

Social and cultural anthropology

Postgraduate degree requirements 2015–2017

Student admissions

Applications for postgraduate studies in social and cultural anthropology are assessed by the Faculty of Social Sciences. As a rule, those accepted as postgraduate students have achieved a grade of *magna cum laude approbatur* or higher for their Master's thesis or have completed an equivalent thesis elsewhere. However, an applicant who has received a lower grade may also be admitted if the applicant's proposed research plan and other merits give reason to believe that he or she is well equipped to successfully complete postgraduate studies.

Supervision of dissertations

The teachers responsible for postgraduate studies in anthropology will appoint a person to supervise the work of the postgraduate student. If required, a specialist in the dissertation's topic or ethnographic field may be appointed as a second supervisor to provide additional instructions on analysing the material and to help ensure that the completed dissertation is of the required international quality.

Targets and progress of postgraduate studies

Postgraduate studies usually culminate in a doctoral degree. For a Licentiate's degree, students complete the same studies as for a doctoral degree but the thesis need not be as extensive.

Postgraduate studies in anthropology include fieldwork during which students collect research data for their dissertation. The estimated duration of studies is four years, consisting of the following stages:

1st year

Students prepare for fieldwork during the first two terms. At the beginning of their studies, postgraduate students must present their research proposal in the anthropology research seminar. The teachers and other postgraduates participating in the seminar will provide feedback and suggestions based on which the students can clarify or reformulate their research question. They are expected to present a specified research proposal in the following term. If the proposal presented at the first seminar is well and comprehensively formulated, the student need not present it a second time. After the second seminar, students return the final version of their research proposal, which must be 7,000 to 8,000 words in length. The proposal is examined by the supervisor(s) and a separately appointed teacher in the discipline, and its acceptance is based on their statement. Fieldwork may not begin until the research proposal has been accepted.

2nd year

Fieldwork typically lasts 12 to 15 months, during which time students collect the research data they need for their dissertation. At this stage, students are required to be in frequent contact with their supervisor to discuss any problems encountered during the fieldwork and ways to prepare for problems in advance, as well as to ensure that the fieldwork produces relevant material. Successful supervision during fieldwork is

an essential element in ensuring that the research data is extensive enough and suitable for answering the research question.

3rd and 4th years

Students write their dissertations during the four terms following fieldwork. They present a fieldwork report describing the research data they collected at the first seminar after their fieldwork. Students must exhibit at least one finished chapter of their dissertation at each seminar, but it is recommended that they present several chapters at regular intervals over the course of the writing process. When nearing the completion of their dissertation, students give a final report on their analyses of and conclusions from the data and case material. The seminar is part of the dissertation supervision, and the feedback from it should be discussed in greater detail with the supervisor.

Degree requirements

The doctoral degree consists of 60 credits of studies, which are planned together with the supervisor. Information about completed studies is kept up-to-date in the Student Register. There are two categories of postgraduate studies:

1. General scientific and academic knowledge and competence (10 cr)

These studies may include general courses offered by the Doctoral School in Humanities and Social Sciences and by the Doctoral Programme in Social Sciences, as well as courses in philosophy of science, research ethics and university pedagogy offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences. Participation in conferences and summer schools is also suitable for this module. If required, publications and teaching by the postgraduate may be included in these studies.

2. Theoretical and methodological foundation of the student's discipline and the dissertation (50 cr)

a) Research seminar 10 cr

The first-year studies include two terms of active seminar participation, which are equivalent to 5 credits in all. After their fieldwork, students present a field report, at least one chapter of their dissertation and a final report at the research seminar. These grant another 5 credits.

b) Studies related to the dissertation 40 cr

In addition to the preparations for the dissertation, postgraduate studies in anthropology include courses in the form of lectures and seminars and/or supervised writing of literature reviews and academic essays. The supervisor and student agree on the specific content, which is confirmed by the teachers responsible for postgraduate education. The purpose of studies is to broaden the student's research skills and anthropological expertise in three fields:

- i. Comparative ethnography
- ii. General anthropological theory
- iii. Research theory relevant to the student's research topic

Students must complete at least 15 credits of the dissertation-related studies before embarking on fieldwork. The goal is to ensure that the students' expertise is not confined to a narrow area of specialisation. Postgraduates must be able to explain the significance of their research questions based on the theories of comparative ethnography and general anthropology.

