration will register all students for the course and exam in Public Law on the first semester. Students who have already passed the course will not be registered for course.

#### **4.4 Credit**

Students on the master's degree programme in political science are entitled to transfer a maximum of 60 ECTS from subjects studied at another educational institution in Denmark or abroad. Exempt from this rule are students who transfer credits for course elements when transferring from another institution or study programme and credits from programmes already successfully completed.

Read more about the rules and procedures for approval and transfer of credit in section 5.5 of the Curricula's Common Part.

### **5. Exam**

#### **5.1 Re-use of literature**

##### **Oral exams**

In subjects with oral exams, maximum 25% of the syllabus may consist of literature read previously. If more than 25% of the total syllabus has been read previously, the student cannot sit the exam and an exam attempt is registered for the course concerned, see the Curricula's Common Part, section 4.4. Students are responsible for complying with the syllabus requirement.

##### **Written exams**

If the syllabus includes literature that has been read previously, the student must list additional literature in order to submit a total of 1,200 pages of new literature. Supplementary literature must be listed in the bibliography. The student must sign a solemn declaration of compliance with the rules concerning the syllabus.

##### **Free assignments not covered by courses**

For free assignments which are not linked to a subject, the student must compile a bibliography and write a solemn declaration that the bibliography solely consists of literature that has not been read previously and which corresponds to the prescribed number of pages in the syllabus.

### **Literature**

Literature that has already been used once for a syllabus or bibliography on the bachelor programme may not be re-used. For the master's thesis and assignments in connection with the academic internship it is permitted to re-use literature from previous exams.

### **5.2 Assessment and grading**

The individual subject elements are organised in such a way that the programme complies with the grading requirements in the Examination Order. Courses totalling 52.5 ECTS are assessed by external grading which meets the requirement that at least 1/3 of the programme's total ECTS must be documented by external exams. In addition, maximum 30 ECTS are assessed as passed/failed (if the student elects to take 30 ECTS as an academic internship), which fulfils the requirement that a maximum of 1/3 of the programme's ECTS must be assessed as "pass" or "fail", cf. section 4.7 of the Curricula's Common Part.

## 6. Course catalogue

The courses offered on the master's degree programme in political science are outlined below.

Subjects and exams are quantified in terms of ECTS (the European Credit Transfer System), under which system 60 ECTS correspond to one year of full-time study. If a subject is weighted at 7.5 ECTS, this will correspond to 1/8 of one year's prescribed full-time study.

### 6.1 Core-subject lines

The core-subject lines are anchored in the political-science research, and are based on the department's research areas. Students may, but do not have to, write a master's thesis within the chosen core-subject line.

The core-subject lines' goal description and form of grading are described in further detail in the sections below. The content, criteria for goal attainment, syllabus and forms of teaching and examination vary from course to course and must therefore be found in the course catalogue ([www.kurser.ku.dk](http://www.kurser.ku.dk)).

It is possible to choose between the following core-subject lines:

- Organisation and Leadership (only offered in Danish)
- Political Theory
- Political Behaviour (only offered in Danish)
- International Political Economy
- International Relations and Conflict Resolution
- Foreign Policy
- European Politics

The overview below shows which core subjects are to be taken for the individual lines:

Core-subject line	Core subject
Organisation and Leadership	Core subject 1: Public Governance and Management
	Core subject 2: Organisational Analysis
Political Theory	Core subject 1: Contemporary Political Theory
	Core subject 2: Democratic Challenges
Political Behaviour	Core subject 1: Political Behaviour
	Core subject 2: Advanced Quantitative Methods in the study of Political Behaviour
International Political Economy	Core subject 1: Theories and Issues in International Political Economy
	Core subject 2: Concepts and Methods in International Relations
International Relations and Conflict Resolution	Core subject 1: Approaches to International Conflicts - From Theory to Methods
	Core subject 2: Concepts and Methods in International Relations
Foreign Policy	Core subject 1: Theory and Practice in Foreign Policy
	Core subject 2: Concepts and Methods in International Relations
European Politics	Core subject 1: Institutions, Policy Processes and Policies in the European Union
	Core subject 2: Important Challenges in European Governance: Lobbying and Interest Groups

