

Application Instructions

Next opportunity to apply:

Next application period is in March 1 - April 15, 2011. After the deadline you may supplement your application (with e.g. a Master Thesis completed during the spring semester 2011) until May 24.

If you need more information, please contact PerOla.Oberg@statsvet.uu.se.

Minimal requirements for admission: In order to be eligible for admission, applicants must have completed at least a M.A. (e.g. a Pol. Mag., with at least a "D-level Thesis" or a One-Year Master's Thesis.) or equivalent skills/degree with a major in political science or equivalent (i.e., course work in political science corresponding to at least 60 credit points/90 ECTS in the Swedish system currently in effect, including courses on the advanced undergraduate level). More details on required qualifications can be found in section 2 of the [general syllabus \(pdf\)](#) and in [Allmänna studieplanen \(pdf in Swedish\)](#).

The applicant's ability to meet this requirement should be clearly evidenced by the documents submitted with the application. Prospective applicants who remain uncertain about their ability to meet the course work requirements are advised a) to consult with administrative secretary Åsa Viksten Strömbom (see contact information below) about the matter prior to submitting their application, and b) include certified documentation describing the courses they have taken in sufficient detail for the evaluation committee to decide whether the requirement is met.

To successfully participate in the programme, students must be able to understand the English as well as the Swedish language, in spoken as well as written form, without difficulty. In addition, they must be fluent, verbally as well as in writing, in at least one of these two languages. For applicants having a degree from a Swedish university, it is taken for granted that these requirements are met. Applicants without such a degree should submit suitable proof of their language skills. If the samples of research work submitted (see below) include reports written in English or Swedish and the applicant is the sole author, no additional proof of proficiency is required for the language in question.

Applicants with insufficient proficiency in Swedish may nevertheless be admitted to the programme. However, such applicants are expected to make strong efforts to learn a sufficient amount of Swedish during the summer months immediately after admission as well as during their first year of study. In addition, they are expected to submit a special letter of intent where they confirm their readiness to make the efforts required to meet the Swedish proficiency requirements in a timely manner.

Basis of evaluation: Applicants who meet the minimal requirements for admission are evaluated based on their expected ability to profit from advanced graduate training. In other words, they are evaluated based on their expected ability to provide, with proper training, independent high-quality academic research. Consequently, the evaluation is to a large extent based on submitted samples of research reports completed by the applicant in the course of undergraduate training or other research activities, for example, a B.A. and/or an M.A. thesis ("C-uppsats" and/or "D-uppsats").

It should be emphasised that the samples submitted are evaluated primarily for the purpose of obtaining an informed judgment about the applicant's research talents rather than his or her command of a given literature. Hence, the samples submitted should preferably demonstrate those talents in as clear a manner as possible rather than take the form of literature reviews. Ideally, the samples should be of such a quality that (with minor revisions) they would be publishable (or, in rare cases, are already published) as research articles in scholarly journals. It should also be emphasised that the evaluation of the samples submitted is based on an original reading by members of the admission committee. The grade they have previously been assigned, if any, is left without consideration.

Although the evaluation is to a large extent based on the aforementioned samples, the applicant's performance in prior course work is taken into consideration as well. Applicants should therefore include clear records of what they have accomplished in this regard, the grades obtained, and (for courses taken outside the Swedish university system) a certified explanation of the grading system used.

What to submit: The application **should include three (3) copies of all documents**, including samples of research report. Except for samples of research reports, one of the three copies should be either certified or an original document. Please note that we do not accept documents submitted digitally or electronically.

The documents submitted should consist of the following:

- a) the completed [application form](#) (please note your email adress),
- b) certified transcripts of academic records as specified above,
- c) for applicants without a degree from a Swedish university, suitable proof of language skills (English and Swedish only) and/or letter of intent (if proficiency in Swedish is insufficient) as specified above, and
- d) samples of research reports.

Please send the application to:

Åsa Viksten Strömbom
Statsvetenskapliga institutionen (Department of Government)
Box 514
751 20 Uppsala
Sweden

Typically, applicants submit one or two samples of prior research. Note that the samples need not specifically be written within, or as a contribution to, the field of political science. As far as the subject matter is concerned, it suffices that the content is relevant from a

political-science point of view. Note also that the samples submitted should not include anything less ambitious, in terms of scope and academic level, than an ordinary B.A. or M.A. thesis. Papers written as part of ordinary course work or research assignments below the advanced undergraduate level (for example, "B-uppsatser") should not be included. Note also that if any of the samples submitted has multiple authors, it should be accompanied by a statement, preferably written by a senior co-author, certifying and detailing the specific contribution made by the applicant. Note finally, that if any submitted document is written in a language other than English, French, German or Swedish, they must be accompanied by a translation into one of these four languages (preferably English or Swedish). The application may be accompanied by the applicant's C.V. and/or an outline of his or her research plans/interests. However, neither of these two types of documents is required.