



Fróðskaparsetur Føroya
University of the Faroe Islands

Megindeildin fyri hugvísindi, samfelagsvísindi og námsvísindi
The Faculty for Humanities, Social Sciences and Education

Curriculum of Master's in West Nordic Studies, Governance and Sustainable Management

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Foreword by the Study Board

Dear students

The curriculum contains the rules and regulations for your programme. It is therefore, of great importance that you read and understand the curriculum. Along with course descriptions and the overall rules of the University of the Faroe Islands, the curriculum is an important tool at your disposal. That way you will know your rights and your obligations.

According to the rules for the Study Board, the board receives the proposed curriculum from the course leader for consideration and approval after the course leader has heard and received responses from relevant parties. When the proposal has been considered by the Study Board and the board is assured that relevant parties have been heard, the Study Board approves the curriculum and passes it to the Dean for implementation.

The Study Board is responsible for ensuring that the different parts of the programme are coherent. Furthermore, amendments of individual courses or subject areas should be limited so they still fit with the purpose of the programme. The board must further ensure that teaching and examination requirements are appropriate for the purpose of the programme.

This curriculum has been approved by the Study Board of the Department of History and Social Sciences, 10 February 2017.

A draft curriculum has been available to students since 1 September 2015.



Erika Anne Hayfield

Chair of Study Board

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1. Introduction

In the autumn 2015, the University of the Faroe Islands together with the University of Greenland, the University of Akureyri in Iceland, the University of Iceland and Nord University, coastal Norway, opened the doors to a new international and interdisciplinary Joint Nordic Master's programme in West Nordic Studies, Governance and Sustainable Management. This Master's programme provides students with a unique opportunity to take part in shaping the West Nordic Region of Greenland, Iceland, Faroe Islands, and coastal Norway and offers students a chance for enhanced mobility within the region.

This programme curriculum at the University of the Faroe Islands has been written and approved under the authority endowed by current Law about the University of the Faroe Islands (law no. 58 from 9 June 2008, with amendments in law no. 51 from 8 May 2012) and ministerial orders regarding Master's programmes, admission, examinations and grading scales.

The curriculum and the degree profile have also been written according to the Bologna Process and the Tuning Educational Structures in Europe Process.

The curriculum does not contain information about general rules and guidelines of the University of the Faroe Islands.

The curriculum does not contain information about specific courses including course profiles.

2. Jurisdiction

The Master's Programme is under the general jurisdiction of the Study Board of the Department of History and Social Sciences.

The Programme Director has academic responsibility of the programme and its day-to-day management.

See section 13 below for rules regarding complaints.

3. Purpose and prescribed period of study

3.1. Purpose

The Master's programme in West Nordic Studies, Governance and Sustainable Management aims to provide students with specific knowledge of the High North combined with abilities to manage and link present day issues and past developments in relation to the major themes of the present debate on societal challenges – specifically in relation to the governance complexities of the High North, climate and environmental change, and sustainability. The general objective of this joint programme and regional co-operation is to increase knowledge of both common and specific issues of the region and to heighten the level of education.

The aim is to graduate candidates that can understand and meet the complicated challenges of the peripheral regions of the West Nordic countries as part of the High North complexities. Through students' own experiences from the region, the programme will offer a comparative perspective in meeting the urgent challenges the region is facing today including the social implications of climate

and environmental change affecting scarce populations and micro-economies; long distances; limited working opportunities; gender issues in society and education; threats to indigenous culture and societal security; contested issues of identity and cultural heritage; the quest for natural resources; geopolitics, sovereignty and regional cooperation; good governance and autonomy.

3.2. Prescribed period of study

The Master's Programme is prescribed to 120 ECTS points corresponding to two years of full-time study. See section 9 for description of programme structure and number of ECTS points taken at the University of the Faroe Islands and number of ECTS points taken abroad at partner universities.

