METHODS & METHODOLOGY

COMPARISON REPORT

Lund University
Malmö University College
University of Gothenburg
University of Uppsala
University of Copenhagen
London School of Economics
University of Bremen
University of Minnesota Twin Cities

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Abstract

In this report we compare the LU Faculty of Social Sciences methods and methodology curricula to 7 other universities (Malmö, Gothenburg, Uppsala, Copenhagen, LSE, Bremen, Minnesota-Twin Cities), focusing on three disciplines (political science, psychology, and sociology) at the master and PhD levels of study.

In relation to the mandatory methods immersion and specialization achieved, we find that Lund’s informal 15 ECTS standard for mandatory methods/methodology training at the master level is low. As a result, building more ECTS into the master-level years in Lund and requiring pre-requisite knowledge within advanced courses would allow greater methods progression and specialization to be achieved. Compared to the other cases, Lund less often has an explicit research design component in its curricula, although it more often teaches theory of science (of the social sciences), but in a way that is tenuously connected to methodology and research design.

Expanding the ECTS devoted to methods/methodology could enable the teaching of research design as a bridge between theory of science and concrete methods teaching as well as more opportunities for methods training progression. Finally, in terms of the locus of methods course provision — whether centrally through the faculty or decentralized through departments — we find no special advantage to either approach. However, Lund’s hybrid arrangement is somewhat unsystematic.

More systematization and planning of this division of labor between the faculty and departments might increase the quality of offerings.
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Introduction

While methods and methodology training vary greatly across social science disciplines, it is nonetheless a core feature of research and training of students. Students of the social sciences, while not always enthusiastic about their methods/methodology training while it is underway, may find it to be an important aspect for achieving success within labour markets, whether they seek jobs in academia or elsewhere. For researchers, methods and methodology can also be crucial, as they play an important role within peer-reviewed publishing and also in signalling flexibility in teaching. For these reasons, and because teaching practices may vary greatly between and within countries, it is worthwhile to put our methods/methodology training into perspective through a comparison.

This report examines the graduate-level methods/methodology teaching of eight universities across three of their departments – Political Science, Psychology and Sociology. The main focus is on how each university structures its methods/methodology courses within and across its masters and PhD curricula in terms of the raw ECTS as well as the proportion of mandatory methods/methodology teaching in each curriculum, which specific methods are included (how specialised, advanced), and whether methods/methodology teaching is offered in a centralised, decentralised, or hybrid manner in terms of department and faculty provision of courses. This report conceives of methods and methodology in the broadest sense, to include research design, theory of science, as well as more concrete quantitative and qualitative methods. Therefore, the use of the term “methods” in this report, except where context stipulates otherwise, refers to methods and methodology in this broader sense.

The purpose of this report is to stimulate discussion within departments and the faculty. More precisely, reporting on the diversity of methods organisation may allow departments and the faculty to reflect upon their policies of methods provision. The authors note that many important aspects for methods training are not in viewed in this study (e.g. the quality of courses, detailed content, backgrounds of applicants, the bachelor level of study, the popularity of non-mandatory methods courses, as a few keys), but they can serve as a useful way to enrich a wider methods policy discussion.

In order to make these eight cases more comparable, we focus only on mandatory methods offerings. This indicates the minimum level of training required of graduates. Such training tends to not only enable the writing of the specific dissertation but also to serve as a more general form of professional training expected in a particular discipline.
Seven universities have been chosen for their various affinities to Lund University, sometimes for their geographical proximity to Lund, or for their comparable ambitions in terms of the social sciences, and also for the authors’ knowledge of those various universities, to include some international cases: Copenhagen University, London School of Economics, Malmö University, University of Bremen, University of Gothenburg, University of Minnesota – Twin Cities and Uppsala University.

We limit our analysis of each university to three departments: Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology. We have chosen these as they represent core disciplines of social sciences, and they tend to involve a high level of methods training.

For reasons of parsimony, we chose to focus only on the master and PhD levels.

Each of the university’s departmental websites has been examined for information regarding masters and PhD teaching in methods/methodology. As mentioned above, methods and methodology is conceived of broadly, to include theory of science, research design, and the full range of qualitative and quantitative methods. Where information has been available, this has been logged into a spreadsheet, noting the course code and title of each course, the level of study (master or PhD), the number of ECTS credits the course is worth, whether it is open to other students, the eligibility criteria of the course, in which semester it is given and links to the literature lists and course plans where available.

The methods course information that we have compiled for the Lund University Faculty of Social Sciences is available here:

http://graduate.svet.lu.se/methodsdemo/

We have also contacted those responsible for graduate level methodology teaching at each department being looked at to obtain a more complete picture. Most of these directors of studies have responded, enabling a richer and more accurate analysis of that particular university or department.

Overall, these data were difficult to gather. Especially the specific content of particular courses was sometimes left vague within the syllabi, requiring other means of elaborating on this information, such as e-mail correspondence. In addition, comparing credits across universities and countries is not always straightforward. This is a reason for us providing multiple ECTS metrics: ECTS of methods in total and the proportion of methods ECTS out of the total. Naturally, there are limits to comparability of these cases. We will highlight these where they arise and highlight the value-added that remains.
Lund University’s Faculty of Social Sciences offers a wide range of methodology courses across departments and the Faculty. Each master programme is free to stipulate its own methods training, including the minimum required methods to be trained. For students who earn a degree in the faculty but outside of a formal “programme” with a syllabus, the Faculty mandates a proportion of methods teaching that is at least 30 ECTS, of which 7.5 ECTS minimum should be in ‘theory of science’ and 15 ECTS minimum should be in methods.

There are specific requirements for Social Sciences methods at Lund University, decided by the Faculty:

http://tinyurl.com/LUdescr

Most departments offer general, introductory methods courses, where there are some commonalities across departments. In addition, some departments offer specialised discipline-focused methodology teaching. Departments differ in terms of how much they make use of Faculty-based and Graduate School methods courses.

Master Level

A Lund University Political Science master degree requires a 15 ECTS course in methodology, entitled Political Science Methodology. This course involves a 'theory of science' part in relation to political science, a methodological component where students must come to understand how a particular method is employed, and also a research design component where students plan a research project in the form of a grant proposal. This course accepts students with any (including no) methods background.

In Psychology, one methods course is mandatory at the master level: Advanced Scientific Methods in Psychology, totalling 15 ECTS. This course involves three sub-courses. The first involves a focus on quantitative multivariate analysis, the second involves more advanced quantitative research methods, and the third focuses on connecting research methods and analysis to theory.

In Sociology at the master level in Lund, 30 ECTS are required in methods and the theory of science. There is one mandatory methods course: the 15 ECTS Methods and Social Analysis, which teaches up to intermediate quantitative (up to and including multiple linear regression analysis) and qualitative analysis (interviews, coding, and analysis), with some mixed methods focus as well. This course accepts students with any (including no) methods background. In addition, students must take 7.5 ECTS in the theory of science as well as an additional 7.5 ECTS in either theory of science or methods.

