KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Programme curriculum for **THE MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN SECURITY RISK MANAGEMENT, THE 2022 CURRICULUM, VALID FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2025**
(revised 15. september 2025)

Contents

1. Introduction

This curriculum for the Master's programme in Security Risk Management was drawn up by the Board of Studies in the Department of Political Science at the University of Copenhagen and approved 31 March 2022 by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Copenhagen. This latest revision was approved in April 2023 and it becomes effective on 1. September 2023.

In addition to this Programme Specific Curriculum this programme is regulated by the Curricula's Common Part which applies to all bachelor- and master programmes at The Faculty of Social Sciences. The Curricula's Common Part contains common rules that apply to all educational programmes on the faculty.

2. Title and affiliation

Graduates are entitled to use the title Master of Science (MSc) in Social Sciences in Security Risk Management. The corresponding title in Danish is candidatus/candidata societatis (cand.soc.) i Sikkerheds- og Risikoledelse.

The programme is affiliated with the Board of Studies at the Political Science Department at the University of Copenhagen under the auspices of its own Study Board

The programme is affiliated with the corps of external examiners for "Political Science/Social Science" at University of Copenhagen, Aarhus University and University of Southern Denmark.

3. Programme Objective and Competence Profile

3.1 Objective

The programme provides students with competences to translate knowledge about risk and security into concrete analysis and strategic decisions needed by public organisations and private companies in pursuit of socially, politically and economically sustainable solutions. Graduates will gain comprehensive theoretical and empirical knowledge about security policy, risk analysis, organisations and governance in a global and changeable world. Graduates will be equipped with tools needed to analyse and manage complex risks and security threats. Through a combination of theoretical, empirical and methodological insights, graduates will be able to find innovative solutions and identify opportunities for change in the complex and risky environment of contemporary society.

Graduates from the programme are ideally suited to navigate the challenges and dilemmas created by the proliferation of global, unpredictable and interconnected risks in conjunction with an increased demand for security, responsibility and legitimacy in all areas of management and governance. Graduates from the program will thus be highly attractive to a wide range of public institutions and private companies faced with the need to manage risk and crisis in order to fulfil their strategic objectives and retain their social license to operate. Moreover, graduates will be highly attractive for specialized security providers in both the public and private domains.

3.2 Competence Profile

On successful completion of the programme, the graduates will be able to:

Knowledge

- demonstrate comprehensive theoretical and empirical knowledge about security policy, risk analysis, organizational challenges and governance in the context of multiplying and interconnected threats.
- account for complex threat scenarios in the contemporary society, relevant global developments and the resulting organisational challenges in the public or private sectors.
- understand the methodological and analytical tools required to produce and evaluate knowledge about security risks and the strategic response to them.

Skills

- identify opportunities for change and innovative solutions in relation to the global, national and local risk environments.
- analyse complex issues and carry out risk assessments on all levels of management and governance.
- critically reflect on the management of security risks across the public and private sectors, as well as how new practices in the governance of risk and security can be developed.
- provide rigidly scientific analysis and solutions, based on reflexive combination of relevant theories, methods and data, and know how to present findings and recommendations clearly.

Competences

- translate knowledge into socially, politically and economically suitable solutions for public and private organizations.
- critically assess complex risk environments and provide solutions, taking strategic objectives and societal consequences comprehensively into accounts.
- reflect academically, critically and independently on security risk management solutions
- independently identify and seek for continued learning opportunities and improvement of knowledge, skills and competencies.

3.3 Admission requirements

If you hold one of the degrees listed below and hold documentary proof that you meet any and all language requirements, you are considered to meet all academic admission requirements and have direct access to apply to the master's degree programme in Security Risk Management.