4. Admission requirements

4.1. Eligibility

To be considered eligible for enrolment, students:

- Must have passed a bachelor's programme with at least 60 ECTS points within the Social Sciences areas including the Bachelor thesis;

or

- have obtained equivalent academic qualifications and at least three years professional experience related to the area of West Nordic governance and/or sustainable management.

In other cases, e.g. if applicants hold a Natural Sciences or Humanities based bachelor's degree, the Programme Director together with the admission committee will make a concrete assessment of adequacy of social science components.

4.2. Additional requirements

- Qualifications within social science methods.
20 ECTS passed within the subject area Social Science Methods. This includes both qualitative and quantitative methods. Competences obtained must be at a bachelor's level. The Director of Studies together with the appointed programme committee will make a concrete assessment of the fulfilment of this criterion.
- Language qualifications.
Nordic applicants (including Faroese applicants) are required to document proficiency in English equivalent to Faroese Upper Secondary Diploma with B-level or Upper Secondary Diploma with B-level.
Other applicants with English as their second language must pass an IELTS or TOEFL test before enrolment. The following tests and scores are accepted:
 - IELTS test (British Council) with a minimum score of 6.0
 - Paper-based TOEFL test with a minimum score of 550 points
 - Internet-based TOEFL test with a minimum score of 80 points

For further information regarding application and enrolment, please see the university webpage (under Master's Programmes and West Nordic Studies).

4.3. Restrictions on intake of students

There is a restricted intake of students, which is set yearly and announced at least three months prior to application deadline. Currently the intake maximum is set to 25 students and one class. Priority is given to Faroese nationals, secondly to Nordic applicants, thirdly other international applicants. The University will strive to compose the class according to a 4 : 1 : 2 relationship and based on an evaluation of qualifications. For further information regarding application and enrolment, please see the university webpage (under Master's Programmes and West Nordic Studies).

5. Degree title

Upon completion of the programme, graduates are entitled to use the title Master of Social Sciences (MSSc) in West Nordic Studies, Governance and Sustainable Management as awarded by the University of the Faroe Islands. If students also meet the requirements of the Joint Nordic Master in West Nordic Studies, Governance and Sustainable Management as set in the Agreement between the University of Greenland, the University of Akureyri in Iceland, the University of Iceland and Nord University, coastal Norway, students are also entitled to use the title of Nordic Master. See www.westnordicstudies.net for more information about the Joint Nordic Master.

6. Programme competences

The Master's programme as a whole shall provide the students with a range of generic and subject-specific competences. Individual courses will provide students with course-specific learning outcomes as a way of achieving these programme competences.

6.1. Generic competences

- Theoretical knowledge: Knowledge and understanding of the main theories, approaches, methodologies, and on-going nature of research and debate of governance and sustainable management.
- Reflexive and critical thinking: Ability to be reflexive, critical and self-critical about knowledge and theories of governance and sustainable management in a Faroese and West Nordic perspective.
- Ability to distinguish between different philosophies of science: ability to distinguish between foundational and anti-foundational philosophies of science with which to discuss different governance and sustainable management approaches in both theory and practice.
- Ability to retrieve and handle information from a variety of own and others' sources (electronic, written, oral) as appropriate to the problem, integrating it critically into a grounded narrative.
- Working autonomously, designing strategies and managing time: ability to organise complex efforts, integrating the results of diverse studies and analyses and producing the required product(s) according to the established deadlines.
- Communication: Ability to communicate complex issues both orally and through the written word in English.
- Creativity: Capacity to generate new ideas in relation to complex issues and communicate them to both academic and non-academic audiences.

- Dialogue in practice: Ability to interact with others in a constructive manner, even when dealing with difficult issues.
- Green responsibility: Commitment to act locally and/or globally towards a more sustainable society.