Lund University also offers graduate level methods teaching through its “Graduate School”. These courses are all in English and available to the three Graduate School master programs in addition to other students. A Graduate School Master degree requires 30 total ECTS in methods training. Currently, this involves a 15 ECTS block methods course teaching the basics of qualitative and quantitative methods, 7.5 ECTS in Theory of Science for the Social Sciences, and 7.5 ECTS from one of the Methods Electives (Introduction to Quantitative Methods, Multivariate Analysis, Fieldwork, Participatory Methods, Evaluation Research, Discourse Analysis, or Digital Media Research). By Spring 2019, Digital Ethnography and Qualitative Coding and Analysis (Using Software) will be added to this list. For students entering these three programmes in 2017, the theory of science course will be an elective, and students will choose two 7.5 ECTS elective courses instead of one (still for a total of 30 ECTS in methods).
Lund University Political Science PhD candidates must take 30 (out of 60 total) ECTS in Methods, to include at least 7.5 ECTS each in both qualitative and quantitative methods. Political Science offers its own internal course to its PhD students entitled Good Research 3.0 (between 7.5 and 15 ECTS, depending on the year). This flexible course addresses issues according to student need: theory of science issues, research design, conceptualisation and measurement, statistics, qualitative methods, and mixed methods. Students are also free to make use of other offerings across the Faculty and attend methods schools abroad (such as ECPR, or in Ann Arbor, USA).

In the Psychology PhD programme, there is no required proportion of methods training out of the 90 ECTS credits of coursework. Candidates may take methods courses according to their own needs. The department has no internal PhD-level methods courses, but students are free to make use of master-level and diverse Faculty offerings, if approved by the director of studies.

Sociology PhD candidates in Lund need to take 22.5 ECTS out of a total of 75 credits in Methods. This includes 7.5 ECTS each in theory of science, qualitative methods, and quantitative methods.

A number of methods-relevant PhD courses are offered centrally by the Lund University Faculty of Social Sciences, available for PhD students from any department:

- **Research Ethics** (3 credits)
- **Qualitative Methods** (7.5 credits)
- **Quantitative Methods, Multivariate Analysis** (7.5 credits)
- **Applied Methods, Methods Thesis** (7.5 credits)
- **Social Science and Human Nature and Society. Conceptual and Philosophical Issues** (7.5 or 15 ECTS)
- **Philosophy of Science for the Social Sciences** (7.5 credits)

In addition, the Graduate School’s advanced master level methods courses (listed on page 6) often are available for PhD students to take. These include especially Multivariate Analysis. However, with the approval of the department PhD director of studies, students are free to choose any appropriate master-level methods course.

The sociology department has no regular PhD-level methods courses, although some are occasionally on offer, and students make use of the diverse Faculty offerings. Sociology students are also are free to, and occasionally do suggest ‘reading courses’, which are created ad-hoc according to specific methods (or other) learning needs of students.
Copenhagen University (UCPH)

UCPH structures its methodology teaching on a departmental level, rather than centrally. At UCPH, the proportion of methods courses in a master's degree varies from 0 to 18.75% (0 to 22.5 out of 120 ECTS).

Master Level

The master’s programme in Political Science at UCPH contains no mandatory methodology courses, but does offer one optional course, Advanced Quantitative Methodology (7.5 ECTS), for students who specialise in Political Behaviour and Advanced Quantitative Methodology. The first half of the course focuses on linear regression models, and the second half deals with likelihood and models for binary and count data.

The master’s programme in Psychology includes Advanced Applied Theory and Method (15 ECTS) and Advanced Methods 7.5 ECTS. Advanced Methods – either quantitative or qualitative – is mandatory and then it is possible to choose the other method as an elective course or one of the other elective courses. These include elective 7.5 ECTS courses in Discourse Analysis, Statistics, as well as Clinical Psychological Research Methodology.

The UCPH master’s programme in Sociology contains 22.5 mandatory ECTS in methodology and 7.5 optional ECTS. These include Sociological Project Design (7.5 ECTS, mandatory), and the following optional courses (students must choose a minimum of 15 ECTS and 22.5 ECTS as a maximum from these): a) Applied Data Mining: Grouping Variables and Individuals; b) Advanced Qualitative Data Analysis; c) Evaluation: Methods, Theories and Practice; d) Generalised Linear Models; e) Qualitative Analysis in Work-Life Research; f) Qualitative Analysis within Sociological Research; g) The Logic of Statistical Control: Testing Sociological Explanations with Regression Analysis; h) Survey Design and Questionnaire Design; and i) Factor- and Structural Equations Models.

PhD Level

A PhD in Political Science at UCPH requires a mandatory 7.5 methodology credits out of a total 30 ECTS needed to complete the degree. These credits can include: a) Research Design in Political Science: Part 1 and Part 2; b) The Logic of Qualitative Research in Political Science; and c) The Logic of Quantitative Research in Political Science.

The PhD programme in Psychology contains no mandatory methodology courses and a maximum of 30 ECTS out of 30 ECTS in total coursework. These optional courses include: a) Mixed methods research: combining the best of two worlds; b) An Introduction in Structural Equation model with Applications Using Lavaan in R; and c) Comparing a Case to a Control or Reference Sample: Problems and Solutions.

A PhD in Sociology at Copenhagen contains no mandatory courses in methodology and a maximum of 30 ECTS in optional courses out of a total of 30 credits of coursework needed to complete the degree. These include a first year course in Scientific Theory and Research Design as well as one entitled Focus Groups as Research Methods.

Other Universities – descriptions
Similar to Copenhagen, Lund and Malmö, GU offers methodology courses on a departmental level rather than a centralised one. At the same time, the master’s programmes in Political Science and Sociology share two methodology courses, *Qualitative Research Methods* and *Applied Statistical Analysis* (see below for content), although only one of them is required for the master’s in Political Science, while both of them are required for the master’s in Sociology. The minimum requirements for a master’s degree from the university therefore range from 15 ECTS methodology (Political Science and Psychology) to 30 ECTS (Sociology).

**Master Level**

The master’s programme in Political Science at GU requires a minimum of 15 ECTS in methodology out of the 120 ECTS total, in either *Applied Qualitative Research Methods* (case study research, discourse analysis, ethnographic methods, and ideas and argument analysis) or *Applied Statistical Analysis* (multivariate statistical techniques such as factor analysis, analysis of variance and linear and categorical regression analysis). Each of the two courses is worth 15 ECTS.

The master’s programme in Psychology (with a focus on social psychology) requires a minimum of 15 ECTS in methodology, which can be extended up to 30 credits if optional courses are included. The obligatory course, worth 15 ECTS, is entitled *Method 1* (experimental and quasi-experimental methods and statistics: regression and variance analysis; measurement of psychological concepts; planning of empirical study). There are also two optional courses available – *Qualitative Methods* (basic concepts in qualitative research methodology, different methods for collecting data (observation and interviews, individual as well as focus groups), interpretation and analysis as well as presentation forms and reporting), worth 15 ECTS, and *Statistical Analysis and Methods* (multiple regression and variance analysis, binary logistical regression analysis, non-linear models), also worth 15 ECTS.