- BSc in Political Science from the University of Copenhagen
- BSc in Social Sciences with minor subject (DK: Sidefag) from the University of Copenhagen
- BSc in Sociology from the University of Copenhagen
- BSc in Anthropology from the University of Copenhagen
- BSc in Political Science from Aarhus University
- BSc in Social Sciences with subsidiary subject from Aarhus University
- BSc in Anthropology from Aarhus University
- BSc in Political Science from the University of Southern Denmark.
- BSc in Social Sciences with subsidiary subject from the University of Southern Denmark.
- BSc in Sociology and Cultural Analysis from the University of Southern Denmark
- BSc in Sociology from Aalborg University
- BSc in Public Administration from Aalborg University
- BSc in International Business and Politics from Copenhagen Business School
- BSc in International Business from Copenhagen Business School
- BSc in Social Science with International Studies and Politics and Administration from Roskilde University
- BSc in Social Science with International Studies (one-subject) from Roskilde University
- BSc in Social Science with Politics and Administration (one-subject) from Roskilde University

Other applicants from universities in Denmark and abroad may be admitted on the basis of a specific, individual, academic assessment. In order to be admitted into the Master's programme in Security Risk Management, applicants must fulfil the following requirements:

- A bachelor degree in the field of Social Science.
- The qualifying bachelor degree must contain a minimum of 15 ECTS in qualitative and/or quantitative research methods within the social sciences.
- All applicants who do not have legal right of admission must document qualifications on par with the Danish upper secondary school 'English level B'. For more information on the English language requirement, see https://studies.ku.dk/masters/security-risk-management/

The programme has a limited number of seats. If there are more qualified applicants than seats the selection of admitted applicants is based on the following:

- Grade point average from the qualifying bachelor's degree
- The proportion of relevant courses taken as part of the BA (measured as ECTS)
- Grades for particularly relevant courses

Relevant courses are defined as courses that fall within the general field of security risk management, either theoretically, methodologically and/or empirically."

3.3.1 Further admission requirements

Only a Bachelor degree will be considered as the entry qualification to a Master's programme. This means that supplementary courses and the like taken after the bachelor degree will not be taken into account in the assessment.

The only exception to this is activities that have been passed before the bachelor degree was finished. These courses can either be a part of a previous education or taken as single courses. But no more than 30 ECTS credits like this can be taken into account in the assessment.

4. Programme content and academic profile

The Master's programme in Security Risk Management is an English-taught programme prescribed to two student full-time equivalents (FTE) (120 ECTS credits). The figure below illustrates the composition of the compulsory and elective courses in the programme.

First term	Second term	Third term	Fourth term
Security Studies (7,5 ECTS)	**Risk and Uncertainty in a Connected World** (7,5 ECTS)	**Elective** (7,5 ECTS)	**Master's Thesis** (30 ECTS)
Risk Analysis (7,5 ECTS)	**Risk Regulation and Governance** (7,5 ECTS)	**Elective** (7,5 ECTS)	
Organization and Risk (7,5 ECTS)	**Elective** (7,5 ECTS)	**Elective** (7,5 ECTS)	
Knowledge and Methods (7,5 ECTS)	**Elective** (7,5 ECTS)	**Elective** (7,5 ECTS)	

4.1 The programme's course elements

4.1.1 Programme elements

The programme consists of the following constituent elements worth 120 ECTS:

- Six compulsory courses (45 ECTS)
- Elective courses with a total amount of 45 ECTS
- Master's thesis (30 ECTS)

It is possible to transfer a maximum of 30 ECTS from courses passed at other educational institutions in Denmark or abroad as electives. If the students wish to study a full term at another institution ("Mobility Window") it is possible during the third term of the master programme.

It also possible to replace elective courses with an academic internship (See chapter 6 for further details).

4.1.2 Compulsory courses

Compulsory courses cover the three major subject areas, security, risk and strategic management, and subjects are interrelated throughout the course of study. Compulsory courses are:

- Security Studies (7,5 ECTS)
- Risk Analysis (7,5 ECTS)
- Organization and Risk (7,5 ECTS)
- Knowledge and Methods (7,5 ECTS)
- Risk and Uncertainty in a Connected World (7,5 ECTS)
- Risk Regulation and Governance (7,5 ECTS)

Please refer to chapter 6 for detailed course descriptions.

4.1.3 Elective Courses

The remaining courses consist of electives offered by the Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen. Elective courses provide students with the option to choose an orientation within the programme and develop more specific interest and competences.

Please refer to chapter 6.2 for detailed information regarding elective courses.

4.2 Course and exam registration

The administration registers students for courses and exams in mandatory courses on the first and second semester of the Security Risk Management programme. All remaining students must register for courses and exams in the registration periods.

