

Programme title

Master's Programme in Politics and War

Programme title in Swedish

Magisterprogrammet i politik och krig

Higher education credits: 60 Credits

Programme code: 2PK15

Valid from: Autumn semester 2015

Date of establishment: 2014-12-09

Responsible department: Department of Security, Strategy and Leadership

Established by: This programme syllabus was approved on December 9, 2014, by the Swedish Defence University Board of Research and Education.

Education cycle: Second cycle

Specialisations: (1) Political Science: Security Studies; (2) War Studies

Programme content and structure**Design**

The Master's programme in politics and war (60 credits) is an international master's programme. The programme consists of two specialisations - (1) political science: security studies as well as (2) war studies - and students are admitted to either one. The aim of the programme, in generic terms, is that the students acquire knowledge and skills within the respective fields to be able to independently and critically evaluate and analyse political and military phenomena, independently solve problems, as well as follow the development of the research front within either political science: security studies or war studies. Before the master's thesis, students are required to take the mandatory course in methods at the advanced level (including research design and quantitative and qualitative techniques of analysis).

The education gradually develops the student's methodological and scientific skills. The student is expected to assume greater responsibility to learn both vocational and scientific skills as the programme progresses. The student is encouraged to establish both a national and international network of contacts. Knowledge is passed on through lectures, seminars, detailed studies of literature, as well as oral and written work. Throughout the education there is systematic focus on developing skills to present ideas in writing and speech. The progression of the education leads to a higher degree of intellectual maturity and advanced knowledge of the complexities surrounding issues of defence, security and crisis. Together with the ability to integrate knowledge, the independent analytical skills are demonstrated in the final master's thesis. The studies at the programme

presume that students have already acquired basic knowledge in quantitative and qualitative methods. To start the master's thesis course, students must pass the advanced level methods course.

Contents

The programme contains central issues and theoretical approaches related to security, defence and crisis management. This includes knowledge about conditions and factors influencing the ability to prevent crises, conflicts and wars; establishing security where none exist; and to successfully manage crisis, conflicts and wars. Naturally, ethical questions are central to all the above mentioned issues and ethical issues accordingly permeate several of the courses. During the programme, moreover, a series of theoretical approaches are introduced and used in order to better grasp the complexities involved. This includes gender and knowledge of UN Resolution 1325.

SPECIALISATION I: POLITICAL SCIENCE: SECURITY STUDIES

The first semester establishes a common ground partly consisting of deeper knowledge of political science theory on the study of crisis and security, partly through developing methodological skills. The second semester starts with an elective course where students are offered a chance to further their understanding of a particular issue and continues with the master's thesis course. Students are encouraged to choose an elective course that deals with an issue relevant for the master's thesis.

SPECIALISATION II: WAR STUDIES

The first semester establishes a common ground partly consisting of deeper knowledge of war studies theory on the use of force, partly through developing methodological skills. The second semester starts with an elective course where students are offered a chance to further their understanding of a particular issue and continues with the master's thesis course. Students are encouraged to choose an elective course that deals with an issue relevant for the master's thesis.

Constituting courses

Mandatory and elective courses are given once a year. The selection of elective courses may vary between years and the number of offered elective courses can be limited depending on student choice. The students' choices and (in some cases, chance) will be used as selection criteria for available elective courses. Some of the elective courses may require special entry requirements. All courses - mandatory as well as elective - are second cycle courses.

Mandatory courses

SPECIALISATION I: POLITICAL SCIENCE: SECURITY STUDIES

Politics, security and crisis (15credits), semester 1, political science

Methods (15 credits), semester 1

Master's thesis (15 credits), semester 2, political science

SPECIALISATION II: WAR STUDIES

The use of Force (15 credits), semester 1, war studies

Methods (15 credits), semester 1

Master's thesis (15 credits), semester 2, war studies

Elective courses, semester 2 (the selection may vary)

Advanced tactics (15 credits), war studies

Creating and organizing military force (15 credits), war studies

War, critical studies and gender (15 credits), war studies

Security strategies in transition (15 credits), political science

European security and crisis management (15 credits), political science

Political communication and media in crisis and war (15 credits), political science

Political psychology (15 credits), political science

International law in crisis and war (15 credits), international law

Policy analysis (15 credits), political science

Global ethics (15 credits), political science

Leadership in crisis and war (15 credits), leadership

The use and abuse of military history (15 credits), military history

Military technology for decision makers (15 credits), military technology

Programme aims

Learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

For a master's degree the student must be able to

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in political science: security studies or war studies, including both an overview of the field and specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

Competence and skills

For a master's degree the student must be able to

- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues autonomously as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to report clearly and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or employment in some other qualified capacity.

Judgement and approach

For a master's degree the student must be able to

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

Independent project – Master's thesis

The programme contains an independent project - a master's thesis - to be completed in either political science: security studies or war studies. Completion by the student of an independent project (degree project) for at least 15 credits in

the main field of study is a requirement for the degree. The master's thesis course is the final course of the programme.

Entry requirements

Specialisation I: Political Science: Security Studies

Entry requirements: A Bachelor's degree equivalent to a Swedish degree of at least 180 credits (i.e. three years of full-time studies), including at least 90 credits in political science: security or crisis management, or alternatively 90 credits in equivalent relevant subjects (e.g. International Relations or Peace and Conflict Studies). Having completed a documented written independent academic work in English or Swedish is a requirement.

All applicants need to verify English language proficiency. The English language entry requirement is the equivalent of English studies at upper secondary (high school) level in Sweden, called English 6/English Course B.

Some elective courses may have additional entry requirements.

Selection: The selection is made based upon a comprehensive assessment of the relevance, quantity and quality of the applicant's earlier studies. Emphasis is placed upon the quality of the final, independent thesis.

Specialisation II: War Studies

Entry requirements: Officers degree or a Bachelor's degree equivalent to a Swedish degree of at least 180 credits (i.e. three years of full-time studies), including at least 90 credits in war studies, or alternatively 90 credits in equivalent relevant subjects (e.g. International Relations or Peace and Conflict Studies). Having completed a documented written independent academic work in English or Swedish is a requirement.

All applicants need to verify English language proficiency. The English language entry requirement is the equivalent of English studies at upper secondary (high school) level in Sweden, called English 6/English Course B.

Some elective courses may have additional entry requirements.

Selection: The selection is made based upon a comprehensive assessment of the relevance, quantity and quality of the applicant's earlier studies. Emphasis is placed upon the quality of the final, independent thesis.

Degree awarded

The programme leads to a master's degree in political science: security studies or a master's degree in war studies. The degree is awarded after the student has completed the courses required to gain 60 credits in either political science: security studies or war studies, of which at least 45 credits are for specialised study in the main field of study, i.e. either political science: security studies or war studies, including an independent project of at least 15 credits.

The titles of the degrees are:

Degree of Master in Political Science (60 credits): Security Studies (Magisterexamen i statsvetenskap med inriktning krishantering och säkerhet)

Degree of Master of Science in War Studies (60 credits): (Magisterexamen i krigsvetenskap).