

DIS STUDY ABROAD IN SCANDINAVIA

Updated March 2024

For Spring 2024, Summer 2024, Fall 2024



Child Development and Diversity DIS Study Abroad in Scandinavia



Overview

[DIS Study Abroad in Scandinavia](#) offers a Child Development and Diversity Program that is geared toward students studying child development, education/education studies, family studies, or human development. Courses are offered during both the semester (spring and fall) and summer. The courses approach the academic content from a Scandinavian lens and are integrated with experiential learning concepts.

During the spring or fall, students enroll in one core course (with course-integrated study tours) and three or four electives. Summer students can choose to take 3 to 9 credits over 3 to 9 weeks and can choose to stay in either Copenhagen or Stockholm, or mix-and-match locations.

Why Study Child Development and Diversity in Scandinavia?

Cross-cultural approaches to current practices when working with children and youth in educational and social contexts serve as the foundation for class discussions. Coursework threads academic topics with hands-on practicum experiences in Danish nurseries, preschools, and public schools, as well as reflections during Field Studies and Study Tours, to provide new perspectives on child development and education.

Child Development and Diversity Core Course

Students enroll in the “Child Development and Education in Scandinavia” Core Course. The Core Course includes two faculty-led tours in Scandinavia.

[Child Development and Education in Scandinavia \(Copenhagen\)](#), 6 credits (credit course + 3 credit practicum)

Within the framework of Nordic pedagogy, students investigate education and care, analyzing the discourse surrounding quality of life for children. Students explore the pros and cons of free play, relationships to caregivers and peers in the welfare state, school readiness versus social pedagogy, and children’s exploration of nature in practicum, Study Tour, and on Field Studies.

- Week-Long Study Tour: Helsinki, Finland
- Short Study Tour: Denmark

This course has a [Practicum co-requisite](#) that places students in a Danish childcare setting, with children varying in ages from 2 to 10. The practicum emphasizes and integrates application of research, critical reflection, and hands-on experience in Danish pedagogy to explore the connection between pedagogical approaches and professional practices with young children.

Students are placed in a Danish childcare or school setting one day a week for a total of 45-55 hours per semester. This course builds the bridge between the theories explored in the core class, and the experiences in practice.

Semester Course Overview

Stockholm

- [Design Thinking](#)
- [Developing Brain: From Infancy to Adolescence](#)
- [Positive Psychology](#)
- [Psychology of Emerging Adulthood](#)
- [Power of the Mind: Psychology of Performance](#)

Copenhagen

- [Child Development and Education in Scandinavia](#)
- [Child Development and Education in Scandinavia Practicum](#)
- [Children in a Multicultural Context](#)
- [Children with Special Needs](#)
- [Developmental Disorders](#)
- [Playful Learning in Scandinavian Classrooms](#)
- [Masculinities in Scandinavia](#)
- [Psychology of Adolescence: A Scandinavian Perspective](#)
- [Sociology of the Family](#)
- [Stolen Childhoods: Migrant and Refugee Children in Europe](#)

2024 Summer Course Overview

Session 1 (May 21 - June 12, 2024)

- [Social Change and Active Citizenship in Denmark](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Children with Special Needs](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Developmental Disorders](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Education Policy in Scandinavia](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Positive Psychology](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Psychology of Loneliness](#) (Copenhagen)

Session 2 (June 16 - July 5, 2024)

- [Early Childhood: Nordic Education and Parenting](#) (Copenhagen)

Session 3 (July 8 – July 27, 2024)

- [Children in a Multicultural Context](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Lifespan Psychology: Shaping the Self](#) (Stockholm)
- [Positive Psychology](#) (Stockholm)

Labs, Research, & Practicums Session (May 21 - July 5, 2024)

- [Research Assistantship: Social Cognition in Infants and Young Children](#) (Stockholm)
- [Research Assistantship: Understanding Human Behavior in Games](#) (Stockholm)

Program Director



Suman Ambwani

PhD (Psychology (Clinical), Texas A&M University, 2008).

- M.S. (Psychology (Clinical), Texas A&M University, 2005).
- B.A. (Psychology and Sociology, Macalester College, 2003).

Visiting Researcher, Eating Disorders Research Unit, Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London, 2012-2013. Associate Professor (formerly Assistant Professor and formerly Department Chair) of Psychology, Dickinson College, 2008-present. Visiting Scientist, Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders (STRIPED) at Boston Children's Hospital/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, 2018-present. With DIS since 2021.

Faculty

Nanna Duchene (Copenhagen)

Master of Arts (Cand.) in Philosophy of Education 2012 from Aarhus University Denmark.

