SOLVING PROBLEMS IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD
UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

We are international by temperament and proud of our heritage. Our graduates have a comprehensive understanding of and flair for operating in an international context. We emphasise internationalisation by focusing on a broad range of areas, including an international body of researchers and students. This contributes to creativity and enables us to share experiences and insights and experiment with combining approaches. The Department’s strategy is to develop a global curricula and learning pedagogy in order to address global challenges optimally. We encourage research projects, educational activities and impact work that communicate Danish models for addressing societal disruption to a global audience while at the same time translating global experiences to a Danish audience.
An International Research Environment

An international peer-review research evaluation in 2016 assessed the Department as having a strong international standing, most of its research being either ‘world leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’. This reflects the considerable extent to which the Department staff are embedded in the global political science and international relations research community.

The Department offers an attractive workplace for international researchers. Our staff consists of international guest lecturers and world-class scholars who are part of the international political science research community. Consequently, we have had an increased intake of non-Danish professors in recent years. Internationalisation is strong at the assistant professor/post.doc. level, 45 percent of this personnel having non-Danish origins. This increase in the number of non-Danish personnel is a vital part of the overall development of a strong international department with broad international networks.

Our researchers are actively engaged in international cooperation and exchange related to both teaching and research. As a result, we have seen an increase in publications in non-Danish outlets and international journals together with more research collaboration with colleagues from around the globe. A recent research evaluation (2016) found that two-thirds of the 67 submitted research publications were judged ‘world leading’ (4* on the UK REF scale provided by the University to the panel) or ‘internationally excellent’ (3*). The panel deemed this high level of international quality to be equally distributed among the research groups.

These results place the Department of Political Science at the University of Copenhagen amongst the top political science and international relations departments in the world. According to a recent ranking by QS-rankings in Politics and International Relations, the Department is the 25th best department of political science in the world. This ranking is based on four categories: academic reputation, employer reputation, research citations and the h-index. It confirms the findings of a recent research evaluation and cements the Department’s ability to produce research of high international quality.
“I came to Copenhagen primarily because I wanted to study the Security Risk Management Masters. But having been here now since August, the city and university have provided such a warm welcome that I would recommend this program not just for its great content – but also for the environment within which it is embedded. It is incredibly enriching to be surrounded by students with such diverse academic backgrounds and nationalities”

International Diversity among Students

Our Department has a broad range of exchange agreements within the EU and countries around the world, meaning that our students have access to a vast number of different exchange locations. Here, many choose to do an exchange in other European countries, the United States, Canada, China, Japan and Australia.

The flow of exchange students also runs in the opposite direction. Each semester, the Department of Political Science welcomes a diverse group of international students from around the world. Our student body includes around 250 exchange students on a yearly basis. Roughly half of these students come from other European countries, such as the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Poland and the Czech Republic. Some 40 per cent of our exchange students come from other English-speaking countries, such as the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The last ten per cent come from Asian countries like China, Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan.

The political science graduate studies programme offers a broad range of courses taught in English, as is our master’s degree programme in Security Risk Management. Here, students are exposed to a high degree of interaction between international and Danish students, ensuring that international students are integrated into the study environment.