Social work

Postgraduate degree requirements 2015–2017

Students may complete the 60 credits required for a doctoral degree in many different ways. They plan their studies together with their supervisor, and keep the register information about the courses they complete up-to-date in cooperation with the professor in charge of postgraduate studies. Learning through research, and participating in the research community's activities, form the basis for postgraduate studies in social work. There are two categories of postgraduate studies:

1. General scientific and academic knowledge and competence (25–35 cr)

These studies include, for example, philosophy of science, research ethics, university pedagogy, participation in conferences and summer schools, and general courses offered by the Doctoral School and Doctoral Programme. Students are advised to include studies in university pedagogy or management, as well as research ethics or philosophy of science in their degree.

2. Theoretical and methodological foundation of the student's discipline and the dissertation (25–35 cr)

These studies include postgraduate seminars and theoretical and methodological studies.

Postgraduate seminars

Students are required to participate in specific postgraduate seminars. In social work seminars (5 credits each), students learn to conduct academic discussions related to their research topic and to serve as an opponent to other postgraduates' work. They will also obtain a broader perspective on the different research trends, methods and questions in social work that they are likely to encounter during their dissertation work. The seminar papers will also examine the status of social work in society, and the seminars may feature guest lecturers. Students must participate in a social work seminar for at least three terms, or in one social work seminar for two terms and in at least one thematic seminar offered by the Doctoral Programme in Social Sciences or another doctoral programme.

Seminar participation is best spread across several years. For example, students could present 1) their research plan at the outset of their postgraduate studies, 2) their ongoing research (e.g., a draft article) midway through their studies and 3) a summary of the dissertation project towards the end of their studies. However, it may be worthwhile to concentrate on seminars more at the beginning of studies.

Other studies

Theoretical and methodological studies include studies related to the students' own discipline and the dissertation topic. Participation in conferences and summer schools may also be included under this heading. The courses must be of a sufficiently high academic level to ensure that they deepen the postgraduates' knowledge of their own area of specialisation. Specialist education in social work may also be included in postgraduate social work studies.

All postgraduate students adhere to the Faculty of Social Sciences' rules and regulations regarding supervision, the annual work plan and reporting. Further information is available on the Faculty's Flamma page: <https://flamma.helsinki.fi/en/HY287639>

Supplementary studies

Postgraduate students who have not completed intermediate studies in social work must take a postgraduate examination in social work at the beginning of their studies.

Social psychology

Postgraduate degree requirements 2015–2017

Students may complete the 60 credits required for a doctoral degree in many different ways. They plan their studies together with their supervisor, and keep the register information about the courses they complete up-to-date in cooperation with the professor in charge of postgraduate studies. Postgraduate studies in social psychology are based on learning by doing. There are two categories of postgraduate studies:

1. General scientific and academic knowledge and competence (25–35 cr)

These studies include, for example, philosophy of science, research ethics, university pedagogy, participation in conferences and summer schools, and general courses offered by the Doctoral School and Doctoral Programme. Students are advised to include studies in university pedagogy or management (max. 20 credits) as well as research ethics or philosophy of science (max. 6 credits) in their degree.

2. Theoretical and methodological foundation of the student's discipline and dissertation (25–35 cr)

These studies include postgraduate seminars and theoretical and methodological studies.

Postgraduate seminars

Students are required to participate in postgraduate seminars as specified in the following. In the seminars on social psychology (4 credits each), students learn to conduct academic discussions related to their research topic and to serve as an opponent to other postgraduates' work. They will also obtain a broader perspective on the different research trends, methods and questions in social psychology that they are likely to encounter during their dissertation work. The seminar papers will also examine the status of social psychology in society, and the seminars may feature guest lecturers. Students must participate in a social psychology seminar for at least three terms, or in one social psychology seminar for two terms and in at least one thematic seminar offered by the Doctoral Programme in Social Sciences or another doctoral programme.