The master’s programme in Sociology requires a minimum of 30 ECTS in methodology courses out of 120 ECTS. The mandatory courses are the same as those given in the master’s programme in Political Science and are entitled *Applied Qualitative Research Methods* and *Applied Statistical Analysis* (see above for content), worth 15 ECTS each. There are no additional optional courses in sociological methodology at the masters level.
PhD Level

A PhD in Political Science from GU involves 30 ECTS in mandatory methodology (out of 60 ECTS in mandatory courses of the 240 ECTS total for the doctorate) and may also include an additional 10 ECTS in optional methodology courses. The mandatory courses include 7.5 ECTS *Advanced Method* (quantitative or qualitative, to include case-based comparative analysis, discourse analysis, grounded theory, normative analysis and process tracing), 7.5 ECTS *Applied Method*, 7.5 as an optional specialization and 7.5 ECTS in *Research Design*.

Out of the 75 ECTS total in mandatory courses for the PhD programme in Psychology at GU, 37.5 ECTS should include methodology, of which 15 ECTS should include the department's own mandatory methods course – *Statistical Analysis and Method* (multiple regression and variance analysis, binary logistical regression analysis, non-linear models), 15 ECTS. There is also a mandatory course entitled *General Research Methodology: Design, Analysis and Report* (15 ECTS). Elective courses include – *Analysis of Data From Longitudinal Designs* (7.5 ECTS), *Bayesian Data Analysis* (7.5 ECTS), *Survey Methodology: Construction of Questions, Collection of Data and Analysis of Surveys* (7.5 ECTS), *Experimental Methods* (7.5 ECTS), *Factor Analysis / Structural Equation Modelling* (7.5 ECTS), *Introduction to Multiple Level Analysis* (7.5 ECTS), and *Qualitative Methods in Psychology* (15 ECTS).

A PhD in Sociology at GU requires 15 ECTS mandatory methodology credits – 7.5 ECTS in *Quantitative Methods* (multiple regression analysis and logistic regression analysis, panel data analysis, and multiple level analysis) and 7.5 in *Qualitative Methods* (general methodological research questions, material types and collection methods, types of qualitative research, CAQDAS and Atlas.ti) out of the 65 ECTS total in coursework for the doctorate.

Source links University of Gothenburg

http://kursplaner.gu.se/pdf/kurs/sw/PC2309
http://kursplaner.gu.se/pdf/kurs/sw/PC2311
http://kursplaner.gu.se/pdf/kurs/sw/PC2310
http://pol.gu.se/Utbildning/utbildning-pa-forskariva/kurser
http://psy.gu.se/utbildning/utbildning_forskariva
http://psy.gu.se/utbildning/utbildning_forskariva/kurser_forskarutbildning
http://socav.gu.se/utbildning/forskarutbildning/kurser
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

The LSE awards “units” rather than ECTS and offers 9-12-month master’s degrees of 4 to 5 units, which it considers to be the equivalent to 80-90 ECTS credits. Most of the MSc programmes contain 1 unit of mandatory methods courses (which is 20 to 25%), with the exception of the MSc in Social Science Research Methods, which comprises 3 units of methodology out of the 4 units total.

Similar to Malmö University, the LSE does not offer the three subjects (Psychology, Sociology or Political Science) in the traditional sense, but rather combines them with other subjects or offers specialisation within the subject – for example, an MSc in Organisational and Social Psychology or an MSc in the Psychology of Economic Life.

And, similar to Uppsala, LSE offers methodology courses available to all departments, although the variety of courses is large and departments pick their own mix of courses for their degrees, some choosing the same courses and some not including any methodology courses at all. This is made possible since the LSE has its own Methodology department, which offers a wide range of methodology courses that are open to most students across the university.

Master Level

The MSc in Political Science and Political Economy requires ½ unit in Applied Regression analysis (linear regression modelling and binary, multinomial and ordinal logistic regression) together with ½ unit in Causal Inference for Observational and Experimental Studies (randomised experiments and observational studies) out of the total 4 units. There are no additional optional courses in methodology at the department but students can also take any of the methodology courses available at the Methodology department.

The MSc in Organisational and Social Psychology, the MSc in the Psychology of Economic Life, as well as the MSc in Social and Cultural Psychology all require one mandatory 1 unit course in methodology, entitled Methods for Social Psychological Research: Intermediate Qualitative and Quantitative Methods (i) methodological issues and research design, experiments and questionnaires; ii) qualitative (qualitative research projects; data collection methods including interviewing, focus groups, participant observation, and documentary and historical work; new media including visual images and Internet research; thematic, content, discourse, and semiotic analysis; research design, quality indicators, epistemology and ethics) and iii) quantitative (linear regression modelling and related methods, including scatterplots, correlation, simple and multiple linear regression; analysis of variance and covariance; binary logistic regression modelling; Stata or SPSS packages) research methods. There are no additional optional courses in methodology at the department but students can also study any of the methodology courses available at the Methodology department.

The MSc in Sociology at LSE requires a 1 unit mandatory course named Social Research Methods, which includes i) quantitative methods and the design of quantitative social research (as the course does not cover hands-on quantitative data analysis, students are encouraged to take MY451 and MY452 to complement it); and ii) research design, data collection and analysis in relation to qualitative research methods). This course is optional in the MSc in Political Sociology. The MSc in Sociology (Research) also requires the aforementioned course Social Research Methods, as well as the courses entitled Introduction to Quantitative Analysis (½ unit) and Applied Regression analysis (½ unit) (see above for content). The MSc in Sociology (Contemporary Social Thought) has no requirements in methodology. There are no additional optional courses in methodology available at the Sociology department, but students may also study any of the methodology courses available at the Methodology department.

PhD Level

A PhD in Political Science at the LSE requires at least 1 unit of methodology out of 4 mandatory units. Options include: A) Quantitative research topics: Applied Regression Analysis; Causal Inference for Observational and Experimental Studies or Applied Quantitative Methods for Political Science; and Game Theory for Research; and B) Qualitative research topics: Qualitative Methods in the Study of Politics; and Introduction to Quantitative Analysis. Methods credits accrued at the master level can count toward this 1 unit requirement.

To obtain a PhD in Psychology at the LSE requires “a broad training in research methods together with a core course”. Initial registration is for the Degree of MPhil and requires that candidates have completed the above listed MSc courses or their equivalent. Methods training beyond that accrued during the master level is not required.
In the first year of a PhD in Sociology at the LSE, one can choose to study a range of methods and specialist courses from a variety of institutes and departments at LSE. It is mandatory to attend the first year research class for MPhil students and graduate course units in methodology. Additional methods credits beyond the master level are not required for a PhD.
Malmö University

Malmö does not offer single subject degrees in the traditional sense but rather combines classical subjects such as Political Science and International Relations into courses such as Political Science: Global Political Studies, which is seen here as the equivalent to Political Science. We have not found any masters programmes at Malmö University which could be seen as an equivalent to a master’s in Psychology or Sociology. Malmö is therefore difficult to compare to Lund for these reasons. We include it briefly because it is located nearby and is an example of a less-structured curriculum, although it falls out of the later comparisons because of its lack of comparable PhD programmes.

