

Programme curriculum for the master's programme in
Anthropology 2016
(Updated May 2020)

1 Table of contents

2	Introduction	3
3	Title and affiliation	3
4	Purpose and competency profile.....	3
4.1	Purpose	3
4.2	Competency profile	3
4.2.1	Competency profile for the master’s programme in Anthropology	3
4.2.2	Competency profile for the master’s programme in Anthropology with specialisation in the Anthropology of Health.....	4
4.2.3	Competency profile for the master’s in Anthropology with specialisation in Business and Organisational Anthropology	4
4.3	Admission requirements and restrictions.....	5
4.3.1	Supplementary activities.....	6
5	The content and academic profile of the programme	6
5.1	The overall content of the programme	6
5.2	Optional courses	7
5.3	Fieldwork: Ethnography and analysis	7
5.4	The programme's subject elements (courses).....	7
5.5	Specialisation.....	7
5.6	Credits.....	8
6	Exams	8
6.1	Written exams.....	8
6.2	Assessment and grading	8
7	Course catalogue	8
7.1	Analytical Approaches	8
7.2	Anthropological Project Design	10
7.3	Optional anthropological courses	11
7.3.1	Optional anthropological courses	11
7.3.2	Assignments that do not involve attending a course	13
7.3.3	Research Internship	14
7.4	Optional courses	15
7.5	Fieldwork: Ethnography and Analysis	15
7.6	Master's thesis.....	16

2 Introduction

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

The programme curriculum was approved by the dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and entered into force on 1 September 2016. The curriculum was revised July 2017.

3 Title and affiliation

Graduates from the master's programme in Anthropology are entitled to use the title cand.scient.anth. or Master of Science (MSc) in Anthropology. External examiners for the programme are provided by the Corps of Examiners for Anthropology.

4 Purpose and competency profile

4.1 Purpose

The purpose of the master's programme in Anthropology is to:

- a) provide students with advanced knowledge of the anthropological subject field, an in-depth understanding of anthropological theory and methodology, and comprehensive practical experience in the generation and analysis of empirical data
- b) train students to conduct complex anthropological surveys themselves This entails defining a problem, identifying relevant data, making methodology choices, continuously revising the problem and methods over the course of the survey, and presenting the data in a clear and easily understood analytical summary
- c) train students to generate and analytically process wide-ranging empirical material, including both qualitative and, to a lesser extent, quantitative data
- d) qualify students for jobs in the private sector, public-sector administration, consultancy work, sectoral research and applied research – including development, co-ordination and communications work
- e) qualify students for further education, including PhD programmes.

4.2 Competency profile

4.2.1 Competency profile for the master's programme in Anthropology

Knowledge and understanding

- A master in anthropology has knowledge of anthropological theory and methodology, which is based on research of the highest international standard.
- A master in anthropology possess the ability to reflect and generalise in an academic manner on the basis of this knowledge and to identify relevant academic problems.

Skills

- A master in anthropology is capable of doing qualitative ethnographic work both individually and in collaboration with others, and critically reflect on choice of methods and theory, and assess parameters that can affect the results.
- A master in anthropology is capable of using anthropological methods and theory to identify, contextualize and analyse complex social issues.
- A master in anthropology is capable of thinking critically in terms of finding solutions for problems and making alternative analyses and suggestions for solutions.
- A master in anthropology is capable of communication their knowledge both in writing and verbally, and can discuss relevant problems with colleagues, superiors and the surrounding community.

Competencies

- A master in anthropology is capable of planning and managing complex academic and interdisciplinary projects and the processes involved
- A master in anthropology is capable of running projects in challenging and continuously changing conditions that require ongoing development and adaptation of solution models
- A master in anthropology is capable of taking responsibility for their own academic development and specialisation.
- The master's programme in Anthropology provides students with competencies relevant to employment in both the public and private sectors.

