

- Master of Arts in Politics and Society of the Contemporary Middle East
- 2 years, full-time, 120 ECTS credits
- Graduate School, Faculty of Social Sciences
- Lund Campus
- Application deadline: January 2024
- Programme start: August 2024

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

This two-year international and interdisciplinary Master's Programme aims to develop deeper knowledge about the Middle East of today. The programme trains students in critical thinking and gives them the ability to apply this to current events and debates in and about the region. The programme also aims to educate students in social sciences theories and various research methodologies, as well as provide opportunities for the application of methodological skills.

We use a comprehensive definition of the MENA region to include 24 countries: 21 members of the Arab League (Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen), in addition to Iran, Israel/Occupied territories and Turkey. Students shall study the populations, societies, politics, contemporary history of these countries. Particular emphasis is given to the processes, norms and flows that continuously shape the Middle East, such as migration, refugeeship, legal, political, social and economic conditions as well as cultural and gender constructs.

In terms of teaching, the programme is based on a close connection to research within Middle Eastern Studies. Besides lectures and seminar-based teaching, the programme has an emphasis on supervision and mentoring. During the programme, students conduct independent field work under supervision and are trained to academically review the work of other students.

Furthermore, the programme offers one course relating to the current trends in the Middle East and diasporic groups with origins in the region.

The programme provides a basis for doctoral studies as well as professional careers in areas such as diplomacy, aid and development work, work linked to migration, integration and societal development as well as educational, journalistic and cultural work with a connection to the Middle Eastern and diasporic contexts.

## PROGRAMME MODULES/COURSES

The programme offers a combination of compulsory and elective courses. It emphasises the students' development through supervision as well as in contacts with the research network to which the programme offers links.

The first course of the first semester, Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies (15 credits), introduces the student to core themes of the programme. This is followed by courses in theory of science for the social sciences, and/or in research methods, which provides the student with the skills required for independent research.

The first course of the second semester, Middle Eastern Studies: Theory and Society (15 credits) links to research areas at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies. This is followed, in the second half of the second semester, by elective courses in research methods.

The first half of the third semester is elective, and the student can choose to apply for a field course (15 credits), internship course (15 credits), elective courses (15 credits) or exchange studies (30 credits). The second half of the semester comprises a thematic profile course in Middle Eastern Studies.

Students admitted to exchange studies for a full semester (30 credits) need to find the equivalent of at least 15 credits within the main field of study at the partner university.

The programme's final semester consists of a degree project within the field of Middle Eastern Studies, 30 credits, with supervision and seminars.



**“The programme gave me the amazing opportunity to carry out fieldwork and do an internship in Lebanon. Doing research both independently and with a research institute in the region provided me with valuable experience for my future career. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the programme, I could explore my different areas of interest and combine them in my Master's thesis project.”**

Elisa Giannozzi from Italy





### CAREER PROSPECTS

The programme offers courses in multiple focus areas. It provides a solid foundation for a career in Middle Eastern analysis, diplomacy, government, development, culture, or enterprise, as well as for further academic research and PhD studies.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND HOW TO APPLY

#### Entry requirements

To be eligible for the programme the applicant must have the equivalent of a Swedish Bachelor's degree with a major (i.e. at least 90 ECTS credits) in a Social Sciences discipline or in History, Economic History, Economic Development, Area Studies, or equivalent.

A good command of English language both spoken and written, equivalent to English B/6 (advanced) proficiency in the Swedish secondary system, is required. Equivalence assessments will be made according to national guidelines.

#### How to apply

- 1. Apply online:** Go to [lunduniversity.lu.se/politics-society-middle-east](http://lunduniversity.lu.se/politics-society-middle-east). Click on "Apply" and follow the instructions for the online application at [www.universityadmissions.se](http://www.universityadmissions.se), the Swedish national application website. Rank the chosen programmes in order of preference.
- 2. Submit your supporting documents:**
  - **General supporting documents:** Check what documents you need to submit (i.e. official transcripts, degree diploma/proof of expected graduation, translations, proof of English, passport) and how you need to submit them at [www.universityadmissions.se](http://www.universityadmissions.se).
  - **Programme-specific supporting documents:** When applying for the MA in Society and Politics of the Contemporary Middle East, you must also submit a statement of purpose. The programme-specific questions you must answer in

your statement of purpose are available on the programme webpage.

- **3. Pay the application fee (when applicable).**

#### Selection criteria/additional info

The applicant's estimated capacity to complete the programme is the primary criterion for selection. Students are selected on the basis of their previous study results (grades on courses and thesis in the Bachelor's degree), a statement of purpose in, proficiency in English and academic writing.

Please note that English is the language of instruction, which means that teaching sessions and exams are conducted in English.

#### Tuition fees

Tuition fee SEK 125 000 per year for non-EU/EEA citizens. No fee for EU/EEA citizens. See [www.lunduniversity.lu.se](http://www.lunduniversity.lu.se) for details on tuition fees.

### ABOUT GRADUATE SCHOOL

Graduate School at the Faculty of Social Sciences is home to five international and interdisciplinary Master's programmes, including the Master of Arts in Society and Politics of the Contemporary Middle East. As a unit for interdisciplinary studies, our students come from a range of academic backgrounds and are taught by academic staff from various disciplines across the faculty. All of our programmes and elective courses are taught in English and promote both internationalisation and research methodology training within the social sciences. During their third term, students have the opportunity to pursue an internship, elective courses, or study abroad, gaining skills and experience that will enhance their academic and professional profiles after graduating. Alumni of our Master's programmes are well-equipped for studies on the doctoral level, governmental or NGO work, or careers in the public or private sectors worldwide.

### CONTACT

Programme webpage:  
[lunduniversity.lu.se/politics-society-middle-east](http://lunduniversity.lu.se/politics-society-middle-east)

Study Advisor:  
[master@sam.lu.se](mailto:master@sam.lu.se)

Lund University was founded in 1666 and is repeatedly ranked among the world's top universities. The University has around 45 000 students and more than 8 000 staff based in Lund, Helsingborg and Malmö. We are united in our efforts to understand, explain and improve our world and the human condition.

Learn more at [www.lunduniversity.lu.se](http://www.lunduniversity.lu.se)



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