## Descriptions of Objectives

- Knowledge
  - Account for key issues and debates within the relevant core-subject line
  - Identify and reflect critically on the relevant core-subject line's theories and methods
- Skills
  - Analyse issues within the core-subject line and in this connection be able to assess the expediency of analysis and solution proposals on the basis of different theories and methodologies
  - Argue independently, analytically, critically, systematically and at an advanced academic level in the dialogue concerning academic issues within the subject line's domain
  - Discuss and evaluate the current research for the relevant core-subject line
- Competencies
  - Plan and manage a process with due consideration of the timeframes set and the academic quality requirements
  - Further develop and reflect on their core competencies in a lifelong learning perspective

## Literature

The table below shows the scope of the syllabus for the core subjects. The syllabus is the same for all students. The syllabus is set by the Board of Studies.

Subject element	Extent	Syllabus
Core subject 1	15 ECTS	1,800–2,100 standard pages
Core subject 2	7.5 ECTS	900–1,200 standard pages

## Teaching and working methods

Courses total 56 hours for core subject 1 and 28 hours for core subject 2.

The core-subject lines are established with minimum 15 and maximum 40 students. Students can register for 3 core-subject lines, in order of priority.

If a core-subject line has more than 40 students, an attempt is made to duplicate the same core-subject line, so that, as far as possible, students get their first priority, provided that there are resources available for this.

If there are insufficient resources for duplication, the students are alternatively assigned a place in a core-subject line by drawing lots. If you do not achieve your first priority, you will be guaranteed your second priority. In the post-registration period, students will be awarded a core-subject line place depending on how quickly they register (first come, first served).

## Exam form

The overview below shows the grading method for the core subjects.

Subject element	Extent	Grading method
Core subject 1	15 ECTS	7-point grading scale with external grading
Core subject 2	7.5 ECTS	7-point grading scale with one examiner

The types of exam forms will be as follows. Oral exam with or without synopsis, free assignment, three-day compulsory written take-home assignment or portfolio exam.

See section 7.1-7.4 for more information about guidelines and extent.

## 6.3 Public Law

### Political-science subject element

#### Contents

The subject provides knowledge of basic legal principles and rules within public law, as well as insight into their use and interpretation in practice. It covers the areas of administrative law and constitutional law, as well as the overarching principles of EU law and international law, including human rights. Through teaching in these subject areas, the aim is to enable students to study administrative issues from a legal perspective, and to give them the knowledge and understanding of the legal frameworks required for practical work in public administration.

#### Descriptions of Objectives

On completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- Knowledge
  - Account for constitutional law, including the relationship between national law, EU law and international law, including human rights
- Skills
  - In-depth knowledge of administrative law, including the Danish Public Administration Act and the Danish Access to Public Administration Files Act
- Competencies
  - Apply legal knowledge in public administration

#### Criteria for assessment of goal attainment

Grade	Designation	Description
12	Excellent performance demonstrating complete fulfilment of the subject's objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ An exhaustive and detailed account of the fundamental legal principles and rules within administrative law, constitutional law and EU law</li></ul></li><li>• Skills<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ On a systematic and reflective level analyse central legal aspects of an administrative problem</li></ul></li><li>• Competencies<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ On a systematic and reflective level use legal knowledge in specific administrative problems</li></ul></li></ul>
7	Good performance, which demonstrates fulfilment of the subject's objectives, with several deficiencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Give a precise account of the fundamental legal principles and rules within administrative law, constitutional law and EU law</li></ul></li><li>• Skills<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Analysis at a proficient level of key legal aspects of an administrative problem</li></ul></li><li>• Competencies</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use at a proficient level of legal knowledge in specific administrative problems</li> </ul>
02	Adequate performance demonstrating the minimal acceptable level of achievement of the course objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Non-exhaustive account of the fundamental legal principles and rules within administrative law, constitutional law and EU law</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Analysis at a basic level of key legal aspects of an administrative problem</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Competencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use at a basic level of legal knowledge in specific administrative problems</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### **Extent**

The subject comprises 7.5 ECTS.