4.2.2 Competency profile for the master's programme in Anthropology with specialisation in the Anthropology of Health

Knowledge and understanding

A specialisation in the anthropology of health also provides particular insight into the social and cultural aspects of health, illness and treatment.

Skills

Masters in anthropology with a specialisation in the anthropology of health are also capable of applying anthropological knowledge and ethnographic methodology to studies of health, illness and treatment, and of interdisciplinary collaboration on health issues to address specific challenges.

Competencies

Masters in anthropology with a specialisation in the anthropology of health are also capable of viewing health systems in a comparative perspective and of communicating different worldviews that transcend cultural boundaries and professions in the health sector.

4.2.3 Competency profile for the master's in Anthropology with specialisation in Business and Organisational Anthropology

Knowledge and understanding

A specialisation in Business and Organisational Anthropology also provides special insight into the social and cultural aspects of companies, organisations, economics and management.

Skills

Masters in anthropology with a specialisation in Business and Organisational Anthropology are also capable of applying anthropological knowledge and ethnographic methodology in the study of economics, communications, innovation and management and of interdisciplinary collaboration on business and organisational issues to address specific challenges.

Competencies

Masters in anthropology with a specialisation in Business and Organisational Anthropology are also capable of viewing organisational systems in a comparative perspective and of communicating different perceptions that transcend cultural and organisational boundaries.

4.3 Admission requirements and restrictions

Graduates of the following programmes have the right to direct admission to the master's programme in Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen:

- the bachelor programme in Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen
- the bachelor programme in Anthropology at Aalborg University.
- the bachelor programme in European Ethnology at University of Copenhagen, proved that the students has also passed a minimum of 30 ECTS anthropological courses as part of the bachelor programme.
- A bachelor programme in humanities or social sciences with a minimum of 45 ECTS anthropological courses passed.

Graduates with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Copenhagen have a legal right of admission to the Master's degree programme if they apply for admission within three years.

The 3-year period is calculated as from the first succeeding summer intake. This means that students who have completed their Bachelor's degree programme in the course of a Summer exam period must apply for admission to the degree programme within three years, while students who have completed their Bachelor's degree programme in the course of a Winter exam period must apply for admission to the degree programme within three and a half years.

Only students who have completed their qualifying Bachelor's degree on or after 1 January 2019 are covered by the provision on legal claim to admission. Students who have completed a Bachelor's degree before 1 January 2019 do not have legal claim to admission.

Other applicants from universities abroad may be admitted on the basis of a specific, individual, academic assessment provided they are able to demonstrate knowledge, expertise and skills corresponding to the bachelor programme in Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen. The assessment includes the following requirements:

- The student must have a relevant bachelor degree at the same level.
- The bachelor programme must include a minimum of 45 ECTS credits on courses relevant to anthropology, from a bachelor programme in anthropology or similar.
- The bachelor programme must include a minimum of 7,5 ECTS credits social science methodology courses.

- English language proficiency on par with English at Danish B-level with a weighted grade point average of at least 3.0 not rounding up. The requirement may also be met by English on par with Danish A-level with a weighted grade point average of at least 2.0 not rounding up. Go to studies.ku.dk to find out how the Faculty assesses foreign upper secondary school leaving certificates.

Admission to the master's programme in Anthropology is subject to restriction. The number of places and the selection criteria if there are more applicants than places are described at <http://studies.ku.dk/masters/anthropology/admission/>

4.3.1 Supplementary activities

When assessing your academic qualifications in relation to the master's degree programme to which you are applying for admission, the Faculty can only attach importance to your bachelor degree. In other words, you cannot study supplementary courses between the bachelor and the master's degree programmes in order to meet the specific admission requirements.

However, subject elements that have been passed prior to the completion of your bachelor programme may be included in your 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 maximum account for 30 ECTS credits of your basis for admission.

5 The content and academic profile of the programme

5.1 The overall content of the programme

The master's programme in Anthropology builds upon the knowledge and insight acquired by students on the bachelor programme.

