

Programme Description

International Programme in Politics and Economics – IPPE

SGIPE-H24

Decision taken by	Head of Department; Thomas Winman
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Programme description is a supplement to the programme syllabus which is the legally binding document.

Ground data

Department	School of Business, Economics and IT
Section	Division of Urban Planning and Development
Name of Programme, Swedish	Internationella programmet för politik och ekonomi - IPPE
Name of Programme, English	International Programme in Politics and Economics - IPPE
HE credits (number of credits)	180
Level (1st Cycle, 2nd Cycle)	1st Cycle
Entry requirements, Swedish	Grundläggande behörighet Du behöver också: Engelska 6, Matematik 2a eller Matematik 2b eller Matematik 2c och Samhällskunskap 1b eller Samhällskunskap 1a1 + 1a2
Entry requirements, English	General entry requirements You also need: English 6, Mathematics 2a or Mathematics 2b or Mathematics 2c and Social Studies 1b or Social Studies 1a1 +1a2
Main field of study, Swedish	Statsvetenskap
Main field of study, English	Political Science
Degree, Swedish	Filosofie kandidatexamen med inriktning mot statsvetenskap och ekonomi
Degree, English	Degree of Bachelor of Arts with specialization in Political Science and Economics
Rate of study (full-time, part-time)	Full-time
Type of instruction (on campus, distance teaching)	On campus
Language of instruction (Sw, Eng)	Eng

General programme information

The International Programme in Politics and Economics (IPPE) at University West is an open creative interdisciplinary thinking space – exploring the intersections between politics and economics in multiple issue areas and diverse sites across different world regions. IPPE aims to highlight that social, political, and economic forces are not only local and national in scope but also regional and global. IPPE is often concerned with linking academic enquiry with policy and other practices, and the programme’s vision is provoked by “real world” situations and a wish to produce knowledge that contributes to a better understanding of change over time. In short, IPPE is intellectually pluralist and is not a degree programme with a single line of aims, questions, theories, and methods but more a conversation and cross-fertilisation among diverse approaches.

The education provided in IPPE reflects University West’s wider vision, profile, goals, and strategies in three interrelated and overarching ways: The first is to provide students with practical knowledge that is critical for sustainable development. The second is to provide education that helps students become critically reflexive and engaged social citizens. And the third is to provide conditions where academia and the surrounding society can come together to take transformative initiatives and enhance a deeper understanding of global challenges.

This three-year interdisciplinary bachelor’s programme, taught entirely in English, is the only one of its kind in Sweden. Students and staff come from across the globe, which gives the programme a truly international, multicultural study environment that is also highly personal – in addition to a lively and stimulating student life. The global approach of this programme provides students with opportunities to work and study inside or outside of Sweden.

With the IPPE Bachelor’s Degree, you can apply for further studies at the postgraduate level within political science or related fields in Sweden or internationally. University West also offers a natural continuation of your studies at the postgraduate level in the form of a full two-year international Master’s Programme in Work Integrated Political Studies (WIPS). The programme is a joint venture with the University of the Western Cape in South Africa, given entirely in English. WIPS focuses on applied political-economic studies conducted in close collaboration with civil society. Upon completing the WIPS Master’s Programme, you are qualified to apply for PhD studies within Work Integrated Learning at University West.

Programme contents, structure, and progression

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, with a specialization in Economics.

IPPE is divided into four progressively challenging phases, characterised by six interrelated blocks of knowledge that guide progression and pedagogical advance. Students are incrementally introduced to various concepts, theories, methodological approaches, and empirical claims. These aspects are not studied in isolation, and links are made about how the different elements that speak to, or bridge other elements, create an understanding of the interrelation of the respective parts. Such a strategy clarifies how the programme hangs together as a whole.

Phase 1 (semesters 1–3)

- Thematic, interdisciplinary undergraduate studies, including focus areas of politics, economics, and international relations.

Phase 2 (semester 4)

- In-depth focus on politics.

Phase 3 (semester 5)

- Strong focus on international experience and/or Work Integrated Learning (WIL). Students can choose to study or do an internship abroad, or in Sweden. Students can also choose to study courses in Work Integrated Learning (WIL) at University West.

Phase 4 (semester 6)

- Includes a research project demonstrating in-depth knowledge, skills and values needed to work with political-economic issues responsibly in an international context.

Blocks of Knowledge

BLOCK 1: Science and Art of Government

BLOCK 2: International Studies

BLOCK 3: Economics

BLOCK 4: Basic Applied Research

BLOCK 5: Individual Development and Societal Change (Electives 30 credits)

BLOCK6: Intermediate Applied Research

COURSE OVERVIEW

Each semester includes a study period of 20 weeks.