### **Literature**

The syllabus is 900 pages and is the same for all students. The syllabus is set by the Board of Studies.

### **Teaching and working methods**

The course totals 28 hours.

### **Exam form**

The course is passed with an oral exam with a synopsis.

See section 7.1.2 for more information about the guidelines and extent.

The exam is graded according to the 7-point grading scale with external grading

### **Comments**

If public law is taken as part of the bachelor programme, an elective course must be chosen instead.

## **6.4 Elective courses**

### **Political-science or social-science subject element**

The programme includes a 60 ECTS elective course. Here, it is possible to take courses within and outside the department. It is also possible to study abroad and/or to take an internship. Read more about credit transfer in section 4.4.

#### **6.4.1 Range of courses**

##### **Contents**

Each semester, a range of courses is offered at master's level with content relevant for both political science and social science. The courses offered are specified in the course catalogue ([www.kurser.ku.dk](http://www.kurser.ku.dk)).

##### **Description of objectives and criteria for assessment of goal attainment**

The description of objectives varies according to the different courses, and the course catalogue varies from semester to semester. The description of objectives for each course must therefore be included in the course catalogue ([www.kurser.ku.dk](http://www.kurser.ku.dk)) for the semester concerned.

##### **Extent**

The subject comprises 7.5 or 15 ECTS.

##### **Literature**

The syllabus comprises 900-1,200 pages for 7.5 ECTS and 1,800-2,100 pages for 15 ECTS. The syllabus is set by the teacher and approved by the Board of Studies.

See more about the syllabus and re-use of literature in section 5.1.

##### **Teaching and working methods**

Classes are usually held during one semester as two hours per week in each subject, equivalent to 28 hours for one semester (7.5). In courses where the classes are held in one half of the semester, there are two hours of classes twice a week. The length of courses and number of hours per week may vary. Elective courses for 15 ECTS have classes for four hours per week and a total of 56 hours for a semester.

The elective courses must be established with minimum 20 and maximum 45 students. If more than 45 students are registered, the students will be admitted on the basis of their study progress.

##### **Exam form**

Possible types of examination will be as follows: Oral exam with or without synopsis, free assignment, three-day compulsory written take-home assignment. The exam form varies from course to course. The exam form for each course must therefore be found in the course catalogue ([www.kurser.ku.dk](http://www.kurser.ku.dk)) for the semester concerned. See also section 7 for more information about the guidelines and extent.

The exam is assessed according to the 7-point grading scale with one examiner.

## 6.4.2 Free assignment not covered by the course catalogue

### Contents

If a student wishes to write about a very specific topic that is not related to any of the subjects in the course catalogue, the student(s) may request a teacher to supervise a free assignment not offered in the course catalogue. This option may only be used in special cases and requires the approval of the Board of Studies. Teachers are not obliged to agree to supervise free assignments not offered in the course catalogue.

### Descriptions of Objectives

On completion of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- Knowledge
  - Account for a subject relevant to political science or social science
  - Identify strengths/weaknesses in the use of the selected theory(ies) and method(s)
- Skills
  - Structure and discuss a problem within the topic field that is related to the subject's theories, methods and cases
  - Select the theory, method and data for the analysis and response to the problem
- Competencies
  - Formulate a cohesive paper in terms of content and dissemination where the result of the analysis and the response to the problem are logically structured and clearly expressed