The programme consists of constituent subject elements related to the programme's particular academic competency and identity corresponding to 90 ECTS credits (of which the master's thesis accounts for 30 ECTS credits), and elective subjects corresponding to a total of 30 ECTS credits.

The programme's constituent subject elements are:

Subject element 1: Analytical Approaches (15 ECTS credits)

Subject element 2: Anthropological Project Design (15 ECTS credits)

Subject element 3: Fieldwork: Ethnography and Analysis (30 ECTS credits)

Subject element 4: Master's Thesis (30 ECTS credits)

The programme's elective subjects are:

Subject element 5: 15 ECTS credits optional anthropological courses

Subject element 6: 15 ECTS credits optional courses

Students can also opt for one of four specialisations on the master's programme.

	Semesters 1&3	Semesters 2&4
Year 1	ANALYTICAL APPROACHES (15 ECTS CREDITS)	ANTHROPOLOGICAL PROJECT DESIGN (15 ECTS CREDITS)
	OPTIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL COURSES (15 ECTS CREDITS)	OPTIONAL COURSES (15 ECTS CREDITS)
Year 2	FIELDWORK: ETHNOGRAPHY AND ANALYSIS (30 ECTS CREDITS)*	MASTER'S THESIS (30 ECTS CREDITS)

*mobility window

The department recommends that students take the courses in the order listed above. It is possible to take many of the courses in a different order but this order reflects the overall academic progression. Courses offered each semester is based on this programme structure.

5.2 Optional courses

During the first year of the programme, students have a free choice of 15 ECTS optional anthropological courses + 15 ECTS optional course. They can either be taken as ordinary optional anthropological courses, assignments that do not involve attending a course or research internships. Students are allowed to take a maximum of 7,5 ECTS credits as part of a research internship. They are also allowed to take a maximum of 15 ECTS credits as an assignment that does not involve attending a course. For more information about the four courses see www.kurser.ku.dk.

5.3 Fieldwork: Ethnography and analysis

The planned fieldwork or academic internship takes place during the third semester of the master's programme. The fieldwork or academic internship can take place in all types of social and cultural contexts. The main requirement is that data is generated using anthropological methodology

5.4 The programme's subject elements (courses)

For a detailed description of all of the subject elements, see section 7 of the course catalogue and www.kurser.dk.

5.5 Specialisation

Students have a choice of two specialisations on the master's programme

- Anthropology of Health
- Business and Organisational Anthropology

To specialise in one of the above, students must first pass an optional anthropological courses (7.5 ECTS credits), conduct fieldwork and write a thesis in the area covered by the specialisation. See the course descriptions in the course catalogue (www.kurser.ku.dk) for details of the courses included in the specialisations. Courses at other educational institutions (in Denmark and abroad) can be added to a specialisation but must be approved by a credit and dispensation committee set up by the study board. To

have the specialisation listed on their degree certificate, the student must submit a special form at the same time as they hand in their thesis.

The final transcript will show, if a student has completed the specialisation in Anthropology of Health or Business and Organisational Anthropology. Special competency descriptions also apply to the specialisations.

5.6 Credits

Optional courses: Credits from up to 15 ECTS optional courses can be transferred to the master's programme. Credit transfers from a subject studied at a university abroad require a significant degree of congruence between the subject for which the credits are transferred and the corresponding subject on the master's programme, as per the Study Programme Order.

6 Exams

6.1 Written exams

Written exams are either on optional or set subjects. If the subject is optional, the question or subject is agreed between the examiner and the student. If the subject is set, the question or subject is determined by the examiner. See which exams are set and which ones are optional in the course descriptions in the course catalogue (section 7).

6.2 Assessment and grading

The following exams on the master's programme are external and are graded:

- Analytical Approaches (15 ECTS credits)
- Master's Thesis (30 ECTS credits)

A total of 45 of the programme's total of 120 ECTS credits are, therefore, subject to external grading.