Seminar participation is best spread across several years. For example, students could present 1) their research plan at the outset of studies, 2) their ongoing research (e.g., a draft article) midway through their studies and 3) a summary of the dissertation project towards the end of their postgraduate studies.

However, it may be worthwhile to concentrate on seminars more at the beginning of studies.

Other studies

Theoretical and methodological studies include studies related to the students' own discipline and the dissertation topic. Participation in conferences and summer schools may also be included under this heading. The courses must be of a sufficiently high academic level to ensure that they deepen the postgraduates' knowledge of their own area of specialisation. Professional studies, such as work supervision, cannot be included in postgraduate studies.

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Supplementary studies

Postgraduate students who have not completed intermediate studies in social psychology must read the following books **at the outset** of their studies:

- Hewstone & Stroebe: Social psychology, an introduction (5th edition)
- Augoustinos, Walker & Donaghue: Social cognition: An integrated introduction (2nd edition)

They may also be required to complete 15–30 credits of Master's level studies in social psychology as agreed with the supervisor. Students sign up for the supplementary examination in WebOodi (code 7REMS06).

Sociology

Postgraduate degree requirements 2015–2017

Postgraduate degrees

The primary postgraduate degree is Doctor of Social Sciences (sociology). A Doctor of Social Sciences with sociology as the major subject is expected to have completed a Master's degree with sociology as the major subject or a Master's degree including Master's level studies in sociology. In some cases, students may complete supplementary studies to make up for missing Master's level studies. The secondary postgraduate degree is Licentiate of Social Sciences (sociology). In addition to completing a doctoral dissertation or a Licentiate thesis, students must complete a total of 60 credits of postgraduate studies.

The postgraduate studies must be based on an approved study plan drawn up in connection with the application for postgraduate studies. The coordinator of the postgraduate seminar uses the personal study plan (PSP) to monitor the progress of studies annually.

Degree requirements

1. General scientific and academic knowledge and competence (24 cr)

1.1 Philosophy of science, research ethics, university pedagogy

1.2 Participation in conferences, other scientific activities

- e.g., presentations held at national or international scientific conferences, scientific publications not related to the dissertation

1.3 General courses offered by the Doctoral School and Doctoral Programme

2. Theoretical and methodological foundation of the student's discipline and dissertation (36 cr)

2.1 Postgraduate seminars (16 cr)

Participation is obligatory in one of the postgraduate seminars arranged by the Doctoral Programme. Students will obtain three (3) credits for the terms in which they present for the first time a research proposal, a chapter from the dissertation or an article included in the dissertation, and one (1) credit for other terms, provided that they have participated actively in the seminars.

2.2 Theoretical and methodological studies (20 cr)

Master's and postgraduate studies approved by the discipline of sociology, such as Finnish or international research courses or seminars. As long as they support the dissertation process, courses completed in a discipline other than sociology may also be accepted for postgraduate studies (e.g., university-level Master's or postgraduate studies in social sciences, humanities and behavioural sciences).

Statistics

Postgraduate degree requirements 2015–2017

The doctoral degree consists of 60 credits, which are planned together with the supervisor. They may include:

1. General studies (e.g., philosophy of science, conference participation, university pedagogy)

2. Studies in the student's discipline

Discipline-specific studies include postgraduate seminars and courses, summer schools, as well as theoretical and methodological studies. The student and supervisor draw up an individual plan for the content of studies so that the student will be able to follow developments in the field and gain greater insight into his or her own area of specialisation.

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Media and communication studies

Postgraduate degree requirements 2015–2017

The postgraduate degree in media and communication studies encompasses 60 credits, which may be completed in many different ways. Students plan their studies together with their supervisor, and keep the register information about the courses they complete up-to-date in cooperation with the professor in charge of postgraduate studies. There are two categories of postgraduate studies: 1) general scientific and academic knowledge and competence, and 2) the theoretical and methodological foundation of the discipline and dissertation, which also includes the postgraduate seminar.