### Criteria for assessment of goal attainment

Grade	Designation	Description
12	Excellent assignment, with no or only a few insignificant deficiencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Relate critically to the selected theories, methods and cases</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Skills               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Analyse and respond to the problem on the basis of theory, method and theoretical or empirical cases</li> <li>○ Structure the analysis so that it is cohesive in terms of content and dissemination</li> <li>○ Discuss the analysis' strengths and weaknesses</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Competencies               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Analyse at a high academic level and present the results of the analysis with a logical structure and in clear language so as to address the research question</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7	Good assignment, which demonstrates fulfilment of the subject's objectives,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fulfils the knowledge criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, albeit with some deficiencies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	with several deficiencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fulfils the proficiency criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, albeit with a number of deficiencies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Competencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Comply with the competence criteria for the subject, as per the described objectives, albeit with a number of deficiencies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
02	Adequate assignment which demonstrates the minimum acceptable level of achievement of the subject objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complies with the knowledge criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, which demonstrate the minimum acceptable level of achievement of the subject objectives</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complies with the skills criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, which demonstrate the minimum acceptable level of achievement of the subject objectives</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Competencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complies with the competence criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, which demonstrate the minimum acceptable level of achievement of the subject objectives</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Extent

The subject comprises 7.5 or 15 ECTS.

### Literature

For free assignments not covered by the course catalogue, the student must compile a bibliography consisting of literature that may not have been cited in conjunction with previous exams.

The student must sign a solemn declaration of compliance with the rules concerning the syllabus.

The extent of the syllabus is shown in the table below:

Free assignment not covered by the course catalogue	7.5 ECTS	15 ECTS
Syllabus	900–1,200 standard pages	1,800–2,100 standard pages

### Exam form

The exam is passed with a free assignment.

See 7.2 for more information about the guidelines and extent.

The exam is assessed according to the 7-point grading scale with one examiner.

### **6.4.3 Academic internship**

#### **Political-science subject element**

#### **Contents**

The purpose of the academic internship is for the student to learn to use "political science in practice". Through a formalised attachment to a company, public institution, research institute or similar the student will perform tasks and at the same time be able to apply his/her academic skills in a practical context. In addition to the formalised affiliation with a company, at the same time the student will attend a course at the department. The course takes place online via Absalon and it is thus taken into account that the student may take an academic internship outside Denmark.

During the course, the student will:

- See video lectures on "Case work" as well as "Qualified feedback", which together cover 250 pages of the syllabus.
- Give feedback on another student's considerations regarding his or her project report, in two instances.
- Submit preliminary considerations regarding the project in two instances and receive feedback from another student. The supervisor will also give feedback on both submissions.
- Submit the assignment for the exam, which consists of the project report and written feedback

It is possible to replace subject elements corresponding to 15 or 30 ECTS on the master's degree programme in political science with an academic internship.

#### **Descriptions of Objectives**

On completion of the course, the student is expected to be able to:

- Knowledge
  - Account for the relevance of political-science studies for conditions, institutions, processes and working methods in the labour market
  - Describe and understand how political scientists work on concrete assignments related to the social sciences. This includes knowledge of the nature of the assignments, as well as the academic and non-academic requirements made
  - Knowledge of own and other political scientists' practice
- Skills
  - Identify one or more academic, relevant cases in a political-science organisation
  - Formulate precise, delimited problems – linked to the case
  - Analyse conditions, institutions, processes and/or the working methods of the company in an academic context
  - Reflect on and assess on connections between the chosen case(s) in the company with one or more theoretical and methodological approaches to political science
- Competencies
  - Take responsibility for providing relevant feedback on one fellow student's considerations concerning the project report
  - Independently and professionally collaborate, plan and coordinate tasks in a company

- Discuss solutions to tasks in an academically qualified manner
- Discuss solutions to tasks within the workplace's area of work through academic reflection and practical experience
- Have the ability to independently find and acquire new research-based knowledge that contributes to solutions in the company

### Criteria for assessment of goal attainment

On assessing the project report, the required account must be taken of whether this is a report which replaces 15 or 30 ECTS for the master's degree programme in political science.