4.3 Credit transfer

Students on the Master's Programme in Security Risk Management are entitled to transfer a maximum of 30 ECTS credits from courses taken at another educational institution in Denmark or abroad. Credit transfer of a

course or course elements taken on other study programmes, either in Denmark or abroad, to part of the Master's programme is conditional upon passing the course elements concerned.

It is a precondition for credit transfer that the courses taken are approved as comparable in content and level to courses within the Master's Programme in Security Risk Management at the University of Copenhagen. This requires an academic assessment and approval by the Board of Studies.

Courses are transferred along with their ECTS credits, or a converted ECTS credit weighting for courses taken in countries that do not use the ECTS system.

For more details on credit transfer, please refer to the general curriculum.

5. Examinations

5.1 Syllabus and literature

All course syllabi are set by the responsible lecturer, subject to the approval of the Board of Studies.

Bibliographies for the syllabus and list of literature must, at least, contain information about the author, title, publisher, year of publication and the exact number of pages. When referring to periodicals, the name of the periodical, year of publication and edition number must be stated.

5.2 Exam language

The exam language is English in all compulsory courses offered by the programme. For elective elements, the language may be Danish.

The Board of Studies is empowered to grant exemptions regarding the exam language.

5.3 Assessment

An examination has been successfully completed when the assessment "Pass" or the grade 02 or higher is awarded. Examinations that have been passed cannot be taken again. All exams are graded/assessed individually, please refer to the general curriculum for more information on assessment in general.

Examinations are marked either internal or external. Internal examinations are assessed solely by the internal examiner at the University. External examinations are assessed by the internal examiner and an appointed external examiner.

The following exams are marked externally:

- Security Studies (7,5 ECTS)
- Risk Analysis (7,5 ECTS)
- Risk and Uncertainty in a Connected World (7,5 ECTS)
- Risk Regulation and Governance (7,5 ECTS)
- Master thesis (30 ECTS)

Externally marked exams represent at minimum of 60 ECTS and hereby fulfil the Programme Order´s requirement of at least 1/3 of the programme to be marked externally.

In addition to the named compulsory courses, elective courses may also be marked externally, as determined by the individual course description.

Exams can be marked as passed/failed or by the 7-point grading scale.

The following exams are always graded by the 7-point scale:

- Security Studies (7,5 ECTS)
- Risk Analysis (7,5 ECTS)
- Risk and Uncertainty in a Connected World (7,5 ECTS)
- Risk Regulation and Governance (7,5 ECTS)
- Master Thesis (30 ECTS)
- Electives offered within the Department of Political Science

Exams graded by the 7-point scale hereby fulfil the Programme Order´s requirement that no more than 40 ECTS must be graded pass/failed. For further details on the exam and prerequisites for attending the exam please refer for chapter 6 "Course Catalogue".

5.4 Prerequisite Exercises

Students who have completed exercises, casework and/or presentations making them eligible for exams can transfer their eligibility to the next academic year. The transfer is only allowed if there have not been significant changes to the syllabus or the academic focus of the course concerned.

6. Course catalogue

The courses offered on the Master's Programme in Security Risk Management are listed below.

6.1 Compulsory courses

6.1.1 Security Studies (7,5 ECTS)

Course Description and Objectives

The course introduces students to theories, concepts and methods within security studies, thus enabling students to analyse the contemporary complex security environment. It provides students with state-of- the-art knowledge of major issues and subfields within security studies, including the relationship between security and risk. The course places particular emphasis on the expansion of the field beyond core questions of state power, military force and armed conflict, the rapidly changing nature of security threats and new global trends in security policy. Moreover, the course focuses on the contested meaning and political effects of security as issues and decisions are increasingly securitised. The course combines a theoretical and methodological approach to these issues with a practical focus on concrete policy and security dilemmas. Throughout the course, students will be asked to conduct strategic analysis and provide policy solutions through casework and exercises.

Learning outcome

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

Knowledge

- master the important theories, schools and methods within security studies and understand advanced knowledge about currents developments in the field.
- critically discuss today's complex threat scenarios, changes in the realm of security policy and the political dynamics of securitisation processes.