The following subjects are assessed with grades:

- Analytical Approaches (15 ECTS credits)
- Anthropological Project Design (15 ECTS credits)
- Optional anthropological courses (15 ECTS credits)
- Optional courses (15 ECTS credits)
- Master's Thesis (30 ECTS credits)

A total of 90 of the programme's 120 ECTS credits are, therefore, assessed with grades.

7 Course catalogue

Teaching in the Department of Anthropology consists of lectures, class teaching, exercises, group work and supervision.

7.1 Analytical Approaches

Compulsory course

Course:

Advanced course in anthropological theory.
15 ECTS credits

Learning objectives

Knowledge

- Be knowledgeable about different anthropological problem areas

Skills

- Be able to identify the different components that comprise an anthropological analysis, that is, ethnographic question, anthropological problem and theoretical perspectives
- Be able to compare the relevance of different theoretical perspectives in relation to selected problems areas

Competences

- Be able to assess the potentials and the limitations of different analytical approaches in relation to an existing or future anthropological analysis

Exam

Written assignment on optional subject

Individual or group papers

External assessment

The 7-point grading scale

The essay can be written individually or by groups of maximum four students.

Length: 22,500–27,500 keystrokes for an individual paper. 4,500–5,500 keystrokes per extra member for group papers.

Re-exam

1st re-exam: A new essay with a new problem formulation must be submitted. The new assignment must be submitted by the deadline for the re-exam.

2nd re-exam: A new assignment with a new problem formulation must be submitted. The new assignment is submitted during the next exam period.

For more information about the course see www.kurser.ku.dk.

Interim

Transition from MSc 2013: Students who are being converted from the 2013 MSc-curriculum to this curriculum can replace Anthropological Analyses with the 2013 MSc-course 'Contemporary Anthropological Theory'.

7.2 Anthropological Project Design

Compulsory course

Advanced course in anthropological methodology
15 ECTS credits

Learning objectives

Knowledge

- To demonstrate knowledge of a broad regional and thematic field as a context for the project design
- To have an overview of relevant literature

Skills

- To independently formulate a precise research problem and operationalise it in research questions
- To elaborate a project design that enables the acquisition of ethnographic material to answer the research questions
- To prepare an analytical framework for the planned project

Competences

- To make analytical choices in light of a state of the art review of the literature within the field
- To take responsibility for creating, organizing, and planning a project that can be carried out in collaboration with interlocutors and/or co-researchers
- To make methodological choices in light of a research problem and to critically evaluate such choices
- To design an ethnographic fieldwork in collaboration with interlocutors and/or co-researchers
- To critically discuss ethical and practical challenges in the project.

Teaching and learning methods

Class instruction, workshops and student presentations. The course focuses on integrating the literature studied and the students' projects. Drafts of subelements of the project design are handed in on an ongoing basis. Class instruction is sometimes in the form of workshops, where both the lecturer and fellow students provide feedback on these drafts. During the last weeks of the course, there will be practical exercises which must be carried out as part of the preparation for classes.

Supervision:

Each student is placed in a supervision group. Two supervision meetings are held, unless the supervisor and students agree to split the time differently. The total time frame is 2 x 45 minutes per student. Students in a group do not necessarily share thematic and theoretical interests.

For the sake of the students' safety, we cannot approve projects to countries to which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark has advised against travelling. See the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' travel advisories (*Rejsevejledninger*), which are posted in Danish here: <http://um.dk/da/rejse-og-ophold/rejse-til-udlandet/rejsevejledninger/>.

Syllabus: 800 pages required literature and 600 pages regional and thematic literature chosen by the student.

Examination

Written assignment: Project design with appendix (commented bibliography)

Individual or group paper. The exam paper must be submitted as an individual exam paper, unless the fieldwork is also planned as a group examination.