To pass the subject the student must demonstrate:

- That the selected case is of relevance to the internship site and described in a comprehensive and specific way, so that precise and delimited issues can be derived from the case
- That the derived issues allow reflection on why they are relevant for the internship site, one's own role in relation to the case and the experience gained from investigation of the case
- That the analysis more deeply considers the phenomenon described in the case. This means that the student benefits from being part of the environment at the internship site and therefore has the opportunity to combine practice experience with relevant methods and theories from political-science studies, and to evaluate their use.
- That the feedback which students give to each other is formatively formulated, i.e. is aimed at and provides specific instructions for how the fellow students' drafts and reflections can be improved on the basis of the aforementioned criteria.

### Extent

The subject comprises 15 or 30 ECTS.

### Extent of working hours

No. of ECTS	Field of work	Number of hours
15 ECTS	Working hours at the internship site	327 hours
	Project report, including feedback and preparation	85 hours
	<b>Total</b>	<b>412 hours</b>
30 ECTS	Working hours at the internship site	650 hours
	Project report, including feedback and preparation	175 hours
	<b>Total</b>	<b>825 hours</b>

### Literature

250 pages are determined by the Board of Studies concerning the case selection as well as qualified feedback.

500 pages are defined by the student.

The student is permitted to use the syllabus previously used from both the bachelor and master's degree programmes.

### Teaching and working methods

The working method is to a great extent organised independently by the student. Students are expected to work on their project reports during their academic internship, including by participating in feedback rounds via Absalon and preparing their own project reports on the basis of feedback from their fellow students.

Outline of the process:

Date	Activity	Points of special attention
	The student gains an internship	
	The student applies for prior approval for an academic internship no later than six weeks before the academic internship is to commence	<i>Use the official application form for prior approval of an academic internship. Remember to include all appendices.</i>
<b>No later than two weeks before the start of the semester</b>	The student is placed in a feedback group on Absalon with an affiliated project supervisor	
	The student views the video lecture about “Qualified feedback” as well as “Case work” via Absalon	<i>Outline of the 200-page syllabus set by the Board of Studies</i>
<b>Two months after start of the semester</b>	First submission: The student submits considerations regarding one or more empirically based cases at the internship site, preliminary problem and considerations regarding theory.  Length: 4,800-7,200 keystrokes; 2-3 standard pages	<i>Attendance is compulsory to be able to take the ordinary exam</i>
<b>Two months and two weeks after start of the semester</b>	First feedback: The student gives feedback via Absalon on a fellow student's first submission. Length: Minimum 2,400 keystrokes; 1 standard page	<i>Attendance is compulsory to be able to take the ordinary exam</i>
<b>Four weeks after start of the semester</b>	Second submission: The student submits a further development of the first submission which includes the feedback received. An academic reflection must also be submitted on the connection between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The empirically based case(s) from the internship site</li> <li>• Theory and literature from political science.</li> </ul> Length: 9,600-12,000 keystrokes; 4-5 standard pages	<i>Attendance is compulsory to be able to take the ordinary exam</i>
<b>Four months</b>	Second feedback: The student gives feedback via Absalon	<i>Attendance is compulsory</i>

<b>and two weeks after start of the semester</b>	on a fellow student's first submission. Length: Minimum 4,800 keystrokes; 2 standard pages	<i>to be able to take the ordinary exam</i>
<b>End of the semester</b>	The student submits the project report, which is a further development of the two submissions, as well as both feedback papers.	<i>Check the exam date in the exam schedule.</i>

### **Supervisor**

A project supervisor must be attached to both the academic internship and the preparation of the project report.

The student must find a supervisor among the Department's potential supervisors for Academic internship. The supervisor must agree to supervise the student.

### **Exam requirements**

Participation in the feedback group on Absalon. The student must in two instances submit considerations regarding the project report, and also in two instances give feedback on a fellow student's considerations within the deadline specified in the exam schedule. Participation in the group and submission of feedback are a precondition for taking the exam.

