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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