

DEPARTMENT OF SCANDINAVIAN STUDIES

The Department of Scandinavian Studies researches and teaches about eight countries with different but related languages and cultures. Faculty expertise stretches from the Vikings to the Nobel Peace Prize, from Henrik Ibsen to Karen Blixen to Scandinavian poetry, from the Baltic Singing Revolution to Nordic Noir. Scandinavian Studies offers opportunities to look at the world from a variety of perspectives, and to understand how small nations have played global roles.



Undergraduate students receive their diplomas at the department graduation reception with Senior Lecturer Ia Dubois.

Highlights

The Department of Scandinavian Studies was established by an act of the Washington State Legislature in 1909.

In 2003, the Swedish Institute honored the Department of Scandinavian Studies' Swedish Program, identifying it as one of the two best Swedish programs outside of Sweden.

The Department's Baltic Studies program is the only such program in the U.S. and celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2014.

The Department's Finnish Program celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2015.

An endowed professorship has been established in Baltic Studies.

Endowed chairs have been established in Norwegian and Swedish Studies.

Education

Students can earn a BA with a major in Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish (with emphasis on languages and literature) or Scandinavian Area Studies (with emphasis on history, politics, folklore, and Baltic Studies). Graduate students can earn an MA degree in Scandinavian Languages and Literature or Scandinavian Area Studies. A PhD is available with an emphasis in languages and literature. The Baltic Studies program offers courses in the languages and cultures of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Average class sizes within the department are relatively small and students have easy access to the faculty.

Study abroad programs are offered in the Scandinavian and Baltic countries for full-year, one-quarter, or September-only terms. Special study abroad courses are also occasionally offered.

Graduates from the department have gone on to successful careers in a wide range of occupations, including teaching, government service, business, and industry.

Most recently, graduates have found extensive opportunities in the field of information technology with the numerous software and internet companies in the Puget Sound Region.

STUDENTS (Spring 2017)

- 29 Undergraduate majors
- 28 Undergraduate minors
- 6 Master of Arts student
- 7 PhD students

DEGREES AWARDED (2016 - 2017)

- 15 Bachelor of Arts degrees
- 2 Master of Arts degrees
- 14 Departmental minors

MAJOR STUDENT AWARDS (2015-2017)

- American-Scandinavian Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
- Kielland-Løvdal Fellowship
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Dean's Medal in the Humanities
- Alvord Fellowship in the Humanities
- Fritz Fellowship in the Humanities
- Nadia Christensen Scholar in Nordic Studies

Faculty

Awards and leadership roles for Department of Scandinavian Studies faculty have included:

- 5 American- Scandinavian Foundation Grants
- 1 Knight of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit
- 3 Presidents of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study
- 1 Swedish Collegium for Advanced Studies Fellow
- 1 University of Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies Fellow

Scholarship

Faculty research includes the comprehensive study of Scandinavian and Baltic Literature, history, politics, and culture. Current research projects include rhetoric and critical theory in Norwegian literature, perception of Vikings in history, the plays of August Strindberg, the roles of small states in international relations, globalization and identity construction in Finland, and Baltic folklore, song, and identity.

Strong interdisciplinary ties with other departments include Comparative Literature; History; Political Science; Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies; Sociology; Drama; Architecture; and the Jackson School of International Studies.

Outreach

By working with its Advisory Board, the Department of Scandinavian Studies has maintained exceptionally close ties with various Scandinavian and Baltic communities. Department faculty serve regularly as facilitators, speakers, and area specialists for community organizations and groups, including ethnic venues throughout the Baltic and Scandinavian communities of the Northwest such as the Nordic Heritage Museum.

Faculty and Student Support

Chairs and Professorships

- Barbro Osher Endowed Professorship of Swedish Studies
- Kazickas Family Endowed Professorship in Baltic Studies
- Sverre Arestad Endowed Chair in Norwegian Studies

Department Fellowships & Scholarships

The Department awards meritorious students support from the following funds:

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| Alf Kristian Aulie-Simrad Endowed Fund | Edwin Vickner Endowed Fund |
| Synnove Lien Fielding Endowed Fund | Paul O. Nielsen Educational Endowment Fund |
| Nadia Christensen Endowment | Norwegian American Community Fund |
| Ann-Marie & Gunnar Gavel Endowment | Peterson Family Endowed Fund |
| Leslie Grove Memorial Fund | Raisys/Liffick Endowed Fund |
| Gertrude Holdal Endowment | Scandinavian Exchange Fund |
| Kalevala Endowed Fund | Kathe & Ragnar Steene Endowed Fund |
| Bernice Kellogg Endowed Fund | SWEA Endowment |
| Kielland-Løvdaal Fellowship | Tetri Endowed Fund |
| Langjens Endowed Fund | Totoraitis/Roberts Endowed Fund |
| Terje Leiren Endowed Fund | Dr. Werner & Mrs. Margit Weingarten Fund |
| Martin & Ruth Metzson Fund | John Phillip and Tashia Morgridge Endowed Fund |
| Scott Nelskog Memorial Fund | Fund for Scandinavian Studies |

FACULTY (Autumn 2017)

- 3 Professors
- 1 Associate Professor
- 2 Assistant Professors
- 1 Senior Lecturer
- 4 Visiting Lecturers
- 6 Emeritus Professors

AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP

- Scandinavian Literature and Culture
- Scandinavian and Baltic Folklore
- Scandinavian Politics
- Scandinavian History
- Scandinavian-American History and Culture
- Scandinavian Cinema
- National Identity in Scandinavia
- Ibsen, Strindberg, Hans Christian Andersen
- Baltic Studies
- Small States in International Relations
- Sexuality and Society
- Globalization



A student presents research at a department colloquium.

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