### **Exam form**

The exam is passed with a project report whereby the students submit their own reports, and as an appendix also submit the feedback papers prepared for a fellow student.

The exam is marked as pass/fail, with internal grading.

See section 7.5 for more information about guidelines and extent.

## 6.5 Master's thesis

### Political-science subject element

#### Contents

Thesis writing involves that the student applies the theories and methods introduced during the course to produce a long, written, academic paper that analyses a political-science issue chosen by the student.

A compulsory part of producing the thesis consists of participation in a thesis cluster, which provides students with general knowledge of and guidance in the use of methods, writing assignments, structuring the written product and managing the work process, as well as other relevant elements of the thesis writing. An important element of the thesis cluster is the students' own active participation. They are required both to present their own work and critique the work of others. As an integral part of thesis writing, students are also assigned a supervisor.

#### Descriptions of Objectives

After completing the master's thesis, students are expected to be able to:

- Knowledge
  - Formulate a delimited precise problem statement and research design
  - Summarise the thesis' topic, theory and method
- Skills
  - Select, discuss and apply theory and methodology to the preparation of a comprehensive analysis and, during a prolonged work process,
  - prepare a clear problem statement and set up objectives and sub-objectives, incorporate the parts and the whole, critically read and evaluate their own work, and contribute a systematic response to the problem statement, and
  - collect data in a broad sense and search for information and literature.
- Competencies
  - Participate constructively in academic collaboration
  - Plan, organise and complete major assignments within a given timeframe and in accordance with the requirements for academic quality
  - Communicate specialised knowledge at a high academic level
  - Critically evaluate their own work by reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses of the selected theories and methods

#### Criteria for assessment of goal attainment

Grade	Designation	Description
12	Excellent performance which with no or few insignificant deficiencies complies with the following:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knowledge<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Relate critically to the self-chosen political-science issue.</li><li>○ Relate critically and reflectively to key concepts and significant assertions</li><li>○ Explain and state the reasons for the choice of</li></ul></li></ul>

		<p>theory and the methodological approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Independently analyse primary and/or secondary sources</li> <li>○ Independently put the applied theory into a wider perspective</li> <li>○ Discuss the methodological approach</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Competencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Answer the research question formulated in the thesis</li> <li>○ Write a thesis characterised by independence, boldness and/or originality in relation to the selected topic, methodology, data collation, analytical work and/or theoretical reflection, and/or consider a difficult issue/topic, and/or create new knowledge.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7	Good performance, which demonstrates fulfilment of the subject's objectives, with several deficiencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fulfils the knowledge criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, albeit with some deficiencies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fulfils the proficiency criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, albeit with a number of deficiencies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Competencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Comply with the competence criteria for the subject, as per the described objectives, albeit with a number of deficiencies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
02	Adequate performance, which demonstrates the minimum acceptable degree of fulfilment of the subject's objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complies with the knowledge criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, which demonstrate the minimum acceptable level of achievement of the subject objectives</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complies with the skills criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, which demonstrate the minimum acceptable level of achievement of the subject objectives</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Competencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Complies with the competence criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, which demonstrate the minimum acceptable level of achievement of the subject objectives</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Extent**

The thesis comprises 30 ECTS.

**Literature**

There is no requirement for an actual syllabus for the thesis, but it must include a bibliography, see Chapter 4.5 of the Curricula's Common Part concerning the formal requirements for written assignments.

**Exam requirements**

In order to pass the thesis, all thesis students must take part in a cluster supervision programme. The purpose of thesis clusters is to create a structured framework that supports the thesis work. The clusters allow students to participate in a learning process and academic dialogue, and create an academic community for the thesis-writing process. Each student is placed in a cluster together with 3-5 other thesis projects. Participation in cluster supervision is compulsory and 100% active participation is required. A student participates actively by presenting his or her own project, giving feedback on others' projects, and participating in discussions and other activities matched to the cluster's subject area.

