

Master in intercultural studies: Information letter

Bergen, June 2023

Dear student,

We are delighted to welcome you to NLA's Master programme in Intercultural studies. This year we will have students from a variety of countries, as well as from Norway, which will make for an exciting and fertile learning environment.

Some practical details

The first days (14, 15 and partly 16 August) will be dedicated to the Orientation days for the international students, which will be announced separately.

Isabell Gundersen will coordinate the events for international students during the Orientation days. She will guide you through the program such as the practicalities of registration at school and Norwegian authorities, as well as introduce you to the facilities at the campus. Lunch will be served both days. There will also be time to get to know your fellow students.

It is important that you plan to be in Bergen when the semester starts: for international students, August 14; for students from Norway, August 21.

Wednesday August 16 will be the official welcome meeting for all new students at NLA University College, Auditorium 1. This will be from 11:00-18:00 including social events and barbeque in the afternoon.

On August 21 at 15:00, all students from 1st and 2nd year (Intercultural Studies Master) and professors are welcome to our social gathering with dinner at NLA Sandviken, Room: Storstuen. We hope to see both international and Norwegian students at this time. For those of you who have not been at NLA's Sandviken campus in Bergen before, the premises are not that overwhelming, so it should be easy to find your way once you enter the building.

The structure of the master programme

There are two courses offered in the first semester (August to December), and two courses in the second semester (January to June), one of which is the project design for your master thesis that serves as the final preparation for your fieldwork (compulsory). Thus, we would already now encourage you to think through what kind of topic you would like to specialize in for your Master thesis. This draft will be helpful but of course will not be binding for you in any way.

The work of a Master's thesis is expected to be one-year full time work. This implies up to 2 months of fieldwork and up to 6-7 months for the write-up.

This first semester ("fall" in reference to the season of the year) starts with the course IKF 301 Intercultural theory (starting August 21st) with exams in November. The course is paralleled by the course IKF 302 Methodology (starting Monday 16th October) with exam in the beginning of December, after which we go into recess.

On Monday 21st of August, at 12.15 - 15.00 in Auditorium 2 classes commence. The first sessions will obviously focus on the "nuts and bolts" of the ICSM program. We employ various forms of teaching, not just lectures but seminars focusing on active learning including case-seminars and workshops with opportunities to practice oral presentation, develop communicative and collaborative skills, as well as to analyse intercultural cases and suggest solutions to intercultural challenges or dilemmas.

Course content and pre-reading

You are welcome to access the NLA homepage <https://www.nla.no/> (www.nla.no/english) to familiarize yourself with our institution. For specific information about the master in Intercultural Studies, see <https://www.nla.no/icsmaster>. In the curricula for IKF 301 and IKF 302, you should notice that references to books are marked with bold print. Some books and articles are available online by accessing the corresponding reference. The remaining texts will be available through an electronic arrangement in Canvas when the semester commences. We will give you details when you come to Bergen in August.

An exciting programme

Lastly, in my role as academic coordinator, I want to highlight that we believe the Master programme in Intercultural studies will be both exciting and personally stimulating for all students. Throughout the study, you will meet a spectrum of NLA's lecturers and co-students with diverse experiences. Within two years, if you follow the expected progress, you will have earned an MA degree in an area that opens up a variety of opportunities, both academically and professionally.

If you have any questions to the practicalities or contents of the programme, do not hesitate to get in touch.

We look forward to receiving you at NLA in August!

Programme coordinator, master in intercultural studies

Hilde Danielsen
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Intercultural Studies, NLA