Similar to Lund, Malmö University’s methodology teaching is structured on a departmental level, rather than centrally. Of the two masters courses we have found in Global Political Studies, the proportion of mandatory methods courses in a master’s degree from Malmö University is 12.5% (15 out of 120 ECTS and 7.5 out of 60 ECTS).

Master Level

There are two master’s degrees in Global Political Studies available at Malmö University – a one-year and a two-year degree. The two-year degree, totalling 120 ECTS, contains a mandatory 15 ECTS course entitled Research Design and Method, which focuses mainly on how to write a dissertation but also includes (mainly) qualitative but also some quantitative methods. The one year degree, which is 60 ECTS, contains a condensed version of the same course, totalling 7.5 ECTS.

There appear to be no methodology courses at master’s level at Malmö University which are open to all students similar to those at the Graduate School in Lund.

PhD Level

There are no PhD courses in the selected subjects, political science, psychology and sociology, at Malmö University. For the 15 PhD programmes that do exist, there is no general regulation for the number of ECTS in methodology, this is individually regulated in the General Study Plan of each programme. The specific courses that should be included in an individual’s study programme are decided upon in consultation with the supervisors.

In autumn 2017/spring 2018, there will be two new courses, the first entitled Research methodology: qualitative and mixed research methodology and the second entitled Research methodology: quantitative and mixed research methodology; both courses are worth 5 ECTS and available to all PhD students at the university. While available, these courses will not be mandatory within the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Source links Malmö University College

http://edu.mah.se/en/Program/SASGP#Syllabus
http://edu.mah.se/en/Program/SAPSM#Syllabus
University of Bremen (UB)

UB offers methodology courses mainly on a departmental level rather than a centralised one. The minimum requirements for mandatory methodology courses range from 9 (in Psychology) to 24 ECTS (in Political Science) at the master level. However, at the PhD level (the BIGSSS programme), methods courses are provided centrally to multiple disciplines.

Master Level

The MA in Political Science requires 24 ECTS in methods out of 120 ECTS total. 12 ECTS in Quantitative and Qualitative Methods (these impart knowledge of research design within each of these traditions, as well as different forms of quantitative and qualitative analysis, including some depth in particular methods) are required as well as 12 ECTS in Research Design.

The MSc in Clinical Psychology at Bremen University requires 9 ECTS in Advanced Statistics (internet research; practical data encoding; relational databases; statistical programming and documentation; exploratory data analysis and graphics; missing values and outliers; categorical data from clinical practice; epidemiology and risk assessment; GLM through 4; LISREL; and online diagnostics) out of 120 ECTS total.

In the Bremen sociology master in Sociology and Social Research, students must take at least 21 ECTS in methods out of 120. They can choose between Quantitative (advanced regression analyses and path analyses; Categorical data, panel- and event-analyses; binary regression; probit model; ordinal logistic regression; multinomial logistic regression; random and fixed effects models for continuous variables; random and fixed effects models for binary variables; multilevel analyses; structural equation modeling, etc.) and Qualitative methods (conversation analyses; grounded theory; documentary method; objective hermeneutics; document collections; observations; interview methods and evaluation tools; practical intensification of selective methods; and mixed methods).

PhD Level

At the BIGSSS-Departs PhD programme (in the three disciplines of Political Science, Psychology and Sociology), which is a structured joint PhD programme between UB and Jacobs University, students earn a total of 9 ECTS (out of 30) in methods. PhD candidates must attend a 2-3 week Preparatory Forum in Social Science Methodology (6 ECTS), which happens before the official programme begins, and which introduces candidates to a variety of methodological perspectives. Candidates also take a total of 3 ECTS in appetiser and specialised methods courses tailored to their specific dissertation needs. Methods courses over the past few years include: Advanced Analysis of Variance Techniques; Advanced Regression; Analysis of Longitudinal Data; Bayesianism and Bayesian Statistics; Case Study Methods; Coding and Content Analysis; Computer assisted qual. Data analysis with Atlas.ti; Discourse Analysis; Event History Analysis; Expert interviewing; Focus Groups; Introduction to Conducting, Designing and Analysing Online Surveys; MaxQDA; Mixed Methods; Multilevel Analysis; Multivariate modelling/structural equation modelling; Objective Hermeneutics and Grounded Theory; Process Tracing; Propensity score matching; Qualitative Comparative Analysis; Qualitative Data Analysis; Quantitative Methods for Qualitative Researchers; Quantitative Methods for Qualitative Researchers; Objective Hermeneutics and Grounded Theory; Regression Analyses (logistic, log-linear and multivariate); Semantic Text Analysis; Semi-structured Interviews; Sequence Analysis; Social Network Analysis; Supplementing Small-N Studies with Quantitative Analytics: An Introduction to Nonparametric Statistics; Structural Equation; Treatment of Missing Values.

Source links University of Bremen

http://www.uni-bremen.de/studium/lehrveranstaltungen/veranstaltungsverzeichnis.html?tx_hbulyvp_pi1%5Bmodule%5D=alle&adv=03f4544c0614f035635c88ce

http://www.uni-bremen.de/studium/lehrveranstaltungen/veranstaltungsverzeichnis.html?tx_hbulyvp_pi1%5Bmodule%5D=fa48f1206b5ccdfb12205d61859f24ef

http://www.fb8.uni-bremen.de/en/study/sociologie/sociologie-and-social-research-ma/


University of Minnesota – Twin Cities (UMN)

UMN differs from the other universities studied here in that it, in line with the American doctoral education model, offers only a PhD in the three subjects studied (Political Science, Psychology and Sociology); however, students in the PhD programme may earn a master’s degree on the way to their doctorate. We are able to compare UMN with the other universities by combining the master and PhD levels together and comparing these hybrid totals.

PhD

No methods courses are mandatory in Political Science generally. However, students must choose a specialisation, and the proportion of methods required varies depending on the field in which a student chooses to concentrate. The general requirement is that “students must demonstrate one of the following: a) high proficiency in one foreign language; b) high proficiency in research methodology; c) low proficiency in two foreign languages; d) low proficiency in one foreign language and low proficiency in research methodology.” If a student chooses Methods and Methodology as one of their two fields, then approximately 40% of their 60 total course credits are Methods (equivalent of 48 ECTS out of 120 ECTS). For students choosing the Methods field, they must take the core course Political Methodology: Modelling Political Processes. In addition to this core course they may choose a minimum of three additional courses from any of the following (whatever best fits their dissertation work and is being offered during their tenure in the programme): Game Theory; Dynamic Analysis; Qualitative Methods; Survey Research Methods: Measuring Public Opinion; Topics in Models and Methods; Theories and Models of Political; Political Experiments: Design and Analysis – II; Survey Sampling Methods; Multilevel Modelling; Event History; Political Experiments: Design and Analysis – I; Spatial Econometrics; Potential Outcomes/Matching; Topics in Statistical Graphics & Visualization; Nonparametric & Robust Estimation; Spatial Modelling; Intro to Bayesian Methods; Advanced Bayesian Methods; Math Models of International Relations.

