

HGO4080 – Forslag til endringer i emnebeskrivelse og pensum f.o.m. H19

Course content

The master thesis constitutes independent academic research and the core of the master's degree programme in Human Geography. The master's thesis prepares students for developing and carrying out an independent academic research project. Students gain experience in the use of research methods and in linking theory to empirical evidence. Students develop their theses under the guidance of an academic staff member.

A master thesis of 30 credits is an option for students who wish to carry out independent academic research of a minor scope compared to a 60 credit master's thesis. "Minor scope" refers to how comprehensive the academic work required for the individual research project is. Independent research of a minor scope involves:

- More limited research questions and/or narrowly defined research topic.
- More focused and selective review of relevant literature and analytical framework.
- More reliance on secondary sources.
- More limited fieldwork and/or primary data collection.

[Getting started on a master's thesis](#)

Learning outcome

Master's theses in human geography aim at high academic quality in terms of formulation of the research question, argumentation and presentation of the material is required of all. Working on the master's thesis will prepare you for carrying out independent academic work, give you experience in the use of methods in practice, and enable you to gain practice in linking theory to empirical evidence.

Teaching

You will receive individual supervision. A supervisor will be suggested for all students in the first semester of the master's degree programme. All students are expected to have found a supervisor within the second semester of study.

[Supervisor contract](#)

Examination

The following formal requirements apply for 30-credits master theses in Human Geography:

- Course work equivalent to 90-credits must be completed before delivering the thesis for evaluation.

- The length of a 30-credit master's thesis should ~~is~~ be maximum 24,000 words all inclusive (summary, table of contents, reference list, annexes, etc.).
- The thesis will include a summary of 1-2 pages, to appear after the cover page.
- The master thesis must be page numbered, and include a table of contents and list of references.
- Font size 12 points, line spacing 1 1/2.
- Projects involving the use of personal information must be registered at Norsk senter for Forskningsdata (NSD), se Personvernombudsordningen for forskning (<http://www.personvern.uio.no/pvo/forskstu.html>)

About the length of the thesis

- Theses that exceed the word limit of 24 000 words will be rejected, and a new submission deadline will apply.
- If there is a need to deviate from the word limit, the student must, together with his/her supervisor, apply to the head of studies three weeks before the submission deadline. The application must be academically justified.

All 30-credits master theses should include both analytical and empirical elements. The balance between these elements reflects the type of study the student chooses to undertake. Accordingly,

- Basically empirical studies should be informed by conceptual clarification.
- Basically theoretical studies should include empirical examples.
- A mixed- type of study will include both conceptual clarification and empirical examples.

The evaluation of a master thesis is based on an overall assessment of the thesis as academic work. For a detailed criteria for evaluating a 30-credits master thesis in Human Geography is provided in the [grading guide for HGO4080](#). (lenke!)

Once the thesis has been graded, an adjusting oral examination will be held on the thesis and its topic.

[Examiner guidelines](#) (change to «Grading guide»)