Skills

- analyze complex security challenges in a comprehensive and theoretically informed manner.
- critically evaluate a variety of theories and methods and apply these reflexively in the empirical analysis of security threats.

Competences

- assess the adequacy of concrete strategies and policies.
- develop and communicate own strategic responses to the complex security threats and dilemmas of contemporary society.

Teaching
The course is a combination of classroom lectures, exercises, and discussions.

Examination
The examination is a five-day written home assignment on a set subject with exam prerequisites. The exam paper must apply required readings and include an exercise from the course. Completion of the prescribed

exercise, approved by the lecturer, is a prerequisite for eligibility for the exam. The exam prerequisites must be completed before the end of the course.

The length of the written home assignment must not exceed:

- For one student: 24.000 keystrokes (10 standard pages)
- For two students: 40.800 keystrokes (17 standard pages)
- For three students: 55.200 keystrokes (23 standard pages)

The re-sit exam is an optional home assignment. The length of the assignment must not exceed:

- For one student: 36,000 keystrokes (15 standard pages)
- For two students: 60,000 keystrokes (25 standard pages)
- For three students: 84,000 keystrokes (35 standard pages)

For further details on what constitutes a standard page, please refer to the Curricula's Common Part for the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The exam and re-sit exam are assessed by an internal and external examiner according to the seven-point scale.

Literature
Course literature is a syllabus of 900 pages.

6.1.2 Risk Analysis (7,5 ECTS)

Course Description and Objectives

The course introduces students to the major theoretical perspectives on risk and forms of risk analysis in the social sciences. The course provides a comprehensive overview of technological, economic, and socio-political approaches to risk analysis as they have developed in research and concrete practices of risk management. The course places particular emphasis on the development and importance of risk analysis and management as demands for security, responsibility and legitimacy are becoming increasingly imperative for all actors and institutions in contemporary society. In doing so, the course focuses on how multiplying and interrelated risks are analysed and processed by various public and private actors.

Moreover, the course introduces general techniques of risk analysis widely used by researchers and practitioners alike, including threat assessment, scenario building and forecasting. The course combines the general approach to risk analysis with a focus on practical application. Students will be required to conduct their own analysis of a specific risk scenario and evaluate the implications of possible responses based on different approaches and techniques.

Learning outcome

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

Knowledge

- master all major social science theories of risk and approaches to risk analysis.
- identify and discuss technological, economic, and socio-political dimensions of risk and their complex interplay in contemporary society.

Skills

- conduct theoretically informed analysis of a wide range of risks and assess their potential impact for public and private actors.
- evaluate different techniques of risk analysis and apply them to general and concrete risk scenarios.

Competences

- provide and implement comprehensive and critically reflexive risk assessments suited to different areas of society and levels of decision-making.

Teaching
The course is a combination of classroom lectures, exercises, and discussions.

Examination
Students will be graded on the basis of an oral exam based on a synopsis. The synopsis takes the form a risk analysis carried out during the course. Eligibility for the exam is premised on the completion and oral presentation of the analysis during the course, to be approved by the lecturer.

The exam and re-sit exam are carried out in accordance with the formal requirements for 'oral exam based on a synopsis' specified in section 6.2.2.

The exam and re-sit exam are assessed by an internal and external examiner according to the seven-point scale.

Literature
Course literature is a syllabus of 900 pages.

6.1.3 Organization and Risk (7,5 ECTS)

The course introduces students to the organizational context and conditions of security risk management. While risk management has always been intrinsically related to questions of organizational survival and success, a pivotal feature of current society is the increasing pervasiveness and societal importance of organizational attempts to manage risk and security threats. The course takes up this organizational encounter with risk and focuses on issues such as organizations and their risk environment, organizational crisis, the interplay of security and operational risk, the pursuit of organizational reliability and resilience, systems and standards of risk management, as well questions of accountability and organizational performance. The course combines a theoretical approach to these issues with a case-based approach.

Throughout the course, representatives from different organizations (public and private) will present cases comprising specific challenges of security risk management, based on which the students will be asked to provide analysis and recommendations.

Learning outcome

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

Knowledge

- master core ideas, concepts and theories about the organizational context and conditions of risk management in current society.
- identify and critically discuss the issues, problems and challenges facing organizations in an environment increasingly defined by risk and security threats.