Length: min. 18,000 and max. 22,000 characters for an individual paper. Appendix length: max. 5,000 characters (regardless of group size). For group papers, min. 4,500 and max. 5,500 characters per additional group member. The synopsis must be submitted individually, unless plans are to carry out group fieldwork.

7-point grading scale

Internal assessment.

Re-exam

1st re-exam: A new synopsis must be submitted. The new assignment must be submitted by the deadline for the re-exam.

2nd re-exam: A new synopsis must be submitted. The new assignment is submitted during the next exam period.

For more information about the course see www.kurser.ku.dk.

Interim

Transition from MSc 2013: Students who are being converted from the 2013 MSc-curriculum to this curriculum can replace Anthropological Project Design with the 2013 MSc-course 'Field Methods'.

7.3 Optional anthropological courses

Students must pass 15 ECTS optional anthropological courses of their choice. They can either be taken as ordinary optional anthropological courses, assignments that do not involve attending a course or research internships. Students are allowed to take a maximum of 7,5 ECTS credits as a research internship. They are also allowed to take a maximum of 15 ECTS credits as an assignment that does not involve attending a course. For more information about the four courses see www.kurser.ku.dk.

7.3.1 Optional anthropological courses

ECTS credits

7.5 ECTS credits per course

Learning objectives

The exam is assessed on the basis of the course's learning objectives, which are set out in the course descriptions on www.kurser.ku.dk.

Exam

Optional anthropological courses uses one of the following types of exam¹:

1. Portfolio exam

Written exam

¹ The change in the description takes effect on the 1st of September 2020.

Individual or group submissions
Internal assessment
The 7-point grading scale

The exam can be on optional subject or compulsory. It depends on the specific course. For more information about the various optional courses see www.kurser.ku.dk.

Length: The portfolio exam can be taken individually or in groups of maximum four students. The portfolio exam consists of 2-7 submissions. The number of submissions is set by the lecturer. The total length of all of the submissions must not exceed 30,000 keystrokes for a single student. For groups of two students the maximum is 40,000 keystrokes. For groups of three students the maximum is 45,000 keystrokes and for groups of four students the maximum is 50,000 keystrokes.

For groups writing together it must be clearly indicated which parts of the assignment each of the students has written.

The assignments are evaluated together with a total grade.

2. Essay exam

Written exam
Individual or group submissions
Internal assessment
The 7-point grading scale

The exam can be on optional subject or compulsory. It depends on the specific course. For more information about the various optional courses see www.kurser.ku.dk.

The course may contain 2-7 written assignments, which must be submitted during the course. If the written assignments are compulsory in order to be able to take the exam, this will be stated in the course description. For more information about the various optional courses see www.kurser.ku.dk.

Essay length: 21,600–26,400 keystrokes for an individual submission. 6,750–8,250 keystrokes per extra member for group submissions. The maximum number of students who can write an essay in a group is four.

For groups writing together it must be clearly indicated which parts of the assignment each of the students has written.

Re-exam for exam form 1 and 2

Note that all elective subjects use this form of re-exam.

1st re-exam: An essay must be submitted. The new assignment must be submitted by the deadline for the re-exam.

2nd re-exam: A new essay must be submitted. The new assignment must be submitted by the deadline for the re-exam.

Essay length: 21,600–26,400 keystrokes for an individual submission. 6,750–8,250 keystrokes per extra member for group submissions. The maximum number of students who can write an essay in a group is four.

For groups writing together it must be clearly indicated which parts of the assignment each of the students has written.

7.3.2 Assignments that do not involve attending a course

ECTS credits

7.5 ECTS credits

Purpose and description of objectives

Independent study of an optional anthropological course is an option for master's students who wish to specialise in a theme or a region in which the Department of Anthropology does not run courses.