6.2. Subject-specific competences

- Empirical knowledge: In-depth knowledge and understanding of Faroese and West Nordic approaches to and experiences with governance and sustainable management in relation to the West Nordic Region as part of High North complexities, including a broad sense of actors, social dynamics, and social issues of small (micro) societies.
- Awareness of West Nordic work life: Ability to work in a West Nordic context and to interact constructively with others regardless of background and culture and respecting diversity.
- Knowledge of at least two specific thematic areas besides knowledge of governance and sustainability (international relations, philosophy of science (and history of ideas), modern history of the Faroe Islands, law (and West Nordic Constitutionalism), gender, indigenous peoples, and narrative studies).
- Knowledge of a West Nordic country: Detailed knowledge and understanding of a specific West Nordic country, and the issues and debates concerning governance and sustainable management regarding it.
- Planning and delivering an individual research-based contribution to governance and sustainability knowledge bearing on a significant problem.

7. Learning outcomes

Upon graduation of the Master's Programme, graduates can demonstrate ability to:

- Present a solid understanding of sustainability, climate, and environment, especially concerning the Human-Nature relationship.
- Describe, analyse and discuss difficult and complex scientific and practical challenges relating to climate and environmental governance and sustainable management in both a Faroese and a broader West Nordic perspective.
- Describe, analyse and discuss difficult and complex issues of how the West Nordic Region is situated within broader High North/Arctic realities.
- Describe, analyse and discuss differences between “disciplinary approaches”; i.e. mono-, intra-, multi-, cross-, inter-, and transdisciplinarity.
- Critically answer and discuss questions about how science, policy, economics, and society relate to each other in both theory and practice.
- Demonstrate team-work skills to plan and produce a joint communication product to a non-academic audience.
- Demonstrate skills in communication of new knowledge based on own material to a non-academic audience.
- Present academic reflections about own dialogue with society on a given topic.
- Demonstrate ability to plan and deliver an individual research-based contribution in the form of a Master's thesis drawing on the empirical foundation learned through the core courses of the programme.

8. Employment and further studies

The Master's Programme will qualify students to work at Master's level in government, business or civil society organisations managing issues relating to good governance, climate change, and sustainability in the West Nordic Region. Other work areas include education and tourism.

The Master's Programme will qualify students to gain access to related 3rd cycle (doctoral) programmes in Humanities and Social Sciences and/or West Nordic and Arctic Studies.

9. Structure and content

9.1. Structure

The Master's Programme is first and foremost built in conjunction with the other partner universities' similar Master's Programmes and courses. Students from the University of the Faroe Islands will have a range of opportunities to combine courses from the five universities and thus build very specific and unique profiles. The first, second, and third semester all offer opportunities to study abroad. The fourth semester offers students the opportunity to apply knowledge and competencies learned so far in a more focused and independent research project.

Each semester follows a structure of 30 ECTS points equal to full-time studies. The Master's thesis is the last element in the programme, and thus, students must have passed the required courses equal to 90 ECTS points before commencing on the thesis.

From the University of the Faroe Islands, students are required to take a minimum of two core courses equal to 20 ECTS points and write a Master's thesis equal to 30 ECTS points. Core courses and Master's thesis must be approved by the Programme Director and fall within the overall purpose and themes of the programme.

To obtain the Joint Nordic Master degree, students are required to take the joint introduction course equal to 10 ECTS points. And students are required to have taken courses equal to a minimum of 30 ECTS points from at least one partner university.

Each semester, the University of the Faroe Islands offers a minimum of courses or project work in English and equal to 30 ECTS points in total. Core courses are mainly taught during the autumn semester. Projects and electives may be taught during the autumn, spring, and as intensive summer courses.

9.1.1. General focus of the Master's Programme

The programme is research and practice based, and core courses at the University of the Faroe Islands are oriented towards applied knowledge and dialogue with societal actors. Focus is on three overarching themes of governance, sustainability, and the West Nordic region. Emphasis is on developing a broad overview of governance and sustainability issues from a transdisciplinary perspective in both theory and practice. Transdisciplinarity in this context means challenging traditional disciplinary boundaries as well as bringing in non-academic perspectives in dialogue for cross-cutting social and political problems that cannot be understood and explained within traditional monodisciplinary perspectives. Elements from climate science, language and culture can also be incorporated in courses.