Skills

- conduct comprehensive organizational analysis and diagnose the problems and potentials related to the exercise of security risk management in different organizations.
- evaluate different approaches to risk management and their appropriateness, depending on setting and organization.
- communicate analysis and conclusions in a systematic and coherent way.

Competences

- improve responses to risks and security threats in both public and private organizations.
- independently develop solutions that take both the strategic objectives and societal consequences of organizational risk management into account.

Teaching
The course is a combination of classroom lectures, casework, and discussions.

Examination
The examination is a five-day written home assignment on a set subject with prerequisties. The exam paper must apply required readings and include a specified number of cases from the course. Completion of the prescribed cases, approved by the lecturer, is a prerequisite for eligibility for the exam. The exam prerequsite must be compled befor the end of the Course.

The length of the written home assignment must not exceed:

- For one student: 24.000 keystrokes (10 standard pages)
- For two students: 40.800 keystrokes (17 standard pages)
- For three students: 55.200 keystrokes (23 standard pages)

The re-sit exam is an optional home assignment. For written home assignments on an optional subject, the student must prepare a written product without invigilation. Optional means that the student independently formulates the problem statement/exam questions. The length of the assignment must not exceed:

- For one student: 36,000 keystrokes (15 standard pages)
- For two students: 60,000 keystrokes (25 standard pages)
- For three students: 84,000 keystrokes (35 standard pages)

For further details on what constitutes a standard page, please refer to the Curricula's Common Part for the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The exam and resit exam are assessed by an internal examiner as pass/fail.

Literature
Course literature is a syllabus of 4-500 pages and the case material included in the casework.

6.1.4 Knowledge and Methods (7,5 ECTS)

Course Description and Objectives

The course introduces students to state-of-the-art methods used to assess and manage risks, as well as the broader methodological questions they raise. The course provides students with the tools needed to produce and evaluate knowledge used in security risk management processes critically and reflexively. It trains the ability to estimate the validity and reliability of knowledge-based interventions and evaluate the performance of actors and agencies dealing with complex and compound risk and security challenges. On the level of methods, this includes the use of general scientific approaches to the collection and interpretation of data (quantitative and qualitative), as well as methods developed more specifically for purposes of risk assessment and management. A particular focus point is the use of new technology and software enabling collection and analysis of larger sets of data. On the methodological level, the course covers the analytical, practical and political implications of different research strategies and social science traditions, with a special focus on complex controversies concerning risk and security issues. The course combines general introduction to these issues with hands-on exercises. Students will be required to apply various methods to specific threats and knowledge pools, and to communicate their approach and findings.

Learning outcome

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

Knowledge

- account for general and specific methods relevant to the production and evaluation of knowledge about risk and security.
- critically discuss the broader research strategies and traditions relevant to security risk management.

Skills

- select relevant methods and tools of risk assessment and management in relation to specific tasks.
- evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of methods and research strategies, as well as the reliability, validity, precision, and relevance of various forms of data and information.

Competences

- independently identify and improve the knowledge base for critical decisions about security risks.
- develop and implement solutions based on the best available evidence in complex and changing security environments.

Teaching
The course is a combination of classroom lectures, exercises, and discussions.

Exam
The exam is a five-day written home assignment on a set subject with prerequsites. The exam paper must apply required readings and make use of data presented during the course. Completion of the prescribed exercise, approved by the lecturer, is a prerequisite for eligibility for the exam. The prerequsites consist of work on the data and oral presentation of the results, to be approved by the lecturer before the end of the course.

The length of the written home assignment must not exceed:

- For one student: 24.000 keystrokes (10 standard pages)
- For two students: 40.800 keystrokes (17 standard pages)
- For three students: 55.200 keystrokes (23 standard pages)

The re-sit exam is a optinal home assignment, for written home assignments on an optional subject, the student must prepare a written product without invigilation. Optional means that the student independently formulates the problem statement/exam questions. The length of the assignment must not exceed:

- For one student: 36,000 keystrokes (15 standard pages)
- For two students: 60,000 keystrokes (25 standard pages)
- For three students: 84,000 keystrokes (35 standard pages)

For further details on what constitutes a standard page, please refer to the Curricula's Common Part for the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The exam and re-sit exam are assessed by an internal examiner as pass/fail.

