

Til:
HF STUD Studieseksjonen

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Forslag om etablering av masterprogram i Modern International and Transnational History (MITRA)

Summary

An MA in Modern International and Transnational History (MITRA) will be established from the fall of 2017 as a 2-year English-language programme. By focusing on international and transnational history from the mid-19th century to the recent past, the programme will offer a broad historical perspective on political, cultural, social, and economic processes both between and beyond nation states. It will contain a combination of core and specialized courses and include a practical “horizontal” element that will prepare students for the writing of the final MA thesis. The programme will foster internationalization by offering students the choice between two options for a 3rd semester “field term”: either an internship with international institutions and enterprises outside of Norway or a history project including work in foreign archives. Admission to the programme will be highly selective and will aim at excellent and ambitious BA students from History and other programmes (including International Studies) both from the University of Oslo and abroad. MITRA will contribute to further strengthening the University of Oslo’s visibility and reputation as a prime location for study and research, meeting the highest international standards. The programme will achieve this by utilizing the competence of Oslo historians in diplomatic history as well as in other border-crossing areas such as human rights, trade, copyright laws and branding, culture flows, and humanitarian aid.



Programme structure

Draft Curriculum Modern International and Transnational History:

<i>1st Semester:</i> 30 ECTS	<i>2nd Semester</i> 30 ECTS	<i>3rd Semester</i> 30 ECTS	<i>4th Semester</i> 30 ECTS
<i>Main Themes in International and Transnational History</i> 10 ECTS	<i>Methods and Theory in International and Transnational History</i> 10 ECTS	Field Term 25 ECTS	Thesis 30 ECTS
<i>Topic in International and Transnational History</i> 10 ECTS	<i>Topic in International and Transnational History</i> 10 ECTS		
<i>Reading course ITH</i> 5 ECTS	<i>Reading course ITH</i> 5 ECTS		
<i>Research and Writing Training Module I</i> 5 ECTS	<i>Research and Writing Training Module II</i> 5 ECTS		
		<i>Research and Writing Training Module III</i> 5 ECTS	

Components

2 Core seminars - Semester 1 and 2; a combination of lecture and class room instruction

Main Themes in International and Transnational History:

The course will offer a broad introduction into major topics (e.g. imperialism, the cold war, globalization, etc) relevant for the study of international and transnational history and include an overview of some of the approaches taken by historians to study them

Methods and Theoretical Approaches in International and Transnational History:

The course will offer students an introduction in key approaches and concepts relevant for the writing of international and transnational history (global history and theories of globalization, the history of internationalism and global governance, cultural transfer and entanglement etc.)

The exam for both core courses should be a combination of oral and written elements, including a short mid-term essay.

4 Topical Courses: Semester 1 and 2; seminar-style instruction, in two different forms:

2x Thematic Courses (10 ECTS) ending with a 10-15 pages essay and dealing with a topic from the field of International and Transnational History

2x Reading Courses (5 ECTS) in which the exam will consist of a presentation/handout or a couple of smaller reading-related papers like extracts, reflection papers, reviews etc.

These courses are designed in such a way as to allow for the deepening of knowledge acquired in the core course by focusing on more specific topics. Topics will be chosen with a view to define and support an Oslo-specific profile for the programme and deal for example with humanitarian, human rights and conflict resolution, with global economic flows and processes, with international organisations and institutions, etc. Reading Courses are intended to be intense experiences that allow for and demand the in-depth study of scholarly literature and primary sources on a more narrowly defined topic.

Research and Writing Training Module: semester 1-3:

The Research and Writing Training Module will stretch over three semesters and will consist of a series of workshops and peer-reviewed group exercises. It will help students to acquire necessary techniques in advanced bibliographical and archival research, project design, and academic writing. It will accompany and support students in all stages of the process leading towards the final thesis.

Integration of the "horizontal element" i.e. the Research and Writing Training Module with the 3rd semester Field Term

The Research and Writing Training Module (RWT) will be split in three parts over semesters 1-3 (3x 5 ECTS modules). Each of the modules comprises a series of workshops and off-classroom group work elements in between. For semesters 1 and 2 they will be spread over the whole term, in semester 3 there is a need to reconcile the RWT module with the requirements of the 25 ECTS field term (internship or history project). The guiding thought is not to lose the “horizontal” character of the RWT module which will prepare students in a fully integrated way for the final thesis over the whole duration of the programme and at the same time leave enough space for the field term. Thus the RWT module for semester 3 will be concentrated in two blocks located in the first and last two weeks of the semester. The rest of the semester will be left for up to three months of internship/history project and two weeks for report writing (=25 ECTS)

We are aware that there might be challenges concerning a 25 ECTS field term, and we are prepared to be flexible if another solution is needed. A possible alternative is a 30 ECTS field term, were the RWT III will be part of the field term.

