

**Sak 3 (39/2022) Oppløsning av tematiske spesialiseringer på masterprogrammet HGO**

Revised HGO programme structure, learning outcomes and programme description applicable from Autumn 2023:

## Programme structure

The master programme runs over four semesters (120 credits). The programme consists of:

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- methodology and methods (20 credits)
- ~~specialization and~~ elective courses
- master's thesis (~~630~~ or ~~630~~ credits)

~~In the beginning of the second semester you either choose~~

- ~~• a study in General Human Geography or~~
- ~~• one of four thematic specializations:~~
  - ~~◦ Urban Studies and Planning~~
  - ~~◦ Climate Change Adaptation and Social Transformations~~
  - ~~◦ Development and Politics~~
  - ~~◦ Economic and Labour Geography~~

### ~~General~~ Human Geography with 60 credits master's thesis

<b>4. semester</b>	<a href="#">HGO4090 – Master's thesis 60 credits</a>		
<b>3. semester</b>	Elective course	<a href="#">HGO4090 – Master's thesis 60 credits</a>	
<b>2. semester</b>	<a href="#">HGO4010 – Qualitative method</a> or <a href="#">HGO4940 – Advanced Geographic Information Systems</a>	Elective course	<a href="#">HGO4090 – Master's thesis 60 credits</a>
<b>1. semester</b>	<a href="#">HGO4011 – Philosophy and methodology of human geography</a>	Elective course/ <a href="#">SOS4020 – Kvantitativ metode</a>	Elective course
	10 credits	10 credits	10 credits

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Method and methodology courses (20 credits)

- [HGO4011 – Philosophy and methodology of human geography](#)
- [HGO4010 – Qualitative method](#) or [HGO4940 – Advanced Geographic Information Systems](#) or [SOS4020 – Kvantitativ metode](#)

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Qualitative and quantitative method courses from other universities, corresponding to 10 credits at master's level, may be approved upon application.

Elective courses (40 credits)

You choose among these courses:

- [HGO4201 – Urban geographical theory](#)
- [HGO4202 – Urbanism - urban policies and planning](#)
- [HGO4203 – Sustainable urban transformations](#)
- [HGO4301 – The Social Dimensions of Environmental Change](#)
- [HGO4302 – Transformations to Sustainability](#)
- [HGO4401 – Democratization and civil society in developing countries](#)
- [HGO4501 – Development](#)
- [HGO4601 – Economic geography: Institutions, evolution and sustainability transitions](#)
- [HGO4604 – The futures of work](#)
- [HGO4605 – Transformations in the global economy: value chains and production networks](#)
- [HGO4040 – Individual reading list](#) This course can not be chosen the first term.
- [SOSGEO4801 – Social Movements in the Age of Migration](#)

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Discontinued courses

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60 credits master's thesis

Field work/data collection starts in the second semester. Work on the master's thesis gradually increases from the second semester onwards.

Human Geography with 30 credits master's thesis

If you write a 30 credits master's thesis, you **need to take 30 credits of additional course work. You can choose between the following options:**

- **30 extra credits of elective courses from the list above** or
- **up to 30 credits of study abroad** in the 3rd semester **or**
- **up to 30 credits from other UiO programmes or other Norwegian universities relevant for your master thesis.**

Please contact the student advisor for courses outside the Department of Sociology and Human Geography at UiO.

<b>4. semester</b>	<a href="#">HGO4080 – Master's thesis 30 credits</a>			Formatted: Font: 12 pt
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<b>3. semester</b>	Elective course / study abroad	Elective course / study abroad	Elective course / study abroad	Formatted: Font: 12 pt
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<b>2. semester</b>	<a href="#">HGO4010 – Qualitative method</a> or <a href="#">HGO4940 – Advanced Geographic Information Systems</a>	Elective course	Elective course	Formatted: Font: 12 pt
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<b>1. semester</b>	<a href="#">HGO4011 – Philosophy and methodology of human geography</a>	Elective course/ <a href="#">SOS4020 – Kvantitativ metode</a>	Elective course	Formatted: Font: 12 pt
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	10 credits	10 credits	10 credits	Formatted: Font: 12 pt, English (United States)
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**Specialization courses (20 credits)**

**order):** You choose two mandatory courses from your chosen specialization:

**Recommended courses combinations according to your field of interest (in code order):**

**order):** You choose two mandatory courses from your chosen specialization:

*Urban studies and Planning*

- [HGO4201 – Urban geographical theory](#)
- [HGO4202 – Urbanism - urban policies and planning](#)
- [HGO4203 – Sustainable urban transformations](#)

