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
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.