Field Term: Semester 3

Students will do either internships in international institutions, organizations or companies outside Norway or will work on a research-oriented History Project including international archival studies.

Practical Part/Internationalization:

Students will spend the greater part of the programme’s 3rd semester on a “field term” (practical semester) which will give students an opportunity to acquaint themselves with potential future job environments. The practical semester will by default be spent abroad and thus contribute significantly to meeting the goal of internationalization.

The programme will offer students **two options** for their practical term:

- (a) An **Internship** with an international institution, an embassy, NGO, company, etc. outside of Norway. Those students who could not or (for good reasons) would not want to leave Norway, could spend the term with an international organisation, company or NGO with headquarters or branch office in Norway. The exam will be an internship report and a short oral defense.
- (b) A **History project**, which contains the production of a research paper based on genuine on-spot archival research in at least two different archives, one of which has to be located outside of Norway. The exam will take the form of a c. 30 pages paper + oral defense. (The topic for the project and the topic of the thesis must differ from each other.)

For both options the department will create a **service spot** to guide students in their search for suitable internship/archival spots.

MA Thesis (30 ECTS): Semester 4

The programme will include a 30 ECTS Thesis that meets the international standard for similar programmes. However, other than the majority of these programmes, the UiO programme will introduce a practical feature in form of a 15 ECTS Research and Writing Training Module meant to guide students towards the writing of their thesis. The Research and Writing Training Module will stretch over semesters 1-3 and contain a series of workshops and off-classroom group exercises. It will fulfill the dual aim of (a) fully integrating from the start the thesis as the final target point of the programme, and (b) securing in-depth preparation for a thesis based on profound empirical archival research and advanced historiographical methodology.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Modern International and Transnational History programme:

Knowledge

- Possess advanced knowledge in the field of international and transnational history and a deepened awareness for the global dimension of modern historical processes
- Have acquired profound knowledge of methodological and theoretical approaches relevant for the study of international and transnational history such as “links and flows” and understanding the difference between transnational history and the historiography structured around the nation state.
- Can apply knowledge to current challenges within the field of international and transnational history.

Skills

- Can conduct, under supervision, an independent research project on a modern international or transnational historical topic of the student’s own choice
- are able to analyze historical problems and formulate research questions independently and to choose as well as to apply adequate historiographical methods to answer them; all with a sense for the potential multiplicity of perspectives on a given subject
- are able to identify, assess and use relevant primary material and scholarly literature from a diverse set of local and international sources on a historical problem

- are equipped to conduct historical research projects based on international archival research
- can meet the formal requirements for the conduct of academic research within the field of history and employ the appropriate ethical standards and code of conduct.

General competence

- are able to present adequately, in English, the results of their research in written, oral or visual form in ways suited for diverse audiences
- can analyze and communicate how international and transnational processes work and to what extent they correspond with national interests.
- are enabled to take a full part in international academic conversation through articles, presentations, reviews or other media of communication on topics of historical research
- are prepared to apply their knowledge as well as the results of their research and render informed contributions to relevant debates both within academic environments and vis-à-vis the general public
- Possess advanced knowledge of the academic environment in history as well as in neighbouring disciplines, and are accordingly acquainted with all stages of the research process and are able to use this competence to work on major research projects both independently and in cooperation with others

Career opportunities

Candidates with a degree in Modern International and Transnational History will be attractive for both the public and private sector, especially for businesses and organizations that have an international agenda. The candidates will have a greater understanding of transnational processes and will be able to identify and work with the opportunities and challenges that often are unique when working across borders. All students will have finished either a field term abroad, worked with an international organization in Oslo or completed a research-oriented History Project abroad. This important part of the programme will let the student apply their knowledge in a work environment, create networks and prepare them for a career after a finished degree. Both the field term and the master's thesis will create career opportunities for our candidates, either in academia or in the public/private sector.

