MSc in Development and International Relations (DIR) and European Studies (ES)
9th semester (3rd semester of the MSc)

Information about the semester
Department: Politics and Society
Study Board: Board of Studies for International Affairs
Regulations and Curriculum:
DIR Curriculum
ES Curriculum

Description of the semester
The 9th semester has three options:

1. An internship at an institution or organisation with activities within development and international relations or European studies. The objective of the internship is to encourage students to gain practical experience with applying knowledge, theories and methods within development and international relations or European studies and in working in an international organisation or institution. In addition to the internship, the students follow a thesis preparation workshop.

2. A study abroad at a university or research institute. Students must apply for preliminary approval at the Faculty before departure. Upon return, students must apply for credit transfer. Students must choose courses/seminars within the fields of development studies and international relations or European studies which are in line with the academic contents of courses/seminars in which they already have participated at Aalborg University.

3. A Mobility course semester offered at Aalborg University. The classes will be taught as seminars, with a high degree of student involvement and hands-on exercises. In addition to the courses discussed above, the students must write a semester project preferably in collaboration with an external partner. In addition to mobility activities, the students follow a thesis preparation workshop.

Internship (25 ECTS)
Through the internship, you will practice disciplinary and cross-disciplinary cooperation within an organization and manage to cope with situations in international or intercultural environments, which are complex, unpredictable and require new models for problem solving.

Through the internship and the project writing, you will learn to produce independent and focused analyses of issues within one or more of the disciplinary areas of the program through investigations in the internship organization.

If students are within one of the specialisation programs – Chinese Area Studies, Latin American Area Studies, Global Gender Studies or the Arctic Studies, their internship project must be directly or indirectly related to some aspects of the specializations.

The duration of the internship ranges from 3 to 6 months within the period of 1 of July 1 and 31 of January. During the internship, students will have meetings with internship supervisors, usually via Skype, email, telephone or any other medium that are agreed upon. At the
meetings, students will discuss internship project with supervisors and get supervision on their project.

The internship is examined based on the Host Institution Statement (a template is available in Moodle) uploaded to digtal exam and an internship project written either in the form a "normal" project or a policy. Instructions may be found in the Internship and Study Abroad Handbook in moodle. The internship is graded according to 7 grade scale. A total of 25 ECTS is awarded.

**Mobility (25 ECTS)**

The Mobility semester is divided into two parts: course work (15 ECTS) and project work (10 ECTS). In addition student will follow the thesis preparation workshop (5 ECTS, see below). All information regarding objectives, content, scope, teaching and learning methods, schedule, prerequisite requirements for participation, general and specific learning objectives, assessment criteria and examination forms can be received from the curriculum.

In the course work, students study three subject areas. In **Sustainable Development and Social Change**, the aim is at analysing different flows of mobilities and their impacts on contemporary destinations/regions and nations in order to provide a logic basis to understand some of the complex dynamics that exist between people, institutions and development. In **Ethics and Mobilities**, the aim is at giving the students a critical and up-to-date insight into theories about core topics within sustainable planning and development that is considered a crucial topic for government authorities (local, regional and national levels), policy makers in international organisations and within the global industry as for instance in the tourism industry. In **Transnational Migration** the aim is at providing a logical basis to understand the complex dimensions of how global mobility flows impact or might even change profoundly the organization of communities and societies. All course work has its point of departure in current cases for which the subject areas are relevant.

The project work consist of two entities: A written report and a ‘product’. Both of these are evaluated at the oral exam. The report part consists of
- An executive summary (maximum 4800 units with space)
- A theoretical part (maximum 12.000 units with space). This part of the report must decribe, explain and argue for the choice of theory used in the report.
- A background part (36.000 units with space), which describes the reflections made in creat-ing the product and analyze the intended use of the product and the implications of its im-plementation in the chosen organization.
- Project design (maximum 5000 units with space)
- Material for presentation of product (maximum 4800 units with space)

The product presentation part consists of
- A presentation of the solution designed for the organization. The students chose themselves how to present the material using one (or more) methods presented in the presentation methods seminars. The students discuss with their supervisor how to present, and if they have ideas different to those presented in the methods of presentation seminar, the supervi-sor must approve this idea.

Both the report, the ‘product’ and the oral exams must be conducted in groups. For further details on the exam, please refer to the curriculum.
Thesis preparation workshop (5 ECTS)

The objective of the thesis preparation workshop is to enable the students to define and delimit a potential topic and problem field for their MA thesis within the subject area of Development and International Relations or European Studies. In addition, the aim is to enable the students to identify and collect relevant data and literature within this problem field. Students are expected to identify a problem area for their thesis, collect relevant literature related to this area of study and outline key perspectives within that field. The problem area and the relevant literature must be outlined in a synopsis.

The thesis preparation workshop consists of a number of online workshops and lectures providing students with skills for writing the synopsis, and allowing students to work with and receive feedback on their synopsis.

Semester coordination and secretariat

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