The cluster programme comprises two compulsory presentation and feedback sessions. Thesis students are divided into thematic clusters with approximately five theses per cluster. Each cluster is assigned a supervisor. The aim is for the cluster supervisor to also be the thesis supervisor for the approximately five theses in the cluster.

Participation in thesis clusters requires registration in advance by a deadline set by the head of studies (the general thesis supervisor), and approval of the thesis' research question and the thesis contract.

Participation in the two compulsory cluster sessions entails that the student presents two draft thesis papers (min. 10 and max. 20 pages), offers feedback on other students' presentations and participates in discussions.

The first thesis cluster session focuses on the research question and the thesis synopsis (thesis design), as well as project management and initial methodological considerations.

The second cluster session focuses on individual draft chapters from the students' theses, for example, theory, methodology or analysis.

**Supervision**

Thesis students are assigned a supervisor in cooperation with the general thesis supervisor. The aim is for the cluster supervisor to also be the thesis supervisor for the approximately five theses in the cluster.

Supervision is normally provided by internal assistant professors, associate professors or professors.

**Exam form**

The master's thesis is assessed according to the 7-point grading scale, with external grading.

The student must choose one of the following thesis models for the master's thesis:

1. Classical thesis (monograph)
2. Academic article

## **Monograph**

Extent:

- For one student: 144,000-192,000 keystrokes (60-80 standard pages)
- For two students: 264,000-336,000 keystrokes (110-140 standard pages)
- For three students: 384,000-480,000 keystrokes (160-200 standard pages)

## **Academic article**

The article must be assessed by the supervisor to be an almost final draft or have been submitted to a journal. In addition to the article, an introduction is drafted in relation to the article or its subject matter, for example a more comprehensive review of the field or methodological discussions. The introduction and article must together fulfil the thesis' learning outcome objective.

Extent:

- For one student: the article plus introduction may not exceed 120,000 keystrokes (50 standard pages).

See 4.5 of the Curricula's Common Part for more information about the formal requirements for written assignments and an overview of what is included in the keystroke count.

## **Comments**

The thesis must be prepared in the course of the second academic year of the master's degree programme.

## **Formal requirements**

The master's thesis must include the following:

- Summary  
If the thesis is written in Danish, Swedish or Norwegian, the summary must be written in English. If the thesis is written in English, the summary may be written in either Danish or English.  
The summary must be max. one page.
- Bibliography
- Number of keystrokes. See section 4.5 of the Curricula's Common Part for an overview of what is included in the keystroke count.

If the thesis does not include these elements, the thesis will be rejected.

## **Front page**

The front page of the thesis must include the following:

- Title
- Name of supervisor
- Name of author
- Month and year of submission
- Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen

**About registration**

Students must register for the thesis in accordance with the rules described in section 4.2.4 of the Curricula's Common Part.

**About the second and third exam attempts**

Students who fail to submit their theses by the stipulated deadline must register for a second exam attempt (and, if needed, a third attempt) under the rules described in section 4.2.5 of the Curricula's Common Part.

## 7. Forms of examination

### 7.1 Oral exams

#### 7.1.1 Oral exam with or without preparation

This exam takes the form of an individual oral examination. To begin the exam, the student draws a random question prepared by the teacher. The question forms the basis for the oral exam, which also includes a wider discussion of the syllabus, as the examiner is required to assess the student in relation to the entire syllabus. The exam lasts 30 minutes in total, including grading.

For oral exams with preparation, the student is given 30 minutes to prepare before the start of the exam.

Oral exams with or without preparation can only be taken individually.

#### 7.1.2 Oral exam based on a synopsis

An oral exam with a synopsis takes the form of an individual oral exam based on a written paper (synopsis). The exam also includes a wider discussion within the syllabus, as the examiner is required to assess the student in relation to the entire syllabus. A synopsis may be written individually or in a group (maximum three persons).