Students whose major subject in their Master's degree was not media and communication studies (or an equivalent discipline) must **also** take the literature examination for M2 Advanced Studies in Communication Theories and complete the course M5 Research Methods in Media and Communication. Master's graduates who had media and communications as their major subject but who completed their degree over five years ago must complete these examinations and courses as applicable.

The postgraduate studies consist of the following:

1. General scientific and academic knowledge and competence (25–30 cr)

These studies include, for example, philosophy of science, research ethics, science communication, university pedagogy, participation in conferences and summer schools, and general courses offered by the Doctoral School and Doctoral Programme. Students should include studies in university pedagogy or management, as well as research ethics and philosophy of science in their degree.

2. Theoretical and methodological foundation of the discipline (30–35 cr)

1) Theoretical and methodological studies (15–20 cr)

These studies are completed primarily through courses related to the student's discipline and dissertation topic. The courses must be of a sufficiently high academic level to ensure that they deepen the postgraduates' knowledge of their own area of specialisation. If agreed with the supervisor, texts related to the dissertation's theoretical and methodological foundation may also be included in this module. Professional studies, such as work supervision, cannot be included in postgraduate studies.

2) Research seminar (15 cr)

As a rule, students must participate in the media and communication studies research seminar for three terms. Students may substitute one of these terms with participation in a thematic seminar offered by the Doctoral School or Doctoral Programme. In the media and communication studies research seminar, students learn to conduct academic discussions related to their research topic and to serve as an opponent to other postgraduates' work. They will also obtain a broader perspective on the different research trends, methods and questions in media and communication studies that they are likely to encounter during their

dissertation work. The seminar presentations also focus on the status of media and communication studies in society, and the seminars may feature guest lecturers.

Seminar participation is best spread across several years. For example, students could present 1) their research plan at the outset of studies, 2) their ongoing research (e.g., a draft article) midway through their studies and 3) a summary of the dissertation project towards the end of their postgraduate studies. However, it may be worthwhile to concentrate on seminars more at the beginning of studies.

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Social and public policy

Postgraduate degree requirements 2015–2017

The doctoral degree comprises the doctoral dissertation and 60 credits of studies, which may be composed of the studies described below in many different ways. Students plan their studies together with the supervisor representing the discipline or the professor in charge of it. Students must keep a record of their completed studies and submit the studies for approval to the professor in charge of postgraduate studies.

Master's degree preceding postgraduate studies

To be accepted as a postgraduate student, the applicant must have completed a Master's degree which has social and public policy (or social policy) as the major subject or which includes Master's level studies in social and public policy (or social policy). Applicants who have not completed such a degree may be required to supplement their studies with a maximum of 25 credits. The need for supplementary studies will be determined on a case-by-case basis when granting the right to pursue postgraduate studies, taking into consideration the applicant's undergraduate and continuing education as well as any publications. The exact scope and content of supplementary studies will be agreed on with the discipline's professor after the study right has been granted.

Degree requirements

1. General scientific and academic knowledge and competence (15–25 cr)

Students are recommended to include studies in university pedagogy, academic writing, science communication, research ethics and philosophy of science in this module. Participation in conferences and summer schools, as well as common courses offered by the Doctoral School and the Doctoral Programme, are other suitable options.

2. Theoretical and methodological foundation of the discipline (30–35 cr)

1) Theoretical and methodological studies (15–20 cr)

These studies primarily consist of courses in the student's discipline along with teaching related to the dissertation topic. Since postgraduate studies are based on the principle of learning by doing, students are also encouraged to participate in conferences and publish their work.

2) Research seminar (15 cr)

Postgraduate students must participate in at least one postgraduate seminar, where they practise conducting academic discussions, get acquainted with different research trends and methods in social and public policy – also related to research topics other than their own – and learn about the dissertation writing process. At the seminar, students present their own research progress and serve as an opponent to other postgraduates' work.

Students must participate in a research seminar for at least three terms, but the recommendation is for them to participate in seminar work throughout the dissertation-writing process. Students may take part in several seminars simultaneously.

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