*Climate Change Adaptation, **Environment** and Social Transformations*

- [HGO4203 – Sustainable urban transformations](#)
- [HGO4301 – The Social Dimensions of Environmental Change](#)
- [HGO4302 – Transformations to Sustainability](#)
- [HGO4601 – Economic geography: Institutions, evolution and sustainability transitions](#)

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#### *Development and Politics*

- [HGO4401 – Democratization and civil society in developing countries](#)
- [HGO4501 – Development](#)
- [HGO4605 – Transformations in the global economy: value chains and production networks](#)

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#### *Economic and Labour Geography*

- [HGO4601 – Economic geography: Institutions, evolution and sustainability transitions](#)
- [HGO4604 – The futures of work](#)
- [HGO4605 – Transformations in the global economy: value chains and production networks](#)

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## Progress requirements

### Progress requirements

The nominal length of study of the master's degree programme is two years. If you need longer, it is important that you familiarize yourself with the [guidelines for retaining admission](#) to your study programme.

Note that if you take longer than the standard two years, changes may occur in the structure of the programme **and you may have to** take more than 120 credits in order to be awarded the degree.

## Diploma and degree

The diploma is issued when you have completed the courses that meet the requirements for a degree. [Read more about diplomas.](#)

## Learning outcomes

What distinguishes human geography from other social sciences is the study of social processes in terms of space and place. At the Master Programme in Human Geography you learn to understand the spatial connections and complexities of the social world, developing the analytical capabilities to examine the relationship between local processes and conditions and those at the national and global scale.

### Learning outcomes

#### Knowledge

- You have in-depth knowledge of the history of human geographic thought.
- You have advanced empirical and theoretical knowledge within one or more of the following areas: urban studies and planning, climate change adaptation, environment and social transformations, development and politics, and economic and labour geography.
- You have in-depth understanding of the spatial connections and complexities of the social world in meeting the challenges of socio-environmental sustainability.
- You have in-depth knowledge of advanced methodological tools and can assess their appropriate use for the analysis of specific issues.

#### Skills

You will be able to:

- employ analytical, spatial perspectives to new research questions.
- to examine the relationship between local processes and conditions and those at the national and global scale.
- formulate precise research questions, develop a good research design and structure sound argumentation in the analysis of specific issues.
- apply scientific methods and tools to the analysis of empirical and theoretical problems and contribute to their understanding and solution.
- conduct an independent and clearly delineated piece of research in line with academic and methodological standards and ethical guidelines.
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#### General competence

You will be able to:

- Communicate research effectively to other experts and the general public.
- Systematically and analytically acquire and communicate new knowledge.
- Independently assess and reflect upon the methodological, ethical and practical challenges of research.
- Initiate and provide constructive input to professional development activities.
- Independently conduct focused research projects.
- Contribute to the working environment on the basis of knowledge and experience.

## Why choose this programme?

All places –small or large, rich or poor, near or far– are unique yet connected to a multitude of other places at the same time. With a master's degree in Human Geography you learn to understand the difference that place makes and how local and global processes intertwine and produce change around the world.

This programme aims to provide an understanding of social processes within the context of space and place. In a world facing climate change, meeting sustainability challenges require a combined approach sensitive to context and inequalities. With us you will learn how economic, political, social and cultural processes manifest themselves in a variety of spaces across the world, in cities, regionally or globally, and how the properties of places influence broader social processes in the global North and South.

- You can choose courses to fit your academic interests. We offer courses in urban studies, climate change adaptation, socio-environmental change, development and politics, and economic and labour geography.
- The programme's methodological courses offer a choice of methods available to The programme's methodological courses offer a choice of methods available to
- You can conduct independent fieldwork research for your master's thesis, in Norway or abroad.
- You can experience working life through our internship course with relevant partner institutions from the public and private sector in the Oslo region.
- You can link up your master thesis work with ongoing research projects at the department and among partner institutions, such as NIBR, TØI, ISF and FAFO.
- Working on your master's thesis you conduct independent research and develop Working on your master's thesis you conduct independent research and develop
- You can choose writing a 60 credits or a 30 credits masters' thesis. You can choose to study a semester abroad through the University of Oslo's wide exchange agreements.

With a master's degree in Human Geography you will be prepared for a knowledge-intensive career that demands practical methodological skills. Human geographers work in areas such as urban and regional planning, public policy and administration, civil society organizations, international organizations, and academic research.

[Video: Contribute to solving climate problems - study human geography!]