Courses at partner universities are also research based and oriented towards the West Nordic region and social science approaches to issues of the High North. See the joint programme webpage for further information about partner universities and specialisations (www.westnordicstudies.net).

9.1.2. Specialist focus of the Master's Programme

Emphasis is on a comparative perspective of the urgent challenges that the West Nordic region is facing today including the political and social implications of climate and environmental change affecting scarce populations and micro-economies; long distances; limited working opportunities; gender issues in society and education; threats to indigenous culture and societal security; contested issues of identity and cultural heritage; the quest for natural resources; geopolitics, sovereignty, and regional cooperation; and good governance and autonomy.

9.1.3. Signing up to courses

Before the beginning of each semester, students will sign up to core courses, elective courses, and/or projects. All courses must be approved by the Programme Director. Information about content and availability of all courses and projects, and how to sign up, is available on the university webpage (under education, programmes, and courses).

Students are automatically signed up for the joint introduction course in Akureyri.

Courses taught at the University of the Faroe Islands are open to other West Nordic students. The Programme is mainly taught in English.

For some courses provided by partner universities there are a limited number of available seats, so students need to apply to the partner universities to be admitted. Application procedures are described on the joint webpage (www.westnordicstudies.net).

All courses taken at partner universities must also be approved by the Study Board. Information about how to apply for approval and transferral of ECTS points is available on the university webpage.

9.1.4. First semester

Students will take an introductory course at University of Akureyri, Iceland, equal to 10 ECTS points. For the rest of the first semester, equal to 20 ECTS points, students can either take courses at the University of the Faroe Islands or students can take courses at a partner university. Information about studying abroad, deadlines, and application procedures is available on the joint website (www.westnordicstudies.net).

9.1.5. Second semester

The second semester is usually spent abroad at a partner university where a number of courses are offered within the programme. Information about studying abroad, deadlines, and application procedures is available on the joint website (www.westnordicstudies.net). Students may also stay in the Faroe Islands.

9.1.6. Third semester

The third semester is usually spent at the University of the Faroe Islands. Students may also study at a partner university. Information about studying abroad, deadlines, and application procedures is available on the joint website (www.westnordicstudies.net).

9.1.7. Fourth semester

The fourth semester is spent at the University of the Faroe Islands writing the Master's thesis as well as participating in a mandatory thesis seminar (see sections 9.2.5, 9.2.6. and 9.2.7. for further information). The thesis and seminar combined equal 30 ECTS points.

9.2. Content

The content of the programme at the University of the Faroe Islands is made up of 1) core courses, 2) elective courses (at home or abroad), 3) project work, 4) practice learning work placement, and 5) the Master's thesis. Each course, the project work, and practice learning work placement will have their own course descriptions available on the university webpage. Course descriptions will describe title, aim, content, learning and teaching approaches, assessment method, learning outcomes, prerequisites, bibliography, examination (e.g. internal or external), marking scale, and level (e.g. master or bachelor).

ECTS points are set based on workload which can be expected from students at the required level for completion of the specific course in question. 60 ECTS points equal one year full-time studies. 1 ECTS point equals 27.5 hours of work (including preparation, teaching, and examination).

9.2.1. Core courses

All core courses are research and practice based and relate to at least one core theme of the programme. They are all 10 ECTS points equal to roughly 275 hours of which 40-45 hours are teaching, including guest lectures by visiting researchers and practitioners. Field visits (dialogue) and communication project supervision (practice) are also included the 40-45 hours. The remaining hours are divided into preparation, reading, project work, and examination. Students are responsible for planning their own time.

Core courses are based on the same learning elements; classroom teaching, practical experience with dissemination of knowledge, and dialogue with society.

