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Department of Political Science

Admission process for the International Master's Programme in Political Science – Autumn Semester 2026

The selection process for the *International Master's Programme in Political Science* (STVEO) Autumn Semester 2026 is carried out as follows:

- All applicants receive a merit value between 240–360 based on grades from all completed bachelor's level courses or degree (total maximum 180 credits).

Courses with a grade of VG/A-B (or equivalent grades / GPA¹) are valued higher than courses with a grade of G/C-E (or equivalent GPA). For courses of 7.5 credits (ECTS) with a grade of VG/A-B, the merit value is given as 15 and for courses with a grade of G/C-E, the merit value is given as 10. This therefore generates a merit value between 240–360.

Furthermore, additional points can be obtained in the following cases:

- If applicants have Political Science or equivalent ² as their main field (MF) in their degree, 30 points are obtained.
- If applicants have taken a social science methods course (M) of 7.5 or 15 credits with grades A, B or VG ³, 10 points are obtained.
- If applicants have written a bachelor's thesis (T) in a social science subject with grades A, B or VG ⁴, 10 points are obtained.

¹ If applicants outside the ECTS system have received a GPA for their studies, it is converted to a merit value based on what the GPA represents in relation to the ECTS system.

² Equivalent areas of study may be politics / government / public administration (other variations may exist).

³ Or equivalent, see note 1.

⁴ See note 1.

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Example 1: The applicant has taken courses of 180 credits, of which 60 credits have received grades A-B/VG (120 points) and 120 credits have received grades C-E/G (160 points). This generates a credit value of 280. The applicant does not have political science as their MF, and therefore does not receive MF points. However, the applicant has taken a social science methods course and written a bachelor's thesis, both with grades according to above specification, and therefore receives an additional total of 20 points. $MV\ 280 + M\ 10 + T\ 10 = \text{total credit value } 300$.

Example 2: The applicant has taken courses of which 120 credits have received grades A-B/VG (240 points) and 60 credits have received grades C-E/G (80 points). This generates a credit value of 320. The applicant has Political Science as their MF, whereupon 30 points are added to the credit value. The applicant has written a thesis (T) with a grade according to above specification and therefore receives an additional 10 points. $MV\ 320 + MF\ 30 + T\ 10 = \text{total merit value } 360$.

Example 3: The applicant has not yet obtained a bachelor's degree when the application is submitted, but has completed a total of 140 credits of courses. Of these courses, 60 credits have received grades A-B/VG and 80 credits have received grades C-E/G. A conversion formula is used to bridge the difference to 180 credits⁵. After conversion, this generates a merit value of 292. The applicant has political science as MF, whereupon an additional 30 points are added to the merit value. The applicant has also completed a methods course (M) with a grade according to above and therefore receives an additional 10 points. $MV\ 292 + MF\ 30 + M\ 10 = \text{total merit value } 332$.

- **NOTE:** The merit value required to be admitted depends on the number of applicants for the programme and their respective credentials, as well as how many admitted applicants accept their seat in the programme. Thus, this value may fluctuate between application rounds.

⁵The formula is based on number of obtained credits in each point bracket divided by the total amount of credits earned. The sum of this is then multiplied by 180. E.g., an applicant has earned 140 credits thus far; 60 cr of these fall in the higher bracket and 80 fall in the lower. $60/140 = 0,428$. $0,43 \times 180 = 77,4$ credits. $80/140 = 0,57$. $0,57 \times 180 = 102,6$. The final sum value is rounded up or down to the closest integer.