About the Scandinavian Studies BA/BS

The goal of the Scandinavian Studies major is to provide you with a robust knowledge of the cultures and histories of the Nordic countries from a global and transdisciplinary perspective, studying everything from Swedish film to Sámi culture, Danish hygge to contemporary Scandinavian politics. Students can fulfill their L&S language requirements with Swedish, Norwegian, or Danish, and may have the opportunity to learn Old Norse, Icelandic, or Finnish. Students also have an opportunity to live in Norden House, a language immersion program in Adams Residence Hall.

Requirements

Scandinavian Studies is a 21 credit major, designed to pair easily with other majors and certificates. Students complete language studies through fifth semester, and complete courses in literature, culture, and history. Honors in the major is offered. For detailed information, see the Guide page.

The Scandinavian studies certificate requires 18 credits of SCAND ST. 9 credits must be taken at the 300 level or higher.

FAQS:

I’m interested but not ready to commit – what course should I try in the fall?

• Try an intro course like 419. Scandinavian Children’s Lit, 429 Mythology of Scandinavia, or LitTrans 275 Hans Christian Andersen. Or try a first semester of one of the languages!

What if I have previous experience with a language?

• We can arrange a placement exam with a faculty member to decide which semester of language would be most successful for you.

What’s with the numbering? All of the courses are in the 400 range. Are they all advanced?

• Our number was created under an outdated system and will be revised in the coming years to align with university standards.

Are there study abroad opportunities?

• We strongly encourage a study abroad experience for our students! There are several programs in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Iceland where students can continue their studies in their other major and earn credit towards their Scandinavian Studies major at the same time.

Scholarships?

• There are many scholarships available and special educational opportunities such as FLAS Scholarships, ScanDesign, Boren, and Brittingham Viking.

If you would like to know more or arrange a placement exam, contact Joanna Schuth, GNS+ academic advisor, jschuth@wisc.edu, or make an appointment on Starfish.