- Associate Professor at University College South within disciplines: Philosophy of Education, Teaching Theory and Children with special needs.

Several years of experience as Editor of Journals on Education. With DIS since 2021.

Jennifer Duncan-Bendix (Copenhagen)

M.Ed. (Daycare and Primary School, Aarhus University, 2014).

- B.A. (Human Development and Family Studies – Early Childhood Development and Education, University of Connecticut, 2006).
- Assistant Program Director of Child Development and Diversity, DIS, 2014-2021.
- Pedagogue in the International and Danish communities in Copenhagen, 2008-2010.

Interests include cross-cultural practices, discourses, and research related to how we create active and caring environments for young children. With DIS since 2007.

Flavia Cardas (Copenhagen)

Ph.D. in Psychology (University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania, 2018).

- M.A. in Psychodiagnosis, Psychotherapy and Personal development (University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania, 2014).

Flavia is currently working in private practice as an authorized psychologist and psychotherapist in Copenhagen and her primary areas of expertise are theories and practice within: Children, adolescents, and family psychotherapy; adults, couples and group psychotherapy; working with vulnerable and marginalized populations; intercultural psychotherapy; trauma psychotherapy; dance and movement psychotherapy. Before moving to Denmark, Flavia worked as an assistant professor at the University of Bucharest, Department of Psychology and as a school psychologist. With DIS since 2022.

Elodie Cauvet (Stockholm)

Ph.D. in Cognitive Neuroscience, from Pierre & Marie Curie University in Paris (France).

Elodie's research interest started with language acquisition in infants leading to the study of the cerebral processing of language and music in adults. She became interested in neurodevelopmental disorders starting with developmental dyslexia then expanding into autism spectrum disorders as well as ADHD. She is using techniques from psychology as well as neuroimaging in her research, this includes MRI (anatomical and functional) as well as EEG and eye tracking. She has been conducting her latest research at Karolinska Institutet Center for Neuro-developmental Disorders (KIND). Her interests include social cognitive skills, empathy and emotion processing within the whole spectrum of functioning from typicality till disorders such as ASD. She has been with DIS since 2016.

Jonathan Geib (Stockholm)

Ph.D., Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden (2020).

Research work on complexities of engagement with urban participatory processes involving public sector institutions and art and design practitioners. MSc, KU Leuven, Belgium (2013) in Urbanism and Strategic Planning. MSc, KU Leuven, in Human Settlements (2010). BSc in Architecture, University of Texas at Austin, USA (2002). Research Fellow at the International Youth Think Tank, Gothenburg, Sweden (2020–present). Motivated by pluralistic approaches to research and design practice, criticality, and creativity. With DIS since 2021.

Joshua Juvrud (Stockholm)

Ph.D. in Psychology (Uppsala University).

Josh focuses this research in two fields. In developmental psychology at the Child and Babylab in Uppsala, he seeks to understand how children learn about their world and the social cognitive development of face perception and socialization processes such as gender, race, and ethnicity. In games research at the Games & Society Lab at the Department of Game Design in Visby, Gotland, his work examines the psychology of people, their actions, and emotions in game development, player engagement, learning, and immersion to understand better how different game players (with different personalities, traits, and experiences) interact with various game mechanisms and are, in turn, affected by game experiences. With DIS since 2020.

Jonatan Kolding Karnøe (Copenhagen)

M.A. Project Management and Change Management (MPF, Roskilde University, 2018).

- Cand. Psych. (Psychologist, University of Copenhagen, 2014).

Associate professor at University College Absalon with teaching, research, and training responsibilities within the fields: children with special needs and organizational psychology. Author of several publications about psychology. Experience as a pedagogue from psychiatry, schools for children with special needs, and family-support institutions. With DIS in 2015, and again since 2021.

Nina Honoré Lahav (Copenhagen)

Master of Danish as a second language, (Danish University of Education, 2002).

With DIS since 2002.

Veronika Leonova (Copenhagen)

M.A. in Clinical Psychology (Lomonosov Moscow State University, 2011).

- Jungian Analytical Psychotherapy education (Moscow Association for Analytical Psychology, 2012).

Worked as a clinical psychologist in various institutions and taught as an external lecturer at “The Higher School of Psychology” in Psychoanalysis and Developmental Psychology. In Denmark since 2015. Veronika works with children, adolescents, and adults, conducting individual and group therapy in private practice and as a volunteer in NEFOS. With DIS since 2017.

Meiling Liu (Stockholm)

Ph.D. in Forensic Psychology (China University of Political Science and Law, 2010).

- Post Doctorate in Forensic Psychology (Gothenburg University, 2012).

