



**Sámi allaskuvla**

Sámi University of Applied Sciences

**CURRICULUM  
for  
MASTER'S PROGRAMME**

---

**Master in Sámi Journalism from an Indigenous Perspective  
90/120 ECTS Credits**

Hálddahushoavda dohkkehan mearrádusnotáhtain 4.3.2011 DOS ášši 21/11 vuodul. Dutkan- ja oahppostivra dohkkehan 7.3.2014 áššis DOS 15-14.

Approved by the head of administration 4.3.2011 on the basis of the decision of Sámi University College`s research and academic board in case 21/11. Approved by Sámi University College`s research and academic board 7.3.2014 in case DOS 15-14. Approved by Sámi University of Applied Sciences research and academic board 29.11.2017 in case DOS 137/17.

Public case: 17/00548.

## **Introduction to the programme**

The students are to acquire research-based knowledge about the journalistic profession, its impact and relevance for indigenous communities, and its role in shaping contemporary diverse society. After completing the programme the students will have acquired the competence to work in a professional journalistic setting in a leading or specialist role. The students will have mastery of the legal and ethical requirements of the profession, including international regulations and conventions guiding the field. They will have a capacity for professional self-reflection and for understanding the challenges faced by indigenous media. Based upon their demonstrated capacity for independent research, the students will have the ability to advance research and policy in this area.

## **1. Name of course and degree obtained after successful completion of programme**

### **1.1 NAME OF COURSE**

In Sámi: Sámi journalistihka mastergráda álgoálbmot perspektiivvas

In Norwegian: Mastergrad i samisk journalistikk med et urfolksperspektiv

In English: Master in Sámi Journalism from an Indigenous Perspective

Course code: JOU 300

### **1.2 DEGREE OBTAINED AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF PROGRAMME**

In Sámi: Sámi journalistihka mastergráda álgoálbmot perspektiivvas

In Norwegian: Mastergrad i samisk journalistikk med et urfolksperspektiv

In English: Master's degree in Sámi Journalism from an Indigenous Perspective

## **2. The scope of the programme**

The Master in Sámi Journalism from an Indigenous Perspective are full time studies for 3 semesters (90 ECTS) or 4 semesters (120 ECTS).

The number of accepted students per programme will be 15. Out of these, five students are expected to be international students coming from outside of Sámiland. The Programme is planned for a three-year cycle, where a new cohort of students are accepted every three years.

## **3. Admission requirements**

In accordance with the provisions of this paragraph, applicants should have completed one of the following:

- Bachelor's Degree in Journalism, Social Sciences or Humanities; or
- A so-called cand.mag-degree; or

- Other degree or vocational training of a minimum of 3 years; or
- A degree that according to § 3-4 in the Norwegian Act on Universities and University Colleges (Lov om universitet og høyskoler) is considered to be equal to the above mentioned degrees or forms of education.

In addition, applicants should have a minimum of two years of relevant practical experience. Experience of working within indigenous or minority ethnic media is considered a merit. If necessary, due to the uniqueness of the programme and to the scarcity of university programmes offered within many indigenous areas, the Sámi University College will evaluate whether documented qualifications other than those mentioned above could partially or fully be considered equal to the ones mentioned.

All applicants will be asked to write a letter of motivation (one page of A4) on why they want to study journalism with an Indigenous perspective. Students will have to prove their language skills in Sámi or English either on the basis of their earlier education, or by passing a language test: a Sámi language test as organized by the Sámi University College, or an internationally recognized English-language test. However, if no such documentation exists, the letter of motivation can act as a written language test. In addition to the motivation letter, the applicant will need to pass an oral English test organized by Sámi University College.

Once the student is accepted to the programme, there are no additional entry requirements for individual courses.

#### **4. Language of instruction**

The programme has two main languages, Sámi and English. Any of the Sámi languages will be catered for as far as possible. The Programme requires understanding of English of all students. All course participants must be able to follow lectures in English and read English literature. Lectures will, for the most part, be given in English. Sámi students are able to do all their written work in Sámi, and supervision, feedback etc. can be given in Sámi to Sámi students. If needed, all Sámi languages are catered for, as far as possible.