UMN PhD Candidates in Psychology must take 14 UMN credits out of 60 in total coursework (converts to 28 out of 120 ECTS). There are two methodology courses required at PhD level in Psychology, entitled Analysis of Psychological Data and a Seminar in Quantitative and Psychometric Methods. Analysis of Psychological Data (8 ECTS divided into two parts) includes: data-analytic procedures used in psychological research; types of variables used in psychological research; data collection designs, their limitations; procedures for analyzing experimental/non-experimental data, both univariate and multivariate; emphasizes selection of data-analytic procedures; procedures and their assumptions; computation using statistical software; and limitations, interpretation. The Seminar in Quantitative and Psychometric Methods (6 ECTS in total, divided in two parts) reviews individual research on current topics in psychological measurement.

Sociologists are required to take 11 credits (out of 64 total; equivalent of 22 ECTS out of 128) in Methods, which includes Sociological Research Methods (4 credits; research design and a broad overview to quantitative and qualitative methods), Advanced Social Statistics (4 credits: covers advanced multiple regression, logistic regression, limited dependent variable analysis, analysis of variance and covariance, log-linear models, structural equations, and event history analysis), as well as one Qualitative Methods Elective (3 credits).

* Note: According to an expert within the LU Faculty of Social Sciences International Office, American graduate level credits convert to ECTS at a rate of 1 to 3.3, and undergraduate credits convert at 1 to 2.5. We have used a more conservative 2 to 1 conversion, which also equates with UMN’s own guidelines, found at [https://admissions.tc.umn.edu/admissioninfo/trans_evaluation.html](https://admissions.tc.umn.edu/admissioninfo/trans_evaluation.html)

Source links University of Minnesota

- [https://onestop2.umn.edu/pcas/viewCatalogProgram.do?programID=6975](https://onestop2.umn.edu/pcas/viewCatalogProgram.do?programID=6975)
- [https://cla.umn.edu/polisci/graduate/graduate-courses](https://cla.umn.edu/polisci/graduate/graduate-courses)
- [https://cla.umn.edu/psychology/graduate/courses](https://cla.umn.edu/psychology/graduate/courses)
- [https://onestop2.umn.edu/pcas/viewCatalogProgram.do?programID=6980&strm=1169&campus=UMNTC](https://onestop2.umn.edu/pcas/viewCatalogProgram.do?programID=6980&strm=1169&campus=UMNTC)
- [http://classinfo.umn.edu/?term=1179&subject=PSY&catalog_nbr=8814](http://classinfo.umn.edu/?term=1179&subject=PSY&catalog_nbr=8814)
- [http://classinfo.umn.edu/?term=1179&subject=PSY&catalog_nbr=8881](http://classinfo.umn.edu/?term=1179&subject=PSY&catalog_nbr=8881)
Uppsala University (UU)

In contrast to the previously mentioned universities, UU organizes much of its methodology teaching centrally within the Faculty of Social Science, with courses that are taught to all students, regardless of core subject. This means that few methodology courses are offered at the departmental level.

However, although most of the methodology courses are taught centrally, there is some departmental variation as to the mandatory make-up of these courses. Some degrees (such as Economic History for example) require a minimum of 30 ECTS credits in methodology to obtain a master’s in Social Science, while a master’s in Psychology requires 22.5 ECTS. This also means that each department can also give methodology courses that are specific to its subject, although this is not necessarily the case in all subjects. For example, sociology relies only on the Faculty courses.

Master Level

There are 4 methodology courses that are taught across the Faculty, each worth 7.5 ECTS, and that comprise the 30 ECTS mandatory credits: i) Qualitative Methods in Social Science; ii) Scientific Theory for Social Scientists; iii) Quantitative Methods (data collection and selection methods; inference, relationship between variables, correlation, regression analysis, models for dichotomous/polytomous dependent variables and analysis of survey data); and iv) Social Scientific Methods (subject-object, individual-structure, case studies and ethnographies, generalizations and the specific). There is also an optional central methodology course entitled Quantitative Methods II (basic concepts within statistical inference; data analysis; relationship between variables; correlation; simple and multiple regression analysis; logistic regression; factor analysis; structural equation models (SEM), variance analysis; ANOVA and MANOVA and non-parametric methods).

With regards to the departmental courses, the master programme in Political Science requires a mandatory course called Methods, worth 15 ECTS, and offers an optional course called Reviewing Prior Research, also worth 15 ECTS. The centralised faculty courses are not listed as mandatory for a master in Political Science.

A master’s in Psychology requires 22.5 ECTS from the faculty methodology courses (7.5 ECTS each in the qualitative methods, quantitative methods and social scientific theory and methods courses – see above for content) but also offers a specific optional course called Psychological Measurement Methods with Measurement Theory (7.5 ECTS).

Sociology requires the 30 ECTS mandatory centralised faculty courses listed above. The department offers no additional courses in methodology, although some methods are also included in a course called Sociological Theory.

PhD Level

A PhD in Political Science at UU requires 30 ECTS in mandatory methods and 15 ECTS in research design out of the 60 ECTS total mandatory course work. The methodology courses are entitled Methods I (15 ECTS) and Methods II (15 ECTS) and include 1) the analysis of political ideas, definitions, concept reconstruction, and meta theory of knowledge, 2) different theories of truth and what it implies to be scientific, 3) the use of multiple indicators and dimensional analysis, scaling, and 4) dynamic causal analysis.

The doctoral programme in Psychology at UU requires 22.5 ECTS in methodology out of the total 60 ECTS in mandatory courses for a PhD from the department – 15 ECTS in General Research Methodologies: Design and Analysis (1. methods with focus on relationships, experimental and quasi-experimental design; 2. scientific theory including research ethics; and 3. statistical analysis with theoretical part and central statistical analysis methods such as variance analysis, regression analysis, factor analysis and structural equation modeling), as well as 7.5 ECTS in Psychological Measurement Methods with Measurement Theory.

Pre-dissertation coursework within the doctoral programme in Sociology at UU totals 75 ECTS and includes mandatory courses in Method (15 ECTS) as well as Theory of Science/Sociology of Knowledge (7.5 ECTS).
Source links Uppsala University

http://www.uu.se/utbildning/utbildningar/selma/kursplan/?kpid=29078&type=1
http://www.uu.se/utbildning/utbildningar/selma/kursplan/?kpid=13759&type=1
http://www.uu.se/utbildning/utbildningar/selma/kursplan/?kpid=10867&type=1
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http://www.statsvet.uu.se/utbildning/politicesmasterprogram/
http://www.uu.se/utbildning/utbildningar/selma/studieplan/?planId=822&pKod=SSV2M&p1nr=PSYK
http://www.soc.uu.se/education/doctoral-program/doctoral-studies
Political Science Comparisons

We compare the 8 universities across 3 disciplines (Political Science, Psychology and Sociology) according to 3 measures (raw ECTS mandatory in methods, proportional ECTS mandatory in methods, and content of mandatory methods). This is done at three levels – master, PhD and ‘combined’. ‘Combined’ is achieved through combining a department’s master and PhD levels in that discipline, examining the case when a student would pass both through that department’s master and PhD programmes. While this is somewhat of an artefact, it allows us to compare department’s cumulative methods training at both levels, and importantly, allows us to compare European programs with the American case, UMN, which involves only a combined master-PhD programme. This ‘combined’ category also has the advantage of allowing us to compare departments that differently allocate their methods training between the master and PhD levels.

