

Updated May 2024

For Spring 2024, Summer 2024, Fall 2024



Political Science and Sociology



Overview

[DIS -Study Abroad in Scandinavia](#) offers political science and sociology courses in Stockholm and Copenhagen 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.

Globalization has dissolved old hierarchies and brought cultures closer together; however, this newfound cultural proximity and created challenges of integration and migration facing Denmark, Sweden, and Europe today.

How do traditionally homogeneous countries, especially welfare states where social cohesion has been a factor of their structural success, evolve with the increase of migration? Students challenge their own opinions and explore the social, political, and cultural implications of the conflicts in question.

- During the spring or fall, students enroll in **one core course**, with course-integrated study tour within Sweden and Denmark and in different locations throughout Europe, and **three or four elective courses** from many disciplines.
- Students in the summer enroll in one class at a time and can stay for one or up to three classes in either Copenhagen or Stockholm or a mix of both.

Semester Core Courses

[European Security Dilemmas \(Stockholm\)](#), 3 credits

Europe is under pressure and what constitutes a security threat is changing, too: a larger Russian presence in the region and increased risk of terrorism, but also fundamentalist and right-wing tendencies, the risk of pandemics, cyber terrorism, and European governments struggling to respond in unison to increasing numbers of refugees. Drawing on European schools of thought within international security studies, this course explores current security dilemmas in Europe.

- Week-Long Study Tour: [Budapest \(Spring\)](#) or [Riga-Vilnius \(Fall\)](#)
- Core Course Week Study Tour: [Sweden](#)

Cultural Diversity and Integration (Copenhagen), 3 credits

This course explores whether a multicultural Europe is sustainable given the current migrant crisis and Europe's major culture clash. Focusing on Denmark, Germany, and Greece, we investigate the social, cultural, and political mechanisms lying at the heart of cultural conflicts and integration issues. This course analyzes theoretical concepts such as integration, assimilation, multiculturalism, recognition, cultural norms, identity, nationalism, and tolerance.

- Week-Long Study Tour: Greece
- Core Course Week Study Tour: Denmark-Northern Germany

European Game of Politics: Crisis and Survival (Copenhagen), 3 credits

The European Union has been called an Unidentified Political Object (UPO) because it is less than a federal state, but more than a federation of states. Therefore, the European game of politics is rather special with deep impacts on the present EU crisis and the future of EU survival. This course offers a broad study of the EU, including historical development, governing institutions, political processes, economic cooperation, and modern challenges. You will also explore major policies and approaches to the present crisis, all while learning 'how to play the game' of politics in Europe.

- Week-Long Study Tour: Brussels
- Core Course Week Study Tour: Northern Germany

Fleeing Across Borders: International Refugee Law (Copenhagen), 3 credits

Global North states have all undertaken to provide asylum and related human rights protections to people forcibly displaced from their homes in the Global South, however these legal obligations are normally only triggered when people seeking asylum reach the borders of these states. Global North states have no legal obligation to provide safe transit for those seeking asylum, and they are legally entitled to extend and externalize their border control regimes, often into maritime geographies, in order to deter and prevent as many non-citizens as possible from entering their territory. This course will interrogate this legal 'protection gap' and the state policies of 'non-entrée' that it enables, as they not only call into question the post-war concept of the refugee and the continuing relevance, efficacy, and universality of 'the right to be recognized as a refugee' but they increasingly imperil the lives of those seeking security and refuge in the Global North.

- Week-Long Study Tour: Greece
- Core Course Week Study Tour: Southern Sweden

Gender, Equality, and Sexuality in Scandinavia (Stockholm), 3 credits

Sweden is the most gender equal country in the world and paid parental leave for all parents, a high number of women in leadership positions, progressive sex education, and equal rights for LGBTQIA+ persons are among the hallmarks of all Scandinavian societies. However, Sweden also has the most gender-divided workplace in the world and gender equal policies do not automatically lead to gender equal behaviors. With a comparative look to neighboring countries in Europe, this course explores how concepts of gender, body, sexuality, and race intersect in

current debates about changing family structures, children's rights, and new ethical dilemmas in Scandinavia.

- Week-Long Study Tour: [Berlin](#)
- Core Course Week Study Tour: [Sweden](#)

[Humanitarian Law and Armed Conflict \(Copenhagen\)](#), 3 credits

This course is an examination of the laws of armed conflict and human rights laws and how they apply to contemporary cases. The course finds inspiration in current events and enables you to analyze issues such as the war against ISIS, the use of drones, and cyberattacks in a legal context. Gain a thorough understanding of the legal aspects that regulate modern conflicts and understand how they interact with the political environment.