#### **5. Learning outcomes**

The Master's Degree Programme is an advanced study programme of journalism with a focus on Sámi and Indigenous issues. The anticipated learning outcomes for candidates who complete the full programme are the following, in terms of knowledge, skills and general competence:

##### **Knowledge**

The candidate will have:

- Advanced knowledge in the field of journalism and specific insights and knowledge of the field of indigenous journalism.
- Thorough knowledge of the theories and scientific methods pertaining to the field of journalism, indigenous journalism in particular, as well as understanding of the field of ethnic identity and ethnic relations.
- The ability to utilise his or her knowledge within new areas of journalism and the media.
- The ability to analyse scientific problems in relation to the history, traditions and distinctiveness of journalism in general and indigenous journalism in particular, and place these problems in relation to the place of journalism in society.

### **Skills**

The candidate will have the skills to:

- Analyse existing theories, methods and interpretations of journalism, and work independently with practical and theoretical problem solving.
- Utilise relevant methods for research and development work in an independent manner.
- Analyse and critically examine a variety of sources of information, and utilise these to structure and formulate scientific arguments.
- Individually but under supervision, carry out a clearly defined piece of research or development work that is in line with existing scientific ethical guidelines.

### **General competence**

The candidate will be able to:

- Analyse relevant problems pertaining to the scientific, practical and research field of journalism.
- Utilise his or her knowledge and skills within new areas in order to carry out advanced working tasks and projects.
- Communicate extensive pieces of individual work and master the expressions of the field.
- Communicate scientific problems, analyses and conclusions within the field of journalism, both to specialists and to the general public.
- Contribute to new ideas and innovative processes.

The more specific learning outcomes for each course are laid out in the course descriptions.

## **6. Aim of the programme**

The Master's degree programme in Sámi Journalism from an Indigenous Perspective provides rigorous academic training for further study and deep insight into the world of journalism, while simultaneously examining the world of journalism from an indigenous perspective. An important aspect of the programme is to enable the students to reflect upon what it means to be an indigenous journalist, and what, if any, bearings this perspective has on journalistic

practice. The programme offers theoretical and research based knowledge of journalism, and of the methods and skills that are required for working as journalists in advanced positions. The programme provides a pathway to achieving competence for doctoral research for students fulfilling the long version with a Master thesis of 60 ECTS and a total of 120 ECTS.

## 7. Programme structure

The programme is divided into the following parts:

- Mandatory courses 40 ECTS
- Optional courses 20 ECTS (where students can choose other courses than those offered within the programme)
- A Master's Degree Thesis of 30 or 60 ECTS. The shorter version may entail a piece of journalistic work. The longer version may entail a piece of extended journalistic work

| 1. term  | 2. term   | 3. term                 | 4. term                 |
|--|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| What is indigenous journalism? (10 ECTS)                       | Optional Course: Advanced journalism course for indigenous journalism (10 ECTS) | Master thesis (30 ECTS) | Master thesis 60 (ECTS) |
| Ethics, law and professional identity (10 ECTS)                | Journalism research: Theory and methods (20 ECTS)                               |                         |                         |
| Optional Course: Indigenous societies and structures (10 ECTS) |   |                         |                         |

The mandatory courses contain the core courses of the programme including examining indigenous journalism, ethics, law, and research methodologies. The two optional courses are advanced journalism and a course on indigenous society and structures. Students who already have substantial competence in these fields can opt for specialisation in another area, either by choosing another course within the Sámi University of Applied Sciences or a relevant course within another institution of higher education.

The programme is structured to provide advanced instruction and learning in core areas of journalism and media studies.

### A. Mandatory Courses:

- What is indigenous journalism? (10 ECTS)
- Ethics, law and professional identity (10 ECTS)
- Journalism research: Theory and methods (20 ECTS)

### B. Optional Courses:

- Indigenous societies and structures (10 ECTS)
- Advanced journalism course for indigenous journalism (10 ECTS)

OR other courses that amount to 10 + 10 ECTS and that strengthen a specific area of indigenous journalism. This can be *inter alia* in matters related to the Sámi language (such as Sámi Language and Writing) or Sámi history; Indigenous issues (Indigenous Philosophy or other Indigenous studies); or media or journalism (e.g. Environment Journalism).