Learning objectives

- To demonstrate knowledge of the relevant literature in the field
- To account for choices of empirical material
- Reflect on the implications of the chosen analytical approach

Registration, submission and supervision

The procedure for independent study of an optional anthropological course is:

- You register for independent study via the self-service section on KUnet during the course registration period.
- You contact a member of staff in the Department of Anthropology (PhD, postdoc, assistant lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor or professor) and make an agreement about independent study. Staff specialisations are listed on the department's website.
- You arrange a supervision session with the appropriate member of staff. Before the supervision starts, you submit a draft literature list as the basis for the supervision. The focus of the supervision is on literature, the field of interest and ideas for the assignment's focus.
- You submit an essay and a bibliography of 700 pages by the deadline for submission of course essays.
- Within 14 days of submission of the exam assignment, you must attend an oral dialogue during which you discuss the assignment with the lecturer concerned. The dialogue, which is considered part of the exam, focuses on the essay. The course is assessed on the basis of overall performance (80% written assignment, 20% dialogue).

Form of exam

Written assignment on optional subject + oral defence

The 7-point grading scale

Individual or group

Internal assessment

The exam consists of a written essay and subsequent oral dialogue. The essay can be written individually or in groups of maximum four students. Length 21,600–26,400 + 6,750–8,250 keystrokes per extra member for group responses. The essay must be on a subject relevant to the course and must include literature from the course. A 700-page bibliography of literature chosen by the student(s) is attached to the essay. Students must

submit the whole syllabus list for the course along with the essay. The essay is followed by an oral dialogue lasting half an hour. The dialogue, which is considered part of the exam, focuses on the essay. The course is assessed on the basis of overall performance (80% written assignment, 20% dialogue).

Re-exam

1st re-exam: A new assignment must be submitted. The new assignment must be submitted by the deadline for the re-exam.

2nd re-exam: A new assignment must be submitted. The new assignment is submitted during the next exam period.

For more information about the course see www.kurser.ku.dk.

Grading

Internal examiner

7.3.3 Research Internship

ECTS credits

7.5 ECTS credits

Purpose and description of objectives

The purpose of the research internship is to involve a group of students in a project run by a researcher or research team.

The research internship can include participation in classes, meetings and workshops, preparation in the form of reading previously collated empirical material, collating supplementary material, processing and analysing. The syllabus includes a selection of key texts.

Learning objectives

- To formulate anthropological problems
- To demonstrate factual knowledge in the relevant field
- To demonstrate insight into the theory and methodology in the research field
- To complete assignments formulated by a research director

In addition to the general learning objectives, research directors can also set specific learning objectives for the course. These academic objectives are specified in the course description at www.kurser.ku.dk.

Registration, submission and supervision

The research internship is advertised along with the range of ordinary courses. Prospective participants submit a brief application stating the reasons for the internship. For more details see the actual advertisement on www.kurser.ku.dk.

Exam form

Individual written assignment on optional subject

Internal assessment

Pass/Fail

Requirements for the length of the specific assignment are determined by the lecturer.

Re-exam

1st re-exam: A new assignment must be submitted. The new assignment must be submitted by the deadline for the re-exam.

2nd re-exam: A new assignment must be submitted. The new assignment is submitted during the next exam period.

For more information about the course see www.kurser.ku.dk.

7.4 Optional courses

Students must pass 15 ECTS optional courses of their choice. They can either be taken as ordinary optional anthropological courses (see section 7.3) or as optional courses at other departments, if approved by the Board of Studies.

For more information about the four courses see www.kurser.ku.dk.

7.5 Fieldwork: Ethnography and Analysis

Compulsory course

Can take the form of an academic internship
30 ECTS credits

During the last part of the semester students must participate in a number of analysis workshops focusing on presenting their ethnographic material and analysis. Participation in these workshops is mandatory.

The course Anthropological Project Design must be completed before the Fieldwork is initiated.

