

# 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.



A student presents research at a department colloquium.

## 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.

Endowed chairs have been established in Norwegian and Swedish Studies.

An endowed professorship has been established in Baltic 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 2015)

36	Undergraduate majors
35	Undergraduate minors
1	Master of Arts student
6	PhD students

## DEGREES AWARDED (July 2014 - June 2015)

16	Bachelor of Arts degrees
2	Master of Arts degrees
1	PhC degree (candidacy for PhD)
1	PhD degree

## MAJOR STUDENT AWARDS (2014-2015)

1	American-Scandinavian Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
1	Kielland-Løvdal Fellowship
1	Phi Beta Kappa

## Faculty

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

- 5 American-Scandinavian Foundation Grants
- 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
- 1 Knight of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit

## Scholarship

Faculty research includes the comprehensive study of Scandinavian and Baltic Literature, history, politics, and culture. Current research projects include gender and queer-theoretical approaches to Norwegian literature; perceptions of Vikings in history; the plays of August Strindberg; the roles of small states in international relations; Baltic folklore, song, and identity; Nordic noir literature; and film about Finnish children and schools.

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 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, for example the Nordic Heritage Museum.

## Faculty and Student Support

### Chairs and Professorships

Barbro Osher Endowed Chair 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:

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

## FACULTY (Autumn 2015)

- 5 Professors
- 1 Associate Professor
- 1 Assistant Professor
- 1 Senior Lecturer
- 4 Visiting Lecturers
- 4 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



Professor Lotta Gavel Adams (center) with poet Athena Farokhzad (left) and theater director Farnaz Arbabi, who visited the UW to speak about the transformation of Swedish literature and culture.

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