Target groups, admission rate and requirements:

An English-language programme in modern international and transnational history at UiO will aim to attract excellent applicants mainly from three different groups of students: (a) internationally oriented Norwegian students with a bachelor degree in history or other relevant disciplines in the humanities, (b) BA graduates from UiO's Internasjonale studier (INTER) or similar programmes elsewhere in Norway, who have an interest in the historical dimension of their subject (c) foreign students, in particular exchange students, for whom both the programme and an Oslo-specific profile will be highly attractive.

Admission to MITRA will be selective. It will start with an intake of 20 students a year, possibly with a perspective to slightly step up at a later stage. The aim is to attract to the programme excellent applicants from history and other disciplines that have a genuine interest in the historical dimension of their subject.

Admission to master's degree studies requires:

- Higher Education Entrance Qualification and a completed bachelor's degree comparable to a Norwegian bachelor's degree. Applicants with foreign education, please refer to the country list.
- a specialization defined by the programme
- a minimum grade average of C (in the Norwegian grading scale) or equivalent from the specialization in your degree.
- a language requirement documented by one of the tests/exams below:
 - a) Passed examination in English foundation course (140 hours/5 periods per week) in Norwegian upper secondary school with a minimum grade of 4 (or an equivalent grade from a Nordic upper secondary school) or alternatively passed examination in English from second and/or third school year, or
 - b) An internationally recognised English language proficiency test.

Required specialization

The admission requirement is

- a completed bachelor's degree comparable to a Norwegian bachelor's degree within social sciences or the humanities.
- and a minimum of 30 credits (ECTS) in modern history courses. (The exception is students with a bachelor's degree in International Studies from the University of Oslo; these students will need the 20 ECTS in modern history that is obligatory in the bachelor degree.)

The grade point average (GPA) must be C (or a good second class honours degree) or better in this manner:

For students from

- history programmes
- Internasjonale studier/International Studies from the University of Oslo

the grade point average will be taken from their in depth study courses equal to 80 credits (Internasjonale studier/International Studies equal to 90 credits).

For other students the grade point average and counting of grade points are made on the basis of 80 credits as follows

- 30 credits in modern history courses
- and the best grades in the in depth study courses amounting to 50 credits.

Documentation

You have to upload all required documents in UiO's online application portal.

Letter of motivation: We ask all applicants to our programme to add a Letter of motivation/Statement of purpose where you elaborate on your interest in international and transnational history, either from work or studies.

Ranking of applicants

Applicants are ranked according to their grade average as indicated above. Applicants who cannot be ranked according to their grade average, will be ranked on the basis of an individual assessment.

Please note that even if you fulfill the minimum grade requirement, this does not guarantee you a study place in the programme.

The programme complies with the general admission rules at the Faculty of Humanities.

Resources:

The Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History has sufficient resources to establish a new master programme, and we are committed to allocate the necessary academic and administrative resources to MITRA, without reducing the quality of our existing programmes.

Potential competition and overlap with other programmes:

A new attractive international master's programme in history will raise the general awareness of UiO as a potential place of study for more international students. The establishment of this master programme in international and transnational history will first and foremost offer something new: an English-language, specialized programme focusing on modern international and transnational history with a broader view than is being offered at UiO today. It will not affect other programmes negatively but will represent a healthy competition. There will be some overlap with the master's programme in Peace and Conflict Studies (PECOS) at The Faculty of Social Science and the master's programme in history, but no more than the overlap that already exists between these two programmes.¹ Compared to our master's programme in history, MITRA will be for internationally oriented students both in Norway and from abroad. The master's programme in history requires Norwegian language skills equal to Trinn 3, and is focused on a 60 ECTS master thesis. MITRA will thus be sufficiently differentiated from IAKH's existing history programme and will attract a broader range of students both because it is an international programme and because the admission requirements for history specialization are lower. Compared to PECOS, MITRA will be a history programme, and as stated in the summary it will focus on international and transnational history in a broader sense and will make use of our resources in economic, social and international history.

Med hilsen

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instituttleder

Magne Olav Rønningen
studieleder

Dette dokumentet er godkjent elektronisk ved UiO og er derfor ikke signert.

¹ PECOS has its own history track that offers two mandatory courses that are also a part of the master's program in history, and at least one topical course offered to students of both programmes.

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