B.A. in Scandinavian Area Studies

Students who earn a B.A. in Scandinavian Area Studies develop a new, enhanced understanding of the world through studying the culture, politics, and history of Scandinavia. The program provides diverse options for students to learn, including small, seminar-style classes; interdisciplinary study abroad opportunities; and exceptional programs to connect to Scandinavian and Baltic communities on or near campus. Students develop strong linguistic, research, and communication skills in a welcoming, inclusive academic environment. Prepared with knowledge from world leaders in welfare, business, and gender equity, graduates pursue careers in business and nonprofit work, law, academia, and STEM industries across the globe.

As part of the degree, students gain intermediate linguistic proficiency in a Scandinavian or Baltic language such as Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, Swedish, Estonian, Latvian, or Lithuanian. Because most language 101 courses are available only in the fall, students should sign up for one of these classes as early as possible. If you have previous experience studying one of these languages, schedule a placement test by emailing uwscand@uw.edu.

Admissions, Advising & Student Resources

Please see our Undergraduate Programs section for information about applying to the program, career paths, scholarships, and other student resources.

Each of our majors has an option to pursue departmental honors. Students who are interested should meet with the undergraduate adviser to learn more about the requirements.

Degree Requirements

65 credits of which 30 are on the 300 level or above.

1. First- and second-year courses in target language (Danish, Estonian, Finnish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Swedish) (30 credits)

2. Upper-division SCAND courses from list of approved courses. (30 credits)

   SCAND 312 Masterpieces of Scandinavian Literature
   SCAND 315 Scandinavian Crime Fiction
   SCAND 316 Child and School in Scandinavia
   SCAND 326 Scandinavia in World Affairs
   SCAND 327 Women in Scandinavian Society
   SCAND 330 Scandinavian Mythology
   SCAND 331 Folk Narrative
   SCAND 334 Immigrant and Ethnic Folklore
   SCAND 335 Scandinavian Children’s Literature
   SCAND 340 Kalevala and the Epic Tradition
   SCAND 341 Sami Culture and History
SCAND 344 The Baltic States and Scandinavia
SCAND 345 Baltic Cultures
SCAND 350 Environmental Norms in International Politics
SCAND 351 Scandinavia, the European Union, and Global Climate Change
SCAND 352 Innovation in Scandinavia
SCAND 360 Scandinavian Cinema
SCAND 361 Danish Cinema
SCAND 365 Finnish Popular Culture
SCAND 367 Sexuality in Scandinavia: Myth and Reality
SCAND 370 The Vikings
SCAND 380 History of Scandinavia to 1720
SCAND 381 History of Scandinavia Since 1720
SCAND 399 Foreign Study in Scandinavia
SCAND 402 International Political Economy and Scandinavia
SCAND 427 Scandinavian Women Writers in English Translation
SCAND 430 Readings in Folklore
SCAND 431 The Northern European Ballad
SCAND 437 Politics in Scandinavia
SCAND 445 War and Occupation in Northern Europe: History, Fiction, and Memoir
SCAND 450 Scandinavian Literary History
SCAND 454 Baltic History
SCAND 455 Baltic Politics and Society Today
SCAND 460 History of the Scandinavian Languages
SCAND 465 Translation Workshop in Nordic and Baltic Languages
SCAND 470 Scandinavian Auteurs
SCAND 479 Eco-Capitalism
SCAND 480 Kierkegaard and Decadence in European Literature
SCAND 481 August Strindberg and European Cultural History
SCAND 482 Knut Hamsun and Early European Modernism
SCAND 490 Special Topics
SCAND 495 Foreign Study: Research Project
SCAND 499 Independent Study or Research

3. SCAND 498 Senior Capstone Project (5 credits)

Credits earned during studies in Scandinavia can be transferred in consultation with the Foreign Study Office and the Scandinavian Department.

Other courses may be substituted per discussion with the Undergraduate Adviser.

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