The synopsis may not exceed 7,200 keystrokes (3 standard pages). In connection with the preparation of a synopsis, the student may use supplementary literature as maximum 25% in addition to the syllabus.

See 4.5 of the Curricula's Common Part for more information about the formal requirements for written assignments and an overview of what is included in the keystroke count.

Students are examined individually. No member of a group may be present during the other members' exams.

The assessment is based solely on the oral performance, as the synopsis is not part of the assessment.

Students are allowed to bring an outline consisting of keywords (max. 100 words) and the synopsis into the exam. Comments, etc. may not be added to the outline and synopsis.

### 7.2. Free assignments and free assignments not covered by the course catalogue

The written assignment consists of an analysis of an independently formulated problem.

The extent of the assignment may not exceed:

The extent of the assignment may not exceed:	7.5 ECTS	15 ECTS
For one student:	36,000 keystrokes (15 standard pages)	48,000 keystrokes (20 standard pages)
For two students:	60,000 keystrokes (25 standard pages)	79,200 keystrokes (33 standard pages)
For three students:	84,000 keystrokes (35 standard pages)	108,000 keystrokes (45 standard pages)

See 4.5 of the Curricula's Common Part for more information about the formal requirements for written assignments and an overview of what is included in the keystroke count.

### 7.3 Three-day compulsory written take-home assignment

The written assignment consists of an answer to a single question.

The extent of the take-home assignment must not exceed:

- For one student: 19,200 keystrokes (8 standard pages)
- For two students: 24,000 keystrokes (10 standard pages)
- For three students: 28,800 keystrokes (12 standard pages)

See 4.5 of the Curricula's Common Part for more information about the formal requirements for written assignments and an overview of what is included in the keystroke count.

### 7.3 Portfolio exam

The portfolio exam is passed by submitting two compulsory assignments during the course. The extent of each assignment is as follows:

The extent of the assignment may not exceed:	7.5 ECTS	15 ECTS
For one student:	19.200 keystrokes (8 standard pages)	24.000 keystrokes (10 standard pages)
For two students:	24.000 keystrokes (10 standard pages)	28.800 keystrokes (12 standard pages)
For three students:	28.8000 keystrokes (12 standard pages)	33.600 keystrokes (14 standard pages)

There will be given one grade based on the two assignments. Students who do not get their assignment approved will be able to resubmit a revised assignment once for a new assessment.

See 4.5 of the Curricula's Common Part for more information about the formal requirements for written assignments and an overview of what is included in the keystroke count.

The make-up and resit exam is passed through a free assignment.

The extent of the assignment may not exceed:	7.5 ECTS	15 ECTS
For one student:	36.000 keystrokes (15 standard pages)	48.000 keystrokes (20 standard pages)
For two students:	60.000 keystrokes (25 standard pages)	79.200 keystrokes (33 standard pages)
For three students:	84.000 keystrokes (35 standard pages)	108.000 keystrokes (45 standard pages)

See 4.5 of the Curricula's Common Part for more information about the formal requirements for written assignments and an overview of what is included in the keystroke count.

## 7.5 Academic internship exam

### Length:

Exam	15 ECTS	30 ECTS
Project report	24,000 keystrokes (10 standard pages)	36,000 keystrokes (15 standard pages)
Appendix: Feedback evaluation	Two feedback papers of minimum: 2,400 keystrokes (1 standard page) 4,800 keystrokes (2 standard pages)	Two feedback papers of minimum: 2,400 keystrokes (1 standard page) 4,800 keystrokes (2 standard pages)

### Re-examination

On failing the exam requirements

The exam is marked as pass/fail, with internal grading.

### Length:

Exam	15 ECTS	30 ECTS
Project report	43,200 keystrokes (18 standard pages)	60,000 keystrokes (25 standard pages)

See 4.5 of the Curricula's Common Part for more information about the formal requirements for written assignments and an overview of what is included in the keystroke count.