STUDY THE LANGUAGES, LITERATURE AND MEDIA OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES
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SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES
AT AALBORG UNIVERSITY, DENMARK

The Scandinavian Studies programme at Aalborg University offers the Scandinavian Studies student a unique opportunity to integrate in-depth studies at undergraduate level into the home-university study programme and combine it with a stay in Denmark. Courses in the following areas are currently offered by the Department on a regular basis: Scandinavian Literature, Scandinavian Languages and Scandinavian Media.

LEARN DANISH WHILE YOU STUDY IN DENMARK

Students at Scandinavian Studies will also be able to choose courses offered in Danish at the Danish Studies programme, and the Aalborg University Language School (AAULS) offers courses in basic Danish. The stay will be combined with social accommodation and trips in Denmark and if possible, in other Scandinavian countries.

THE PROGRAMME

The course is a one semester full-time study programme (30 ECTS credits) running from September to December or from February to June. Students will be offered two courses in each of the three subjects: Scandinavian Literature, Scandinavian Languages, and Scandinavian Media.

SCANDINAVIAN LITERATURE

The course in Scandinavian literature focuses on important and internationally well-known Scandinavian authors and literary works. The significant themes in the early literature include the Edda poetry, the sagas, and the ballads, and in the period of Romanticism particularly Hans Christian Andersen and Søren Kierkegaard. In the historical period of the Modern Breakthrough, Scandinavia distinguished itself strongly by authors like J. P. Jacobsen, Henrik Ibsen, August Strindberg and Knut Hamsun, and in the 20th century, Karen Blixen's authorship became significant in an international perspective. In the later part of the 20th century, authors like Inger Christensen, Tomas Tranströmer and Peter Høeg reached a large international audience. The course will offer a coherent reading of Scandinavian literature, and attention will be given to different works, genres, and authorships. The literary works will be read in their social and historical contexts, so that a feeling of the different places in Scandinavian literature will arise. In terms of its association with the canonized parts of Scandinavian literature, the course will also discuss the role of Scandinavian literature in the international context.

SCANDINAVIAN LANGUAGES

In order to understand the similarities and the differences between the Scandinavian peoples, it is a necessary prerequisite to have some insight into their languages. The historical and current situation is that they developed out of a common Scandinavian language, and they are nowadays mutually understandable depending on who the interlocutors are. Furthermore, the languages of the Scandinavian countries present one with a group of interrelated languages that have been studied in depth, and they may be contrasted with the non-Indo-European languages of Finnish and Greenlandic. So they offer an exemplary environment for the linguistically interested.

SCANDINAVIAN MEDIA

Internationally, the landscape of Scandinavian media is best known for its cinema culture and its crime fiction culture. Especially Danish film made a very early success during the silent film period, predominantly revolving around directors like Carl Th. Dreyer and Benjamin Christensen – and the actress Asta Nielsen. Swedish film had great international success with Victor Sjöström, Mauritz Stiller and actress Greta Garbo, and later with Ingmar Bergman and Bo Widerberg. Notable names in modern Scandinavian cinema are among many others Lars von Trier and other Dogma directors, Ole Christian Madsen, Susanne Bier and Lone Scherfig in Denmark; in Norway Joachim Trier, Bent Hamer and Erik Skjoldbjærg and in Sweden Roy Andersson, Lasse Hallström (now in Hollywood), Lukas Moodysson and Josef Fares. A wider media culture impact stems from the so-called ‘Nordic Noir’ tradition. Demonstrating cross-media success in novels, cinema and television, Scandinavian crime fiction – to a certain extent diffusing from the Stieg Larsson and the Henning Mankell themes – has become an immense international trademark. Another important aspect of the Scandinavian media landscape is public service broadcasting focusing on quality TV as a pluralistic alternative to commercial television, “The Killing”. On a historical basis, the course will be a guide through remarkable Scandinavian productions in film, television and other media cultures.
ABOUT AALBORG UNIVERSITY

Established in 1974, Aalborg University (AAU) is an internationally recognized institution that offers first-rate academic programmes. Our 14,000 students choose from over 60 different study programmes within four faculties. Aalborg University is a relatively new university situated in Aalborg, the vibrant 'capital' of Northern Jutland, with short distances to the rest of Denmark, and Sweden and Norway.

AAU is one of Denmark’s leading universities in innovative methods of cooperation with the surrounding world from the local to the international levels. Students are surrounded by a concentration of top-quality research and study facilities. There are also a number of services to support you in your academic work – wireless networks, remote database access, a digital project library, and much more. Throughout the year there are many events and activities organized to help you get the most out of your Aalborg University and Danish experience.

Our learning model rests upon principles of inter-disciplinarity, problem-based learning and project work. Today, we are one of the leading universities in this method – and what truly sets us apart is the close connection between students and faculty.

SOCIALIZING & THE CITY

Aalborg is the ideal setting for generating solutions to global issues alongside a cultural vigor like nowhere else. Located near to Denmark’s stunning west coast, the city is known for its 'cozy' café life, cobble stone streets and charming harbour front. Aalborg is a great place to meet students from around the globe. AAU’s Student House bar is crowded every Wednesday for International Night and at the end of the week, the campus is bustling with the Friday Café.

EXAMPLES OF STUDENTS’ PROJECT TITLES

- Motives in Hans Christian Andersen’s fairy tales
- Søren Kierkegaard’s existentialism in “Either-Or”
- Trends in contemporary Scandinavian poetry
- Sex and gender in Karen Blixens/Isak Dinesens “Seven Gothic Tales”
- Noir in “The Killing” – Danish tv-drama, cultural criticism, and genre
- The Blessing and Daisy Diamond – An analysis of maternity in Danish cinema
- Adapted emotions – A Royal Affair from book to film
- Morten Sabro and narrative journalism.
**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Students enroll for one semester starting on September 1st or February 1st. Tuition fees are charged for non-EU citizens. Please find more information at [studyguide.aau.dk/apply](http://studyguide.aau.dk/apply).

For students not requiring a visa to study in Denmark (primarily from the EU), or students who are enrolled in an institution with a cooperation agreement with Aalborg University, the application deadlines are:

**DEADLINES FOR APPLICANTS WITH EU/EEA CITIZENSHIP AND APPLICANTS FROM PARTNER/CO-OPERATING INSTITUTIONS:**

- 1 May when applying for the September intake
- 1 October when applying for the February intake.

For students requiring a visa to study in Denmark, the application deadlines are:

**DEADLINES FOR APPLICANTS REQUIRING VISA:**

- 15 March when applying for the September intake
- 15 August when applying for the February intake.

An application form can be downloaded from the Aalborg University website [studyguide.aau.dk/apply](http://studyguide.aau.dk/apply).

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

More detailed information about the Scandinavian Studies Programme can be found on the following website [scandinavianstudies.aau.dk](http://scandinavianstudies.aau.dk).

For further information about Aalborg University and the Scandinavian Studies Programme please contact:

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**AALBORG UNIVERSITY DENMARK**