1. Classroom (50 %): This is the traditional type of teaching and class discussion of a fixed curriculum to be read in advance of classes. Classroom teaching will introduce different topics, but most importantly will be used to reflect upon and discuss the other activities such as guest lectures and field visits to lift these activities to a higher academic and analytical level.
2. Practice (25 %): This type of activity can be any kind of practical experience with the specific topics that are part of the course. It can be writing a blog, making (YouTube) videos, posters, public speaking, analyses for newspapers, or a radio programme about the different topics (cf. portfolio teaching and examination). Preparation time is allocated as part of the course and supervision is provided for by the teacher. It can be any kind of dissemination or work with new knowledge gained through own interviews or observations. Research design, methodology and methods discussions are central to this building block. The lecturer functions more as a supervisor than a teacher.
3. Dialogue (25 %): This refers to activities where teachers and students engage in dialogue with society, e.g. political, business, and civil society actors. It is envisaged that students help prepare these dialogue meetings and also present problems and challenges learned in class and initiate

dialogue with the practitioners. Afterwards, in the classroom and in practical activities teachers and students reflect on the dialogue activity and include these reflections in the final examination.

The courses' curricula are based on 800-1.000 pages of mainly academic literature in English, but should also include specific and up to date policy reports and other case material to be used in exams. Maximum 200 pages can be non-academic/empirical literature.

The courses have an integrated use of methodology and methods as part of the practical elements.

The courses offer a clear orientation towards current and future context of the West Nordic region, including governance and sustainability.

The courses combine written and oral exams.

9.2.2. Elective courses

Elective courses are all other courses offered at the University of the Faroe Islands, or partner universities and which fall within the purpose and themes of the programme.

The Programme Director will approve elective courses.

9.2.3. Project work

The project will offer students hands-on experience with a sustainability project. Currently, students can work on projects related to the University of the Faroe Islands' Green Student-House. Three types of project work are available (5, 10, and 15 ECTS points). The aim of these projects is to give students experience with planning and carrying out a self-defined sustainability project and placing it in a larger context of the transition of Faroese society to a sustainable future. See the university webpage for course description and more information.

9.2.4. Practice learning work placement

The aim of practice learning is to broaden *the academic work skills* of the student and additionally create a *connection* between the programme and the labour market. The work placement period follows the academic year, and begins at either about 1 September and ends at 1 January, or at about 1 February and ends at about 1 June. Ten days of the work placement period have been allocated to being present at the place of education. Attendance is compulsory for these days. The practice learning work placement and the supervision equal 25 ECTS points. The practice learning report is customarily between 8,000 and 12,000 words long.

The practice learning work is based on a joint agreement between the department (Programme Director), the practical learning workplace, and the student. The objective of the agreement is to ensure that the student is doing academically relevant work by insight/assignments in the daily work of the place.

9.2.5. Master's thesis

The Master's thesis is the final element in the programme. Students must follow and pass a mandatory thesis seminar (see section 9.2.7.) which is taught during the fourth semester. The Master's thesis can be done individually or by groups of two or three students. Through their work on the thesis, the students must demonstrate proficiency in making use of the programme's

methodologies and theories in relation to an independent analysis of an issue relevant to governance and sustainable management in a West Nordic perspective.

Thesis learning outcomes

Generic and specific thesis learning outcomes are described below:

Generic thesis learning outcomes

The students must, independently and critically, be able to:

