

Electives in BIDS

During the 4th semester in BIDS, students study elective courses equalling 30 ECTS. This is a possibility to either further specialize within your chosen major or broaden your degree, see examples below:

Student 1: Chooses to major in Political Science. In year 2, the student starts by studying 30 ECTS at the department of Political Science, which qualifies him or her to have that discipline as a major. When the spring semester starts, the student, who really enjoys the subject, chooses to study an additional 30 ECTS in Political Science, and will use these courses as electives, thereby further specializing within the discipline of his or her choice.

Student 2: This student is unsure whether s/he should major in Sociology or Economic History. The student chooses to study 30 ECTS in each subject during year 2 and in the autumn semester of the third year chooses which one to have as a major.

Student 3: This student knows that s/he wants to write her thesis about rural development at a local community in Kenya from a gender perspective, so s/he chooses to study 30 ECTS in Human Geography as his/her major and combines this with 15 ECTS Gender Studies and 15 ECTS Sociology.

FAQ

Is there a limitation to what type of courses I can choose?

Yes! The courses you choose must be relevant to the program and need to be approved by the Program Manager. Transfer of elective courses is performed only after pre-approved courses are finished.

What are the general guidelines for elective courses?

- Elective courses should have a strong connection to social sciences or include a social perspective in their syllabi.
- Elective courses should show content progression within the BIDS degree.
- Courses within natural sciences and arts/humanities with no connection to social sciences are usually not allowed - a specific decision is made individually for each student.

- Elective courses may not overlap with your mandatory program courses (UTVC21-36/sixth-semester courses).
- Approval is given for each student individually - the fact that one student received approval for a se does not automatically mean it will be approved for another student.
- Students may take up to 15 ECTS in language courses in either Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, or Spanish. Language courses for languages other than the UN official languages will require special motivation and dispensation from the program manager.

How do I get my courses approved:

Before applying for elective courses, you need to have the prospective courses approved by the Program Manager. Note: course pre-approval *does not* guarantee you a spot in your preferred courses, nor does it mean that you meet the eligibility requirements for the course. It is simply approval that the course content is relevant for use as an elective in your BIDS degree and the course adheres to the general guidelines for electives. **Do not** apply for courses within the program that have not been approved by the Program Manager. If you apply for courses that have not been approved, you may lose your spot in the program. Any courses that have not been approved must be applied for as freestanding courses. Complete the “elective course approval assignment” on Canvas **before 1 October** to have your courses approved by the Program Manager in good time. **This assignment will only be made available on Canvas closer to the application period.**

How do I apply for courses after they have been approved?

Once you have received written approval from the Program Manager you can apply for your chosen courses online through www.antagning.se or universityadmissions.se. Go to “Your pages” and choose “Lund University” in the scroll list. Use your student account user ID to log in. You will not be able to see and apply for the courses without logging in.

IMPORTANT: You can only register for 30 ECTS worth of *elective* courses per semester but you can apply for up to 15 ECTS as additional freestanding courses if you would want to. If you apply to elective courses from outside of Lund University you must apply outside of the program (i.e. as freestanding courses). Then the program coordinators will transfer the ECTS taken after the courses have been completed. It is also a good idea to include a few backup courses in your application.

If you do not apply on time, you will risk your place in the program.