- Week-Long Study Tour: [Geneva](#) or [Bosnia](#) or [Kosovo](#)
- Core Course Week Study Tour: [Denmark](#)

[Prostitution and the Sex Trade in Europe \(Copenhagen\)](#), 3 credits

In this course, we begin with a focus on prostitution and sex work in Europe as a starting point, then expand to countries globally. Along the way, you will gain insight into historical, cultural, legal, and political aspects of prostitution and examine current and future consequences of the varying national approaches across Europe. You also examine prostitution from different perspectives ranging from that of sex workers, customers, anti-trafficking advocacy groups, law enforcement officials, and politicians.

- Week-Long Study Tour: [Amsterdam/the Hague](#)
- Core Course Week Study Tour: [Southern Sweden](#) or [Denmark](#)

[Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism from a European Perspective \(Copenhagen\)](#), 3 credits

This course is a study of terrorism – its causes and aims as well as its forms – and of counter-terrorism measures introduced by the international community and individual states. The course examines the implications of terrorism for international politics in the 21st century. Adopting a European perspective allows us to better understand the history, concept, and phenomenon of terrorism and the varied attempts to fight it.

- Week-Long Study Tour: [Belfast-Dublin](#)
- Core Course Week Study Tour: [Denmark](#)

Semester Elective Courses

- [Activism: Engagement and Resistance](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Arctic Geopolitics](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Battlefield Europe: Military History of World War II](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Climate Change and Radical Political Movements](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Conspiracy Theories and Historical Controversies](#) (Copenhagen)

- [Counter-Terrorism and Intelligence Analysis](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Criminology and Criminal Justice in Scandinavia](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Cyberwarfare](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Danish Politics and Society](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Democracies at Risk in Europe](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Enemy Within: Spies and Espionage in the Cold War](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Environmental Policy in Practice](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Equality in Scandinavia: Developments and Challenges of the Welfare State](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Food, Migration, and Belonging](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Gang Crime in Scandinavia](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Gender and Sexuality in Scandinavia](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Gender Perspectives on Human Rights](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Glued to the Screen: TV Shows, Norms, and Culture](#) (Stockholm)
- [Guilty Pleasures of Pop Culture](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Identity Lab: Transforming Prejudice, Discrimination, and Conflict](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Masculinities in Scandinavia](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Migrants, Minorities, and Belonging in Denmark](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Muslims in the West](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Partners and Rivals: EU-U.S. Relations](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Politics and Ethics of Food](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Prisons in the Nordic Countries](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Religion and Politics in Europe](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Research Assistant: Self-Identity, Human Relations, and Well-Being](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Royalty in the Land of Equality](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Sex Education and Sexual Reform in Europe](#) (Stockholm)
- [Shadow Wars: Fake News and Hybrid Warfare](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Sociology of the Family](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Stolen Childhoods: Migrant and Refugee Children in Europe](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Swedish Politics and Society](#) (Stockholm)
- [Terrorism and Anti-Terrorism](#) (Stockholm)
- [Transgender in Scandinavia](#) (Stockholm)
- [The Beautiful Game: Soccer in Contemporary Society and Culture](#) (Copenhagen)
- [The Day After: Rewriting the History of WW2, 1945-1950](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Who's Watching: Surveillance, Art, and Culture](#) (Copenhagen)

2024 Summer Session

Session 1: May 21 – June 12, 3 weeks, 3 credits

- [Food and Identity](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Transgender in Scandinavia](#) (Stockholm)
- [Social Change and Active Citizenship](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Understanding Terrorism: Causes, Solutions, and Dilemmas](#) (Stockholm)

Session 2: June 16 – July 5, 3 weeks, 3 credits

- [Gender, Equality, and Sexuality in Scandinavia](#) (Stockholm)
 - Summer Study Tour: [Berlin](#)
- [Humanitarian Law and Armed Conflict](#) (Copenhagen)
 - Summer Study Tour: [Belgrade](#)
- [Prostitution and the Sex Trade](#) (Copenhagen)
 - Summer Study Tour: [Amsterdam](#)
- [Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism from a European Perspective](#) (Copenhagen)
 - Summer Study Tour: [Munich](#)

Session 3: July 8 – July 27, 3 weeks, 3 credits

- [Conflict or Cooperation: Security Challenges in Europe](#) (Copenhagen)
- [European Genocides](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Food, Migration, and Belonging](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Nordic Culinary Culture](#) (Copenhagen)
- [Political Extremism and Threats to Democracy](#) (Stockholm)
- [Tasting Culture: Nordic and Mediterranean Food, Tradition, and Nutrition](#) (Copenhagen)

Program Director



Neringa Bigailaite

M.A. (Scandinavian Philology, 2005).

- B.A. (Lithuanian and Danish Philology, University of Vilnius, 1996).

International Student Advisor, Copenhagen University, 2004-2005. Lithuanian language instructor, Baltisk Oplysnings Forbund, 2002-2006). Employment at DFDS Transport A/S, 1997-2004. With DIS since 2005.

Faculty

All DIS faculty have advanced degrees from renowned institutions, and real-life experience from working in a professional setting. They have a deep understanding of the topics they cover and can tailor their teaching to students' interests because of the small class size.