- Display comprehensive knowledge of the thesis topic and relevant theory and methods.
- Display experience of and insight into the practical application of theory and methodology in drawing up a comprehensive analysis as part of a prolonged work process.
- Demonstrate ability to plan and deliver an individual research-based contribution in the form of a Master's thesis drawing on the empirical and theoretical foundation learned through the core courses of the programme.
- Formulate, identify, and profile the problem covered by the thesis.
- Select, discuss and apply relevant theoretical concepts and conceptual structures in conjunction with the analysis, and, if appropriate, connect empirical analysis to theoretical insights and perspectives.
- Select, discuss and apply relevant methodological approaches to the analysis, and select, identify, collate and process primary or secondary theoretical and empirical material of relevance to the analysis.
- Present the results of the analysis with logical structure and clarity of language such that answers are provided to the formulated question(s).
- Communicate specialised knowledge at a high academic level in English.
- Set up clear research question(s), research objectives, and research design, and provide systematic and logical research-based answers to the question(s) and objectives.
- Independently analyse and reflect upon societal problems and possibly solutions.
- Critically evaluate own work by reflecting upon the research design and discussing its strengths and weaknesses.

Specific thesis learning outcomes

The students must, independently and critically, be able to:

- Describe, analyse and discuss difficult and complex scientific and practical challenges relating to climate and environmental governance and sustainable management in a West Nordic perspective.
- Display experience of and insight into the practical application of a transdisciplinary approach in drawing up a comprehensive analysis as part of a prolonged work process.
- Develop, discuss and apply a transdisciplinary approach and research design in relation to the research question(s) and objectives.
- Select, discuss and apply relevant theoretical concepts in an analysis of governance and sustainable management and be able to connect empirical analysis of a West Nordic topic to theoretical insight(s) and perspective(s).

- Communicate specialised knowledge of governance and sustainable management in a West Nordic perspective at a high academic level, and be able to do so in English.
- Analyse and reflect on societal, climate, and environmental problems and possibly solutions related to governance and sustainable management in a West Nordic perspective.

Thesis content and research question

The content of the thesis (research theme) must relate to issue(s) of governance and sustainable management in a West Nordic perspective. Students must formulate a research question at the beginning of the semester as part of the thesis seminar (see section 9.2.7.). Research theme must be approved by the Programme Director, and the research question must be approved by the thesis supervisor.

Literature

There are no specific literature requirements for the thesis, but it must contain a bibliography.

Extent

The thesis is prescribed to 30 ECTS credits.

The length of the thesis and the summary (excluding the front page, table of content, figures, tables, bibliography, and appendices) must not exceed:

- For one student: Minimum 24,500 and maximum 28,000 words.
- For two students: Minimum 36,750 words and maximum 42,000 words.
- For three students: Minimum 49,000 words and maximum 56,000 words.

The thesis must include:

- Front page including name of student(s), student number(s), name of supervisor, date of thesis submission, and a word count.
- A summary (maximum 350 words).
- A table of content.
- A bibliography.

The thesis layout should have:

- Top, bottom, and side margins of at least 2.5 cm.
- Line distance of at least 1.5.
- Page numbers.

Appendices may be included in print and/or available online.

Thesis submission

The thesis must be submitted in two bound copies. In addition, the thesis must be submitted in digital form. Students must have passed the thesis seminar (see section 9.2.7.) to submit the thesis.

Assessment

Oral examination on the background of the written thesis, and externally graded according to the seven-point scale. Writing and spelling skills form part of the overall assessment of the thesis, although the academic content will carry the greatest weight. When assessing a thesis, weight is also placed on the written and oral summary.

The thesis is assessed by the supervisor and an external examiner. If a secondary supervisor has been involved in the thesis, then the principal supervisor must consult the former before grading the thesis. A written assessment of the thesis, consisting of a maximum of one page, is drawn up.

Assessment criteria

The grade 12 is awarded for an excellent performance, which demonstrates complete fulfilment of the thesis requirements and learning outcomes, and, with no or few minor deficiencies, lives up to the following assessment criteria:

- The thesis deals independently and critically with a relevant theme chosen by the student.
- There is a high degree of cohesion between content and communication in and of the thesis.
- The thesis is constructed on independent analysis based on primary and/or secondary sources.
- The thesis makes use of the independent application of theory/theoretical reflection/theoretical contextualisation.
- The thesis includes an account of, justification for, and discussion of the research question(s), research objectives, and research design, and the critical/reflective use of empirical and/or theoretical sources.
- All key concepts are defined and discussed.
- All material assertions are substantiated and/or reasoned.
- The formulated problem is answered in the thesis.
- The thesis is characterised by independence, boldness and/or originality in its theme selection, methodology, data-collection, analytical work and/or theoretical reflection, and/or the thesis deals with a difficult problem/topic and/or the thesis generates new (theoretical and/or empirical) knowledge.