Learning objectives

Knowledge

- Describe the use of different methods in anthropological field work and the knowledge they produce
- Be knowledgeable of theoretical terms and research themes that can be used to understand relevant anthropological problems within an empirical material
- Have thematic and regional knowledge of a field

Skills

- Carry out fieldwork taking a point of departure in an independent problem formulation
- Collect relevant empirical material
- Assess problem statement and research questions in relation to the empirical material and adjust these when relevant

Competences

- Organize the empirical material systematically, taking into consideration research ethics
- Reflect critically on the methodological and analytical process of the fieldwork

Students must also fulfil the Department of Anthropology's form and language requirements (see the appropriate section in the curriculum's common part).

For the sake of the students' safety, we cannot approve projects to countries to which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark has advised against travelling. See the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' travel advisories (*Rejsevejledninger*), which are posted in Danish here: <http://um.dk/da/rejse-og-ophold/rejse-til-udlandet/rejsevejledninger/>.

Exam

Portfolio-assignments

Individual or groups submissions

Internal assessment

Pass/Fail

Contents of the portfolio

- Synopsis for the Master's Thesis, including motivations for choice of Master's thesis model. Length: min. 4320 keystrokes, max. 5280 keystrokes. Does not vary depending on whether the exam was done individual or as a group.
- Overview of the ethnographic material. Length: min. 4320 keystrokes, max. 5280 keystrokes. Does not vary depending on whether the exam was done individual or as a group.
- All the portfolio assignments handed in during the course

Re-exam

1st re-exam: A new assignment must be submitted. The new assignment must be submitted by the deadline for the re-exam.

2nd re-exam: A new assignment must be submitted. The new assignment is submitted during the next exam period.

For more information about the course see www.kurser.ku.dk.

Interim

Transition from MSc 2013: Students who are being converted from the 2013 MSc-curriculum to this curriculum can replace Fieldwork: Ethnography and Analysis with the 2013 MSc-course 'Fieldwork'.

7.6 Master's thesis

ECTS credits

30 ECTS credits

Students must sign a thesis contract at the start of the semester (1 February for the spring semester, 1 September for the autumn semester).

All other courses on the master's programme must be passed before the oral defence of the thesis.

Learning objectives

In the thesis, students show that they are capable, in a linguistically clear and academically well-argued manner to formulate and study an anthropological problem on the basis of fieldwork material and regional, methodological and theoretical knowledge.

This means that the student is capable of:

Knowledge

- Demonstrate empirical knowledge of the chosen field
- Demonstrate regional, methodological and theoretical knowledge based on the used literature

Skills

- Write a clear and relevant problem statement
- Analyze the empirical material by using relevant anthropological literature
- Constructing a academically founded and well-argued answer to the problem statement
- Discussing the empirical material and the chosen analytical terms and/or theories

Competences

- Reflecting critically upon the empirical material in relation to the conditions for the fieldwork and the methodology applied
- Consider the possibility of generalising on the basis of their own fieldwork and relevant regional, thematic and theoretical literature
- Communicating and arguing in an academically based and convincing manner.

Students must also fulfil the Department of Anthropology's form and language requirements (see the appropriate section in the curriculum's common part).

Supervision: Students normally continue the collaboration with the supervisor that they were assigned during Anthropological Project Design. First meeting with the supervisor will be to finalize the master's thesis contract. After this there will be 5 meetings with supervisor during across the semester (please note that July is closed for summer vacation). The timeframe for the meetings is 45 minutes pr. student pr. meeting. This does not change depending on whether supervision is done individually or in groups.

Please note that supervision is only offered as part of first Master's thesis contract.

Exam

Thesis with oral defence

Individual or group submissions

External assessment

The 7-point grading scale

The thesis is submitted both in digital form and in hard copy. Additional rules about this are stipulated on the department's intranet.

If the thesis is written in Danish, it must include a summary in English. If the master's thesis is written in a foreign language other than Norwegian and Swedish, then the summary can be written in Danish, as per the Exam Order. The maximum length of the summary is 7,200 characters. The summary is included in the overall assessment of the thesis. However, the keystrokes included in the summary do not count toward the total number of keystrokes for the thesis.