Overall Political Science: PhD and MA levels Combined

In terms of raw ECTS, representing overall methods immersion, Uppsala requires 60 ECTS, including research design, and the methods specialisation at UMN involves 48 ECTS total in methods training. This is followed closely by Gothenburg and Lund, which each involve 45 ECTS in training, followed by Bremen at 33 ECTS, LSE at 20 and Copenhagen at 7.5. When looking at proportion of methods, the picture is similar, with the UMN methods specialisation establishing the higher boundary of 40% methods training, followed by Uppsala with 33%. Following this, Gothenburg, LSE, and Lund all have proportions of 25% mandatory methodology teaching in their combined MA and PhD Political Science degrees. Next is Bremen with a combined proportion of 22%, while Copenhagen involves 5%. Malmö is not included in the combined ranking as it does not yet offer PhDs in Political Science.

Master Level

At the master level in Political Science, in raw ECTS, Bremen takes first place at 24, followed by LSE at 20, and Gothenburg, Malmö, Lund, and Uppsala at 15. Copenhagen has 0 mandatory ECTS in methods. The LSE has the highest methods proportion, at 25%, followed by Bremen at 20%, Gothenburg, Malmö, Uppsala, and Lund at 12.5% and Copenhagen at 0% (no mandatory methods required). In terms of content, programmes with more ECTS in methods tend to achieve higher levels of specialisation in both quantitative and qualitative methods, in addition to teaching the basics in ‘quant/qual’, and research design.

PhD

At the PhD level, the raw ECTS in methods are led by the UMN methods specialisation with 48 ECTS, followed by Gothenburg, Lund and Uppsala at 30 ECTS, Bremen at 9, and Copenhagen at 7.5. In percentage terms, the group is lead by Gothenburg, Lund and Uppsala at 50%, the UMN specialisation at 40%, Copenhagen at 25%, and Bremen at 13%. When considering content, those programmes with higher ECTS allocations at the PhD level achieve coverage of Theory of Science as well as some advanced quantitative and qualitative approaches. However, Bremen and the LSE, despite low raw ECTS numbers, offer a very high degree of specialisation.
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<th>Combined</th>
<th>Masters’ level</th>
<th>PhD Level</th>
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<td>Min ECTS (%)</td>
<td>Min Content Qual/Quant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uppsala</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methods, worth 15 ECTS.</td>
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<td>UMN***</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N.A. Master studies are integrated into the PhD program.</td>
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<td>Gothenburg</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 ECTS either in Applied Qualitative Research Methods (case study research, discourse analysis, ethnographic methods, and ideas and argument analysis) or Applied Statistical Analysis (multivariate statistical techniques such as factor analysis, analysis of variance and linear and categorical regression analysis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lund</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This course involves a 'theory of science' part in relation to Political Science, a methodological component where students must come to understand how a particular method is employed, and also a research design component where students plan a research project in the form of a grant proposal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>UB</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 ECTS in quantitative and qualitative methods (research design within these traditions, different forms of quantitative and qualitative analysis, including some depth in particular methods) are required as well as 12 ECTS in research design.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSE***</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>½ unit in Applied Regression analysis (linear regression modelling and binary, multinomial and ordinal logistic regression) together with ½ unit in Causal Inference for Observational and Experimental Studies (randomized experiments and observational studies)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copenhagen</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How to write a dissertation – also includes (mainly) qualitative but also some quantitative methods.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malmö**</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
*PhD ECTS % is calculated as a percentage of coursework required to complete the degree.
**Malmö has no PhD degrees in Political Science.
****UMN is calculated based on the Methods field specialization. UMN credits convert at rate of 1 UMN credit for 2 ECTS.
Summary

In political science, there is a distinction between departments that front-load methods during MA years (non-Nordics), and those that back-load them during PhD years (Nordics). Interestingly, although Gothenburg, Lund and Uppsala have more ECTS devoted to methods, programmes that front-load (Bremen, LSE, and also UMN, which places its methods training early in the combined MA-PhD programme) appear to achieve higher levels of specialisation in content. Most combined MA-PhD programs require both quantitative and qualitative methods (Uppsala, Lund, Copenhagen, Bremen, LSE), although with possibilities to specialise in an advanced method choice. Gothenburg informally puts its students in methods ‘tracks’ from the master level onward, as they need to choose either quant or qual at each level of study. UMN’s specialty in methods is mainly quantitatively focused. Theory/philosophy of science appears to be explicitly covered only in Lund and Uppsala. ‘Research Design’ appears explicitly in Lund, Copenhagen, Gothenburg, and Bremen.

Links Political Science Comparisons

We compare the 8 universities across 3 disciplines (Political Science, Psychology and Sociology) according to 3 measures (raw ECTS mandatory in methods, proportional ECTS mandatory in methods, and content of mandatory methods). This is done at three levels – master, PhD and ‘combined’. ‘Combined’ is achieved through combining a department’s master and PhD levels in that discipline, examining the case when a student would pass both through that department’s master and PhD programmes. While this is somewhat of an artefact, it allows us to compare department’s cumulative methods training at both levels, and importantly, allows us to compare European programs with the American case, UMN, which involves only a combined master-PhD programme. This ‘combined’ category also has the advantage of allowing us to compare departments that differently allocate their methods training between the master and PhD levels.

**Overall Psychology: PhD and MA levels Combined**

In Psychology, Gothenburg has the highest degree of mandatory methods immersion with 52.5 ECTS, while Uppsala has 45, UMN has 28, Copenhagen has 22.5, LSE has 20, Bremen has 18, and Lund requires 15 ECTS in methods training. The departments look similar by methods proportion ranking, with Gothenburg at 27%, followed by Uppsala and the LSE at 25%, UMN at 23%, Copenhagen at 15%, Bremen at 12% and Lund at 7%.

**Master level**

Raw ECTS numbers are led by Copenhagen and Uppsala at 22.5 ECTS, LSE at 20, Lund and Gothenburg at 15, and Bremen at 9. The MA level, in proportions, is led by LSE at 25%, Copenhagen and Uppsala at 19%, Lund and Gothenburg at 12.5%, and Bremen at 7.5%. The programmes of Bremen and LSE appear to achieve higher degrees of content specialisation, even though they differ from one another in terms of the number of ECTS dedicated to methods.

**PhD**

Of the PhD programs, Gothenburg requires 37.5 ECTS in methods, followed by UMN at 28, Uppsala at 22.5, and Bremen at 9 ECTS. By proportions, Gothenburg mandates 50%, Uppsala mandates 37.5%, Bremen requires 30%, and UMN requires 23%. LSE, Lund, and Copenhagen require no additional methods training at the PhD level. All of the PhD programs that mandate methods courses offer a high degree of specialisation through those courses.

