

Programme Description

Work Integrated Learning specializing in Political Studies

SAWIP-H26

Beslutande	Institutionsnämnd
Dokumentansvarig	Laurence Piper, Linnéa Carlsson
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bindande.*

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Grunddata

Department	School of Business, Economics and IT
Section	Division of Urban Planning and Development
Name of Programme, Swedish	Arbetsintegrerade politiska studier, masterprogram
Name of Programme, English	Work Integrated Political Studies
HE credits (number of credits)	120
Level (1st Cycle, 2nd Cycle)	2nd Cycle
Entry requirements, Swedish	Kandidatexamen om 180 hp inom det samhällsvetenskapliga fältet, eller motsvarande. Engelska 6 eller motsvarande.
Entry requirements, English	Bachelor degree of 180 HE credits within the field of Social Science, or equivalent. Verified knowledge of English corresponding to the course English 6 in the Swedish Upper Secondary School or equivalent.
Main field of study, Swedish	Arbetsintegrerat lärande
Main field of study, English	Work Integrated Learning
Degree, Swedish	Filosofie masterexamen med huvudområde arbetsintegrerat lärande med inriktning mot politiska studier
Degree, English	Degree of Master of Arts (120 credits) with a major in Work Integrated Learning with a specialization in Political Studies
Rate of study (full-time, part-time)	Full-time
Type of instruction (on campus, distance teaching)	On campus
Language of instruction (Sw, Eng)	Eng

1 Background

Policies and political decisions form and influence the social, economic, and environmental world we live in. This program develops new perspectives on how knowledge production, combined with learning authentic work experiences, can influence societal change through applied work-integrated political studies.

Our interdisciplinary program, centered around Work Integrated Learning (WIL), prepares students to understand governance and political issues in various sectors. The program structure and outline are framed and connected to the university's priority focus on WIL, enhanced by the overall WIL research environment.

2 Program information

The main field of study is Work Integrated Learning (WIL), leading to a Master of Arts degree (120 credits) in WIL with a specialization in political studies. The program is particularly useful for politically oriented professions in public administration, NGO's and private corporations, in Sweden as well as internationally. The studies prepare students for professional work across cultural and national borders to develop, implement and lead projects handling governance-oriented issues for societal change.

The program's pedagogical philosophy is based on the belief that students learn more effectively if knowledge and skills are applied through internships and authentic workplace activities. This WIL philosophy aligns well with the principles of lifelong learning that are required in a constantly changing world, posed by evolving governance challenges such as the climate crisis, and international conflicts.

Students will be challenged to write a substantial thesis on WIL, specializing in political studies, as a culmination of their 2-year studies.

3 Program structure and overview

The program is structured into four terms, each comprising 30 credits in total.

The second term is the practice term, which means that students have the opportunity to conduct a more traditional research internship, see course FOP600, or an authentic workplace practice module, see course FPP600.

Students enrolling in FOP600 are recommended to take the course reflection and portfolio (AIL612) to gain the most from their internship experience. This combination of courses also opens up the possibility of going abroad for an internship.

Term 1

AIL601 | WIL in Theory and Practice | 15 hp

PIS600 | Political Ideas, Institutions and Issues | 15 hp | A1N | Political Science

Term 2

Of the program's mandatory courses, you can choose one 15-credit option from the courses below:

FOP600 | Research Internship | 15 hp

FPP600 | From Problem To Prototype: Work-Integrated Learning Through Collaborative Problem Solving | 15 hp | A1N | Work-Integrated Learning

In addition, students are to choose an additional 15 credits. You can choose from the courses below:

AIL612 | WIL: Reflection and Portfolio | 15 hp

LIS600 | Literature Review – structured reading with supervision 15 hp | A1N | Social Science

Term 3

SDO700 | Contemporary Debates on Global Dynamics | 15 hp | A1F | Political Science

TFM700 | Applied Research Methods | 15 hp

Term 4

EXA910 | Thesis: WIL with a Specialization in Political Studies | 30 hp | A2E | Work Integrated Learning

4 Research basis of the program

Work-integrated learning (WIL) is an interdisciplinary subject related primarily to the social sciences and the humanities. The subject is focused on the relationship between

working life and learning. Working life is broadly defined and includes forms other than wage work, for example care work in the home. The concept of learning is understood in a broad sense and includes change and socialization processes linked to knowledge and competence. Research interests are linked to working and learning conditions, organization, processes, content, forms, and consequences. Research in the subject includes, but is not limited to, studies on work in changing processes, the relationship between education and work, and social conditions for learning in work. The focus of the studies can be individuals, groups, organizations, mechanisms, or structures.

WIL scholars at University West come from four thematic areas: Transition, management, and digitalization; professionals' learning in working life; student learning in higher education; co-creative societal development. WIL, as an approach to working life and learning, can be linked to any social science field, and the complete academic environment of WIL consequently encourages a transdisciplinary approach. This means that students from any social science background can find their place in the WIL master's program.

The program is based on WIL and enables an approach that integrates academic studies and research on contemporary challenges regarding societal development. Students get to reflect on how different stages in the research process are applied to working life. Moreover, students are exposed to authentic work practices and real-world scenarios and are encouraged to propose solutions to various governance and political issues. The program places a contextual emphasis on global dynamics and political ideas, institutions and issues.

5 The labor market and collaboration

By focusing on contemporary governance and political dynamics, through contact with authentic work practices, the program is a good academic training that includes exposure to the world of work. While it does not guarantee a job, as is the case with any degree, it will enhance students' preparedness for employment. Upon graduation, students will have the skills and knowledge to be competitive in pursuing various job opportunities within government, education, training and development. Some potential avenues of work for graduates of this program include, although not limited to: administration, planning, project leading, political action, and analysis in municipalities, regional authorities, state and international organizations, NGOs, as well as private companies.

6 Internationalization

The program has a strong international character and exposes students to different global approaches and perspectives. Additionally, international case studies enable students to reflect on a global context in relation to political studies. Throughout the program, students are invited to analyze and reflect on cultural, economic, and political factors that influence WIL across the globe.

Even though University West is a small player on the global university map, the program draws the interest of students from many different countries. Emphasizing the value of diversity, we actively encourage students to engage in multicultural teams for projects, assignments, and other coursework.

7 Other information

Upon graduation, you receive a master's degree in Arts with a major in Work Integrated Learning, specialized in Political Studies. The degree opens up opportunities for doctoral studies in many fields of social science, including the PhD program in Work Integrated Learning at University West.