### **C. Master's thesis:**

- Master's thesis writing and seminar I (30 ECTS)
- Master's thesis writing and seminar II (60 ECTS)

### **MASTER'S THESIS**

The aim of the thesis is to deepen the student's knowledge within the journalistic academic field and sharpen the student's analytical skills. The Master's thesis can be either 30 ECTS or 60 ECTS in scope. A thesis of 60 ECTS is focused on providing scientific excellence with an aim to prepare the student for further academic training at postgraduate level. It requires an academic piece of work of about 100-120 pages or; 1 practical piece of extended journalistic work + analysis of about 50 pages.. A thesis of 60 ECTS leads to a competence for doctoral research. If the candidate chooses to limit the thesis to 30 ECTS, the scope of the thesis is either about 60 pages of written text, or a practical piece of journalistic work accompanied by an analytical part of 40 pages.

## **8. Teaching and working methods**

Teaching methods are selected so as to be appropriate to the course and the topic; lectures, group work, independent tasks, seminars, group discussions and individual mentoring being the core methods employed.

Small group lectures will provide a means of introducing the students to the substantive material that they will be expected to engage with. The IT and other pedagogic resources of the Sámi University of Applied Sciences will be utilised in order to introduce flexible pedagogic styles employing appropriate audio-visual inputs.

The shared participation in developing professional skills will be a key location for drawing upon the comparative international repertoire of the student group as a learning resource.

Emphasis is put on student's independent work and participation. Each student is given his or her own supervisor or mentor who can give the student academic input as well as feedback and inspiration.

Taking academic development and continuity into consideration, as well as the exchange and development that takes place within the group, students are expected to attend at least 75 % of lectures offered.

Students are invited to give feedback on lectures and courses as well as on their own learning process. This can take place both verbally and/or in written form.

## **9. Examination**

Examination of courses is either written home essay, written school examination or Portfolio examination. Examination is described in detail in course plans. Grading scale of examination according to scale of A-F.

### **Examination of Master's thesis**

The student is required to give a presentation or lecture of 30-45 minutes based on the thesis. During this lecture or presentation, the examiners can ask questions pertaining to content, theoretical framework, methods, results and form of presentation. The final evaluation of the Master's thesis includes the examiner's evaluation of the presentation/lecture and following discussion. Grading scale of examination according to scale of A-F.

## **10. Employment and further studies**

After completing the programme the students will have acquired the competence to work in a professional journalistic setting in a leading or specialist role; such as staff editor, senior editor, specialist editor, director, development director, policy professional, consultant etc. The students will have mastery of the legal and ethical requirements of the profession, including international regulations and conventions guiding the field. They will have a capacity for professional self-reflection and for understanding the challenges faced by indigenous media. All of these are central for any key position within the field of journalism or media policy, indigenous journalism and media in particular. The programme is divided into the possibility of 90 or 120 ECTS credits; the alternative of 120 credits provides competence for doctoral studies.

## **11. Other**

### **11.1 Internationalization**

The programme is international in its core, inviting students from all over the world to apply. The aim is to create a genuinely international setting where students share their experiences and expertise across cultural and linguistic borders. Amongst the guest lecturers, many will be from outside of the Nordic states.

Out of the expected two years of study, a minimum of one year should be spent at the Sámi University of Applied Sciences, with the possibility of spending the other year at another suitable location. Students also have the possibility to utilise the exchange programmes that the Sámi University of Applied Sciences is party to. Students are allowed to take their optional course at another higher-level educational institution that is approved by the Sámi University of Applied Sciences. This means that both Sámi and non-Sámi students are able to meet the course requirements partly in Norway, partly elsewhere. However, the final exam and presentation of the Master's Thesis takes place at the Sami University of Applied Sciences in Kautokeino.

### **11.2. Quality assurance**

**Students' evaluation**

At the end of each course, students are asked to fill out a feedback form, which will be handled anonymously. At the end of each year, there will be a formal review of the feedback received. A review body consisting of representatives from the University College management, the course teachers and the students is appointed for the purpose of reviewing the feedback. The minutes from the review board's meetings will be utilized in the planning of subsequent courses.

**Evaluation of the Programme**

The Sámi University of Applied Sciences has an established regime for quality assurance (see Quality Handbook of the Sámi University of Applied Sciences), and this course will be bound by these institutional requirements and processes. These measures, students' evaluations, Exam reports, sensor reports and education reports, for assuring the quality standards of the programme will be a systematic part of the annual planning processes.

**11.3 Part-time studies**

Students who wish to complete the course over a longer period than the normal pace of 1,5 or 2 years can do so according to a specific timetable; however, tailor made courses will not be readily available. Plans for special arrangements need to be approved by the Research and Academic board of Sámi University of Applied Sciences.