The grade 7 is awarded for a good performance, in which the thesis, with a number of deficiencies, lives up to the thesis's objectives and learning outcomes, and/or reveals a lesser degree of independence in the analysis.

The grade 02 is given to adequate performance, in which the thesis only meets the minimum acceptable level of fulfilment of the thesis's objectives and learning outcomes, and the criteria for achievement of targets, i.e. it is characterised by a dependent and/or superficial analysis and/or by uncritical and/or direct quoting of sources.

Deadlines and number of attempts

Students are subject to the rules on deadlines and number of attempts, etc. for thesis writing, as per the general rules and guidelines.

The thesis must be submitted within the semester of writing; for the spring semester the deadline is 1 June at 12.00 noon. If the 1 June falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or the University is otherwise closed, the deadline will be the nearest later date. For the autumn semester the deadline is 2 January at 12.00 noon. If the 2 January falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or the University is otherwise closed, the deadline will be the nearest later date.

If the thesis is not submitted before the deadline for the first attempt, the student is entitled to a new (second) attempt. If the thesis is not submitted before the deadline for the second attempt, the student is given a new (third) attempt. Deadlines for the second and third attempts are set in the general University rules. If the thesis is not submitted before the deadline for the third attempt, or is submitted by the deadline but assessed as "Fail", and the student fails to obtain an exemption allowing for a fourth attempt, the student's registration at the University may be terminated.

9.2.6. Master's thesis supervision

The students are assigned an internal supervisor based on application stating choice of topic. For spring semester, applications must be sent to the Programme Director by the end of second week in January. For autumn semester, applications must be sent to the Programme Director by the end of first week in August. Only in certain circumstances can the student be given an external supervisor. Supervision is normally carried out by postdocs, assistant professors, associate professors, or professors. External associate faculty may, upon application to the Director of Programme, be assigned as main or secondary supervisors.

The Programme Director assigns appropriate hours for supervision.

9.2.7. Master's thesis seminar

Thesis-writing involves students using the theories and methods of the programme to produce a major, written academic assignment that analyses an issue chosen by the student.

A mandatory part of writing the thesis is the thesis seminar, which provides students with general knowledge and guidance in the formulation of research questions, research objectives, in the development and application of research design, use of methodology, writing assignments, structuring both the written product and management of the workflow, as well as other relevant elements. An important element of the thesis seminar is the students' own active participation, and students are required to both present their own work and give critical feedback to the work of others.

The seminar is passed based on active participation. Participation in the thesis seminars may take different forms, but normally entails that the student(s) present(s) two draft thesis papers (between 10 and 20 pages), provide critical feedback to other students' presentations, and participate(s) in discussions thereof.

The thesis seminar is scheduled for the fourth semester.

10. Pass requirements

Successful completion of the Master's Programme requires that all graded exams at the University of the Faroe Islands are passed with a score of at least 02 (on the 7-point marking scale), while those

assessed on a “pass/fail” basis must be passed. All exams from partner universities must be passed according to partners’ criteria.

The 7-point marking scale is as follows 12, 10, 7, 4, 02, 00, -3 (corresponding to A, B, C, D, E, F, Fx). 12 is the highest mark. See also the general rules on the university webpage.

10.1. General information about exams

The objective of the examination is to assess whether, and to what extent, the students’ qualifications comply with the stated objectives, competences and academic requirements of each course. Assessments of performance are based on the academic goals set for the course concerned, cf. the grading scale.