YEAR 1

Semester 1 (Block 1)

- Introduction to Political Thought, 15 credits
- Comparative Politics and Public Administration, 15 credits

Semester 2 (Blocks 2 & 3)

- International Politics and Globalisation, 7.5 credits
- Global Political Economy, 7.5. credits
- Microeconomics, 7.5 credits
- Macroeconomics, 7.5 credits

YEAR 2

Semester 3 (Blocks 2 & 3)

- Security Studies, 7.5 credits
- International Law & Organizations, 7.5. credits
- International Economics, 7.5 credits
- Finance & Politics, 7.5 credits

Semester 4 (Blocks 1 & 4)

- Sustainability and Contemporary Political Thought, 7.5 credits
- Sweden in a Post-colonial World, 7.5 credits
- Fundamentals of Political Science Methods, 15 credits

YEAR 3

Semester 5 (Block 5)

Electives:

- Work Integrated Societal Studies, 15 credits
- Applied Project Management, 15 credits
- Work Integrated Learning in Politics and Economics, 30 credits (Internship)
- Studies abroad 30 credits

Semester 6 (Block 6)

- Applied Political Science Methods, 15 credits
- Research Project in Political Science, 15 credits

The Total Programme is 180 Credits.

The research basis for the programme

IPPE is a programme with research-active, scientifically competent teachers who continuously develop pedagogical methods to enhance deep learning. IPPE teachers are involved in research relevant to the programme at the local and international levels and research that speaks to University West's wider vision, profile, goals, and strategies. This includes, but is not limited to, research focusing on sustainability, human rights, gender, democracy, security, global political economy, international relations, Work Integrated Learning, and social infrastructure.

Education in IPPE is frequently aligned with current research conducted by teachers, which often draws on the interdisciplinary research approach. That said, the student is at the centre of the education provided at University West. The focus is on enabling students to develop their critical and analytical thinking skills, independent research skills, group work, problem-solving and leadership skills to prepare them for their careers. Such a pedagogical approach is also viewed as collaborative, where students are respected as junior colleagues, and their opinions are valued and encouraged by more experienced peers. This approach promotes dialogue and collaboration between students and teachers and creates opportunities for new ideas and innovations.

The labour market, collaboration, and work-integrated learning¹

IPPE provides students with the opportunity to gain theoretical knowledge and practical skills. With your international IPPE education, employment opportunities include local and national public administration, the European Union, other international institutions, and non-governmental organisations. Other possibilities include careers in industry and commerce within and outside of Sweden. IPPE alums have made careers as planners, project leaders, administrators and analysts in municipalities, regional authorities, state organisations, NGOs and international organisations, banks, and private companies.

IPPE encourages personal growth academically, professionally, socially, emotionally, and ethically. In addition to providing relevant knowledge and skills, IPPE prepares students to support cultural diversity and consider issues of gender, equality, and sustainability in their work. The focus on WIL (Work Integrated Learning) allows students to put their knowledge and skills into practice within “real-world” contexts, including projects, evaluations and analyses conducted in collaboration with civil society. The WIL certification process has solidified how the programme understands work-integrated learning, where these perspectives are central. Several staff members also conduct research within the field of work-integrated political studies.

¹ Work-integrated learning is a pedagogical practice in which students’ learning takes place through the integration of theoretical and practical knowledge and experience, derived from an educational context within the framework of both higher education as a work environment and civil society.

Sustainable development

The broader concept of sustainability is a particular strength of the programme because it is a central part of its content. All courses directly or indirectly address sustainability issues either expressly or as integrated themes, which is also paramount in developing the sustainability “concept” further. Gender and diversity aspects are also applied in teaching methods. An international and culturally diverse student group is another strength of this programme, as is the global character of the staff.

IPPE considers sustainability as the integration of the ecological, economic, and social and does not necessarily divide the hierarchy of importance of these aspects. Still, themes from all areas are present in the programme. Furthermore, a central ambition of work-integrated learning is to develop students into actors of sustainable social change (which, by necessity, is connected to ecological and economic sustainability).

Internationalisation

International perspectives are included at every stage, and the entire programme is taught in English. IPPE cooperates with universities in Europe, Africa, the USA, Australia, and Asia. We also have special bilateral agreements with the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa, and San José State University in California, USA, for staff and student exchanges.

- Study abroad in Europe or any other continent or stay in Sweden – your choice.
- Hold an internship abroad or in Sweden.
- Get additional financial support for studies and internships in Europe. Prepare for professional work across cultures and national borders to develop, implement and lead projects handling politically and economically oriented issues.