**Links Psychology Comparisons**

- [http://psy.gu.se/utbildning/utbildning_forskarniva](http://psy.gu.se/utbildning/utbildning_forskarniva)
Table 2. Psychology Joint MA-PhD Program Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Combined</th>
<th>Masters' level</th>
<th>PhD Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Min ECTS (%)</td>
<td>Min Content Qual/Quant</td>
<td>Min ECTS (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(% of 75)</td>
<td>(of coursework required to complete the degree.)</td>
<td>(% of 75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gothenburg</td>
<td>52.5 27</td>
<td>15 12.5</td>
<td>37.5 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uppsala</td>
<td>22.5 19</td>
<td>7.5 ECTS each in the qualitative methods, quantitative methods and social scientific theory and method courses</td>
<td>37.5 37.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMN***</td>
<td>28 23</td>
<td>N.A.</td>
<td>28 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copenhagen</td>
<td>22.5 15</td>
<td>22.5 19</td>
<td>0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSE***</td>
<td>20 25</td>
<td>20 25</td>
<td>0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UB</td>
<td>18 12</td>
<td>9 7.5</td>
<td>9 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lund</td>
<td>15 7</td>
<td>15 12.5</td>
<td>0 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malmö**</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
*PhD ECTS % is calculated as a % of coursework required to complete the degree.
**Malmö has no MA or PhD degrees in Psychology.
***LSE – the 4 unit degree is assumed to be 80 ECTS according to the university's own calculations (≈ 1 unit is 20 ECTS)
****UMN credits convert at rate of 1 UMN credit for 2 ECTS.
Summary

Some of the psychology programs in this report tend to front-load their methods training to the master-level (Copenhagen, LSE, and Lund). Gothenburg involves more methods training at the PhD level, and other programs have a rough balance between levels in terms of methods training (Uppsala, Bremen). Gothenburg is by far the group leader in terms of raw ECTS mandated for methods at the MA and PhD levels. However, the LSE and Bremen devote less than half of Gothenburg’s ECTS to methods, but appear to reach similar levels of specialization. In psychology most programmes are focused in quantitative and experimental methods and require no qualitative methods (Lund, Bremen, UMN, Gothenburg), although some require qualitative methods at the master-level (Uppsala, LSE), and others have qualitative elective courses available (Bremen). Copenhagen does not mandate PhD level methods courses, but it requires either quantitative or qualitative methods at the master level. Theory/philosophy of science appears to be taught only in Uppsala. Gothenburg, LSE, Uppsala and Lund explicitly mention research design within their methods courses.
Sociology Comparisons

We compare the 8 universities across 3 disciplines (Political Science, Psychology and Sociology) according to 3 measures (raw ECTS mandatory in methods, proportional ECTS mandatory in methods, and content of mandatory methods). This is done at three levels – master, PhD and ‘combined’. ‘Combined’ is achieved through combining a department’s master and PhD levels in that discipline, examining the case when a student would pass both through that department’s master and PhD programmes. While this is somewhat of an artefact, it allows us to compare department’s cumulative methods training at both levels, and importantly, allows us to compare European programs with the American case, UMN, which involves only a combined master-PhD programme. This ‘combined’ category also has the advantage of allowing us to compare departments that differently allocate their methods training between the master and PhD levels.

Overall Sociology: PhD and MA levels Combined

In terms of raw ECTS in combined MA and PhD levels in Sociology, Uppsala and Lund require 52.5, followed by Gothenburg at 45, Bremen at 30, Copenhagen’s 22.5, UMN at 22, and LSE at 20 ECTS. By proportions, Uppsala and Lund mandate 27% in methods, Gothenburg and the LSE each involve 25%, Bremen requires 20%, Lund requires 19%, UMN requires 17%, and Copenhagen requires 15%.

Master level

In raw numbers at the master level, Gothenburg, Lund, and Uppsala offer the most immersion with 30 ECTS, followed by Copenhagen at 22.5, Bremen at 21, and LSE at 20. In terms of proportions, Gothenburg, Uppsala, Lund, and the LSE each mandate 25% in methods training, followed by Copenhagen at 19%, and Bremen at 17.5%. Based on the information we could gather, at the master level, the highest degree of content specialisation is achieved in Bremen, followed by Copenhagen, Gothenburg, and Uppsala, followed by Lund and then the LSE.

PhD

Sociology PhD programs, in terms of their ECTS dedicated to methods are led by Uppsala and Lund at 22.5 ECTS, followed by UMN with 22, Gothenburg with 15, and Bremen with 9. Neither LSE nor Copenhagen require additional methods at the PhD level (although LSE requires the Masters as a prerequisite). By proportions, Uppsala, Lund, and Bremen each mandate 30%, followed by Gothenburg at 25%, and UMN at 17%. However, the methods on offer in the ECTS-scarce programs of Bremen and UMN appear to be more specialised than those offered in ECTS-rich Lund and Uppsala. The degree of specialisation, advancement in mandated methods appears to be highest in UMN, Bremen, and Gothenburg. Uppsala’s content data are unavailable, and Lund allows free choice in which methods and methodology courses are taken to satisfy the quantitative, qualitative, and theory of science requirements, which may equate to a lower level of specialisation mandated minimum knowledge.
### Table 3. Sociology Joint MA-PhD Program Comparisons

<table>
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<th>Combined</th>
<th>Masters’ level</th>
<th>PhD Level</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Min ECTS (%)</td>
<td>Min ECTS (%)</td>
<td>Min ECTS (%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uppsala</td>
<td>52.5</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>Land</td>
<td>52.5</td>
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<td>22.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gothenburg</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bremen</td>
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<td>21</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copenhagen</td>
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<td>22.5</td>
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<td>UMN**</td>
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<td>N.A.</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>LSE***</td>
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<td>N.A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malmo**</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*PhD ECTS % is calculated as a % of coursework required to complete the degree.
**Malmo has no MA or PhD degrees in Sociology.
***LSE – the 4 unit degree is assumed to be 80 ECTS according to the university's own calculations (so 1 unit is 20 ECTS).
****UMN credits convert at rate of 1 UMN credit for 2 ECTS.
Summary

Regarding qualitative/quantitative balance in Sociology, generally both methods are required, with some variation as to when they are taught. One model is to require basic quantitative and qualitative at the master level and allow voluntary specialisation in one or the other at the PhD level (Uppsala). A second group inverts this model, allowing either quantitative or qualitative at the master level and both methods at the PhD level (Gothenburg, Bremen). A third group requires both methods at both levels (Lund). Copenhagen requires both methods at the master level and none at the PhD level, and UMN requires both methods in its combined PhD programme. In addition, we note that although Gothenburg, Uppsala, and Lund have equal allocations of methods ECTS at the master level, Gothenburg and Uppsala have more advanced teaching goals within quantitative methods. Theory/Philosophy of science appears to be taught only in Lund and Uppsala. Only Copenhagen, UMN, and LSE explicitly mention research design within their mandatory methods content.
• **Immersion**: Lund is not always among the top achievers of these 8 cases in terms of how much ECTS space is allocated to methods and methodology. The overall combined MA-PhD in Sociology scores highly here, the equivalent in Political Science scores moderately high, and Psychology scores less than comparison cases.