Regarding registration and withdrawal from classes and exams; make-up exams and resits; exam attempts; special examination conditions; examination cheating; and examination appeals; the university’s general rules and guidelines apply.

10.2. Assessment

An examination has been successfully completed when the assessment “Pass” or the grade 02 or higher is awarded. Successfully completed courses and exams cannot be taken again.

Examinations are either internal or external. Internal examinations are assessed solely by the internal examiner(s) at the University. External examinations are assessed by the internal examiner(s) and an appointed external examiner.

10.3. Exam language

The exam language is the same as the language of instruction in the course being examined; for core courses the exam language will be English.

10.4. Oral exams

Oral exams are taken as individual tests and take the form of a conversation between the student and examiner(s). The external examiner does, however, have the right to participate in the discussion on an equal footing with the internal examiner(s). There may be up to two internal examiners present, if the course has been taught equally by more than one teacher.

The rules for specific oral exams (for all courses and projects) are stipulated in the individual course descriptions.

10.4.1. Oral portfolio exam

All exams for the core courses are oral portfolio exams.

Portfolio refers to the prerequisite that one or several practice-based communication products must be produced throughout the course. It is a prerequisite that a minimum of one of the products has been presented to a non-academic audience.

These products can be produced individually or in groups. The products may be any relevant form of communication. In order to sign up for the final exam the lecturer must approve these products.

An oral portfolio exam is an individual, oral examination based on a communication product and a short written paper that explains the communication product as well as reflects upon the presentation and reception of the product. The written paper must be maximum 1,500 words.

Each student in a group (of maximum three) is examined individually. No other member of a group may be present during the examination. And group members may not discuss the exam until all members have been examined.

The examination will last approximately 30 minutes including assessment. Students are allowed to bring an outline consisting of keywords (max. 100 words) and their written paper (including portfolio) to the exam. No comments or other marks may be added to the outline. The student may begin the exam with a short presentation of up to five minutes. However, the examiners will read the written paper before the exam. The exam includes a wider discussion of the entire syllabus as the examiner is required to conduct the examination within it.

The assessment is based both on the written paper including the communication project (1/3 of the mark) and on the oral performance (2/3 of the mark). The exam is assessed by an external examiner and graded according to the seven point scale.

10.5. Written exams

Written exam assignments can be done individually or by groups of two or three students. Assignments will always be assessed by two examiners (two internal or one internal and one external). The Programme Director oversees that rules and procedures are followed.

The individual course descriptions outline the specific form of examination used.

11. Transfers

Students may apply for transfer of courses passed at other universities. All transfer applications must be sent to the Study Board. See university webpage for guideline.

12. Studying abroad

12.1. Joint Nordic Master's Degree

To obtain the Joint Nordic Master degree, students are required to take the joint introduction course equal to 10 ECTS points. Students are required to have taken courses equal to a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 70 ECTS points from at least one partner university.

Information about application procedures is available on the joint webpage (www.westnordicstudies.net)

12.2. Other universities

Students may study up to 30 ECTS points at a different university. Courses must be approved by the Programme Director and the Study Board before the courses commence. Courses must be in accordance with the purpose and general themes of the Master's programme. The application should include full course descriptions and literature lists.

13. Complaints and examination appeals

Information about rules and procedures regarding complaints and examination appeals is available on the university webpages. Complaints should always be written and may be in English, Danish, and Faroese.

14. Other regulations

For all other matters and regulations, e.g. regarding change of programme, withdrawal of enrolment, leave of absence, cheating and ethical code, the university's rules and guidelines apply.

15. Curriculum amendment

The curriculum content may be amended once a year so that any changes will come into effect at the beginning of the academic year. Amendments may be proposed by the Programme Director and the Study Board and approved by the Study Board. If amendments are made to this curriculum, an interim arrangement may be added if necessary to allow students to complete their Master's Programme according to the amended curriculum.

Notification about amendments that tighten the admission requirements for the programme will be published on the university and joint programme webpages at least three years before the application deadline.