The oral defence of the thesis will take place after the written thesis has been submitted and is structured as a dialogue between the examinee, the internal assessor and the external examiner. The student begins the defence with an introduction of five to ten minutes. The subsequent dialogue is based on the examined thesis and will include a general anthropological discussion.

Length of oral examination: 45 minutes for one student. For groups of two student the oral exam is 60 minutes. For groups of three students the oral exam is 70 minutes.

The written exam and the oral exam are given equal weight for the final grade given.

Re-exam

If the Master's Thesis is not handed in within the timeframe set by the first master's thesis contract, then a new contract must be submitted within 14 days of the deadline. The timeframe for the new contract is 3 months from the contract is submitted. If the Master's thesis is not handed in within this timeframe a third and final contract can be submitted following the same rules as second master's thesis contract.

Thesis Models

Students must choose one of the following models for doing their master's thesis:

- Regular master's thesis
- Scientific article and communication project
- Report
- Visual communication project

Thesis models for students who sign their thesis contract from June 30th of 2019:

Regular:

A thesis of 129.600 – 158.400 keystrokes (+ an additional 36.450-44.550 keystrokes per extra group member) with the following main components:

- An introduction giving an account of the theory and methods employed, outlining the anthropological/academic background for the study, its social context, etc.
- Two to five narrative modules² in which the empirical material is analyzed with respect to the selected theories and relevant contexts. The narrative modules should be written as integrated parts of an overarching argument.
- A conclusion.

Scientific article and communication product:

² The change takes effect at the 1st of September 2020.

A thesis of 129.600 – 158.400 total keystrokes (+ an additional 36.450-44.550 keystrokes per extra group member) with the following main components:

- An introduction giving an account of the theory and methods employed, outlining the anthropological/academic background for the study, its social context, etc.
- One article. The article must be targeted for a specific scientific journal. Students must enclose guidelines for the chosen journal.
- A communication product, such as a lead article in a newspaper or a lecture. The product is to be supplemented by a brief outline of the target group and choice of communication format.
- A paper on methods and ethics, giving an account of the methodology chosen and one or several ethical problem that is especially significant for the fieldwork and the project.

Report:

A thesis of 129.600 – 158.400 keystrokes (+ an additional 36.450-44.550 keystrokes per extra group member) with the following main components::

- An introduction giving an account of the theory and methods employed and justifying the choice of communication format; outlining the anthropological/academic background for the study, its social context and relations to external parties.
- A consultancy report or communicative text, primarily addressed to an external party, in which a problem from the fieldwork/project-oriented work (internship) is analyzed. This report is to be supplemented by a brief introduction, in which the format defining the consultancy report is justified.
- A paper, in which a theme or challenge relevant to the project-oriented work (internship) is discussed, targeted for an academic audience.
- A paper on methods and ethics, giving an account of one or more methodological and ethical problems that is especially significant for the fieldwork and the project

Visual communication product:

A thesis of 67.500-82.500 keystrokes (+ an additional 20.250-24.750 keystrokes per extra group member). The thesis must include the following main components, the order and scope of each to be decided in collaboration with the supervisor:

- An introduction giving an account of the theory including theoretical discussions within the anthropology of the chosen communication format, outlining the anthropological/academic background and social context for the study, and justifying the choice of communication format.
- A section on analysis focusing on your analytical approach and choice of theories in analyzing the empirical data.
- A communication production, such as a documentary film or a multimedia production or a major exhibition with a catalogue. This product is not included in the 67.500-82.500 keystrokes. For film and multimedia productions, the maximum length must be 30 minutes.
- A paper on methods and ethics, giving an account of a methodological and/or an ethical problem that is especially significant for the fieldwork and the project besides methodological discussions within the anthropology of the chosen communication format. This paper must also include reflections on the practical possibilities and limitations, which the chosen visual communication format offers.

For more information about the thesis see the study sites on the intranet