Worked as an organizational consultant in areas of leadership and cross-cultural competence training in Sweden. Also has worked as a teacher and researcher at universities in China and was promoted to the position of associate professor in China. With DIS since 2016.

Salim Aykut Ozturk (Copenhagen)

Ph.D. in Anthropology (University College London, 2020).

- M.A. in Migration and Diaspora Studies (School of Oriental and African Studies, London 2010).
- M.A. in Political Science and International Relations (Bogazici University, 2009).
- B.A. in Political Science and International Relations (Bogazici University, 2007).

Quantitative and qualitative researcher with work and field experience in Istanbul, London and Jerusalem. First book, “Mobility and Armenian Belonging in Contemporary Turkey: Migratory Routes and the Meaning of the Local” (London: IB Tauris, 2022). Currently working on a second book, “An Island that is No More: Politics and Placemaking in Istanbul.” With DIS since 2021.

Susanna Z. Papp (Stockholm)

Ph.D. in psychology (ELTE Eötvös Lóránd University, Budapest).

Susanna is a psychologist, lecturer, and trainer. She has a decade of experience as a lecturer and over a thousand hour experience in holding skill development training in communication, conflict-management, and cultural competences. She is trained in mediation and restorative methods. With DIS since 2017.

Monica Siqueiros Sanchez (Stockholm)

Ph.D., Medical Science, Karolinska Institute, 2020.

- Postdoctoral scholar, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University, 2023.
- MSc, Neurodevelopmental Psychopathology, Durham University, 2014.

Lic. Psychology, Universidad de Monterrey, 2010. Postdoctoral scholar, Stanford School of Medicine, Stanford University, 2021-2023. Postdoctoral scholar, Karolinska Institute, 2020. Part time faculty, DIS Study Abroad Scandinavia, 2019-2020. Behavioral therapist, Centro de Entrenamiento Psicologico Infantil, 2012-2015. School psychologist, Instituto Mar de Cortes, 2012-2013. With DIS since 2023.

Polina Smiragina-Ingelström (Stockholm)

Ph.D. (2021, The University of Sydney), focusing on the gendered perspective on victimhood in the trafficking of men. MSc (2012, Gothenburg University).

B.A. (2009, Moscow State University). Postdoctoral fellow in Criminology (Stockholm University). Polina's research interests are within the disciplines of criminology and medical anthropology with a special focus on victimhood, gender, post-trafficking needs and help-seeking behavior. Before commencing her academic career Polina was a migrant counsellor and reintegration assistant at the UN Migration (IOM) mission in Russia. She was engaged in providing direct assistance to migrants in distress including victims of human trafficking and exploitation, and assistance in voluntary return and reintegration. With DIS since 2016.

Malene Thorup (Copenhagen)

Master of Arts (Educational Psychology, Aarhus University, 2023).

Projectleader and Pedagogical consultant, Strandvejsskolen (2023-present). Københavns Kommune Strandvejsskolen, Elementary School Teacher (January 2011-September 2021). AKT counselor with Behavior, Contact, and Well-being (July 2020-September 2021). Christiansborg Palace Administration, Cultural Educator in the Representative Rooms at Christiansborg and themed tours (2007-2011). With DIS since 2023.

Hannaneh Yazdi (Stockholm)

Ph.D. in Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet Stockholm-Sweden, 2020-2024

- M.Sc. in Project Management, Northumbria University, Newcastle-United Kingdom, 2012 – 2013.
- M.Sc. in International Project Management, Chalmers University Gothenburg-Sweden, 2011 – 2013.
- B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering, Azad University, Tehran-Iran, 2005 – 2010.

Ph.D. Candidate in Clinical Neuroscience / Karolinska Institutet / Stockholm, Sweden / July 2020 – Present Various positions in Research and Development (Program Office Manager, Portfolio Office Manager, Strategy Analyst, and Clinical Neuroscience Researcher-Industrial Ph.D.Candidate) / Volvo Cars / Gothenburg, Sweden / March 2015– March 2023 Guest Lecturer & Examiner in Project Psychology for International Project Management Master's Program / Chalmers University of Technology/ Gothenburg, Sweden / Sep 2017 – Dec 2017 Experienced in organizational culture and team development: Leader of Human Leaders Community / Volvo Cars / Gothenburg, Sweden / Aug 2021 – Dec 2022 Diversity & Inclusion Champion (initiator of cognitive diversity inside the organization) / Volvo Cars / Gothenburg, Sweden / Jan 2018 – Mar 2019 TEDxKI speaker (Taking a Spiral journey to Authentic Diversity) / Stockholm, Sweden / March 2022. With DIS since 2023.