*Master level immersion in Lund*: two of the three Lund master level programmes under focus here involve only 15 ECTS in methods, as opposed to the suggested faculty standard of 30 ECTS. In fact, the only master level programmes that we are aware of at the LU Faculty of Social Sciences that involve 30 ECTS in methods/methodology are Sociology, LUMID, and the three Graduate School programmes. A lack of immersion (at only 15 ECTS dedicated to methods) may prevent training at the master level that could allow for later PhD-level specialisation in methods/methodology. Compared to the other cases, Lund’s informal 15 ECTS standard may be too small for some disciplines.

Of course, these immersion indicators are one only piece of the analysis. We also need to take into account how master-PhD programmes allocate methods training between them and the degree of specialisation achieved in these programmes.

• **Front-loaded vs. back-loaded methods**: Departments have different solutions for when their methods/methodology training takes place. Front-loaded departments (e.g. Bremen overall, Lund Psychology, and the joint master PhD traditions of LSE and UMN) tend to have higher proportions of training during the master level years, while back-loaded departments (e.g. Lund Political Science, Gothenburg Political Science and Psychology, and Uppsala Sociology) allocate higher proportions of overall methods training to the PhD years.

• **Specialisation**: We have observed that front-loaded programmes tend to be far more successful in achieving high levels of specialisation and advancement in their methods/methodology training overall, probably because they are able to build successful progression between BA/master level knowledge bases and the PhD level. Building more ECTS (beyond the 15 ECTS informal standard) into the master-level years in Lund would allow for greater progression, specialisation during the PhD years.

• **Pre-requisites**: In Lund, none of the courses we have looked at, at any level (except for multivariate analysis, the Graduate School course), involve methods/methodology pre-requisites. In contrast, pre-requisites are more common in front-loaded programmes, which then allow the initial master-level knowledge to serve as a base for more advanced skills to be learned during PhD years. If advanced courses required pre-requisite knowledge, greater progression could be achieved.

• **Quantitative and Qualitative**: Psychology programs tend to be heavily quantitative/experiment focused. Political Science and Sociology programmes tend toward requiring both quantitative and qualitative methods, albeit with some variation. Examples of quantitative content that are rare in Lund compared to some of the other cases: structural equation modeling, multilevel modeling, longitudinal analyses, Bayesian statistics, survey design. Examples of qualitative methods that were less apparent in Lund: qualitative comparative analysis (QCA), grounded theory, focus groups, expert interviews, coding of qualitative material, analysis using software tools.

• **Theory/Philosophy of science** appears to be mandatory content only in Lund and Uppsala, from what we have seen. While this type of content is less common in social sciences programmes outside of Sweden, we believe that such training best serves its potential in combination with a fuller methods/methodology immersion (greater ECTS proportions), so that it may connect to research design and methodology in a fruitful way. In other words, theory of science teaching is best served by integrating it into a more immersive (more ECTS) overall methods/methodology allocation.

**Conclusions**
• **Research design** is only sporadically mentioned within mandatory methods/methodology offerings, although of course it is possible that this is already being covered in the courses without mention or in courses that are not labeled as methods/methodology courses (such as seminars that assist in the development of thesis proposals). Lund Psychology and Sociology programmes do not have a highly visible research design component in their curricula.

• **Centralisation of methods courses**: There are only few cases where most methods/methodology courses are offered in a centralised fashion, by the faculty or a specialised methods department (e.g. LSE methods courses are provided by a methodology department). Most cases use some sort of hybrid that splits methods teaching between the department and faculty level (Uppsala provides basic master level courses centrally through the faculty, but PhD level courses are provided by departments; Bremen does the opposite, with master courses provided by the departments but cooperation at the PhD level). Examples of ‘pure’ decentralised (department-provided) methods models include Copenhagen and UMN (in addition, Gothenburg has a decentralised model, albeit with some cooperation at the master level). Lund uses a hybrid model, with the majority of methods courses provided by individual departments, but with a proportion of offerings made available by the Faculty and Graduate School. However, compared to other hybrid models, Lund does not have a fully systematic division of labor between departments and the faculty in terms of methods/methodology course provision.

According to our analysis, variation between centralised, hybrid, and decentralised models has no noticeable effect on methods/methodology ECTS, proportion, or specialisation in our cases. For instance, there are examples of opposite hybrid models (Bremen with centralised PhD but decentralised masters vs. Uppsala with centralised masters and decentralised PhD) which both yield good results (Uppsala has very high ECTS proportions in methods. Bremen involves lower immersion but still high levels of specialisation and progression). Decentralised models also vary greatly in their success (UMN achieves very good results, while Copenhagen provides less in immersion and specialisation compared to other cases). Only LSE has a purely centralised methods provision, and it seems to yield adequate results (moderate immersion, but still generally high specialisation). These results do not directly indicate a centralised, decentralised, or hybrid model as superior in terms of methods training. However, it is clear in the comparison that Lund’s hybrid model is one that is not very systematic in terms of which level/type of offerings are allocated to which level of centralisation (department vs. faculty). This corresponds to the finding that Lund appears to have a much greater number of methods courses while not achieving similar levels of specialisation as some of the other cases. More planning of the division of labour in methods provision between the faculty and departments would likely increase the quality of methods/methodology offerings.
For Discussion:

This report looked at methods/methodology immersion (raw ECTS), methods/methodology proportion of the total degree, and to a basic extent, methods content (basic vs. advanced, quantitative vs. qualitative). A number of important factors were not empirically looked at here in relation to methods teaching. These also should to be taken into consideration in any methods discussion:

- **Quality of individual methods courses.** Courses differ in their quality and efficiency of teaching, so that ECTS does not automatically equate to educational outcomes.

- **Methods background of students coming into master and PhD levels.** The hybrid ‘combined’ programs we constructed here are useful for comparison in some ways, but they do not account for students who arrive at the PhD programme with a different methods background than would be the case if they had studied at the master level in the same university as the PhD programme. Also, the methods training provided at the bachelor level is an important foundation for setting up progression at the master level.

- **Commonality of usage of elective courses.** We accounted only for mandatory methods offerings. Non-mandatory offerings are also critical, especially if students are commonly taking them.

- **Department-specific training goals.** Departments may be training students for different job markets and specialise in different ways. For example, a theory-heavy department may have good reasons to loosen its methods requirements, and a department sending PhD graduates to applied fields may also need different types of methods courses.

In relation to the above findings and the important caveats mentioned earlier, it is hoped that this report can spark discussion on the types of methods/methodology training that our departments want. Such discussions might include:

- issues of **progression** between levels (including bachelor level),
- which types of methods/methodology training should be **mandatory/optional** for all graduates,
- how much **depth, advancement, specialisation** can be achieved with a limited proportion of methods/methodology ECTS, and whether that proportion could be increased,
- which types of **content** should be emphasised, de-emphasised, balanced (quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, theory of science, research design),
- a systematic **division of labour** between the faculty and departments in relation to methods/methodology provision.