Literature
Course literature is a syllabus of 900 pages.

6.1.5 Risk and Uncertainty in a Connected World (7,5 ECTS)

Course description

The course provides in-depth analysis of key security domains – e.g. finance, health, climate and 'cyber'. Students will consider the extent to which prevailing approaches to risk analysis and risk management confront deep challenges associated with technological innovation, extreme connectivity and 'non-linear' dynamics in natural, human and virtual systems. The course pays attention to the ways in which the security domains have become key sites for thinking about the emergence of prevailing uncertainty and the extent to which that uncertainly can be (a) transformed into calculable risk and/or (b) brought within the control of human agents. By devoting a block of the course to the included security domains in turn, students will discuss and analyze their common features and distinctive dynamics.

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

Knowledge

- master key debates about risk, uncertainty, and the dilemmas of managing non-linear systems.
- identify the particular dynamics and problems in different risk and security domains, as well as their common features.

Skills

- diagnose challenges in specific risk domains where a mixture of rapid technological change, extreme connectivity and prevailing uncertainty have become normal features.
- select theories and methods relevant to particular risk domains and conduct critical analysis within and across these.

Competences

- work creatively and effectively on solutions suited to the demands of complex and non-linear systems
- head and coordinate efforts within particular risk and security domains

Teaching and learning formats
Classes will consist of a mixture of mini-lectures, small group exercises (including problem-oriented discussions and role-play simulations) and plenary presentations/discussions.

Exam
The examination is an optional written home assignment submitted at the end of the course. The written assignment is an independently formulated problem that should speak to the content and learning objectives of the course. It should have anchor in the compulsory reading, and should link relevant conceptual and theoretical literature to a concrete case or problem.

The length of the written home assignment must not exceed:

- For one student: 36,000 keystrokes (15 standard pages)
- For two students: 60,000 keystrokes (25 standard pages)
- For three students: 84,000 keystrokes (35 standard pages)

The re-sit exam is a optional written home assignment. The length of the assignment must not exceed:

- For one student: 36,000 keystrokes (15 standard pages)
- For two students: 60,000 keystrokes (25 standard pages)
- For three students: 84,000 keystrokes (35 standard pages)

For further details on what constitutes a standard page, please refer to the Curricula's Common Part for the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The exam and re-sit exam are assessed by an internal and external examiner according to the seven-point scale.

Literature
Course literature is a syllabus of 900 pages.

6.1.6 Risk Regulation and Governance (7,5 ECTS)

Course Description

The course focuses on the societal and organizational governance of risks, thereby training students to reflect critically and practically on how to govern, regulate and control risks. The course gives a comprehensive introduction to the legal, economic, informational, and organizational instruments of risk governance, ranging from the broader rationalities of prevalent risk regulation regimes to the concrete tools and forms of intervention used by risk managers to shape individual and collective behavior. The course places particular emphasis on the shift from traditional command-and-control approaches to alternative concepts of smart regulation and good governance, cost/benefit-analysis, behavioral design, and industry regulation focused on better regulation of risk. The course combines a general approach to these issues with a focus on the development of concrete and comprehensive solutions. Students will thus be asked to design concrete interventions in response to specific societal problems and organizational challenges.

Learning outcome

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

Knowledge

- master all major theories and fields of research concerned with the regulation and governance of risk.
- critically discuss the socio-political, organizational and individual implications of regulatory responses to risk and security threats.

Skills

- conduct comprehensive analysis of the regulatory challenges posed by complex risks and develop appropriate responses.
- evaluate and combine different regulatory tools and instruments, based on a comprehensive consideration of their relative strengths and weaknesses in relation to specific risks.
- communicate analysis and conclusions in a systematic and coherent way.

Competences

- assess the efficiency and legitimacy of different tools and institutions in the field of risk regulation.
- develop and improve regulatory responses to risks and security threats across different levels and fields of governance.

Teaching

The course is a combination of classroom lectures, exercises, and discussions.

Exam

The examination is an optional written home assignment. For written home assignments on an optional subject, the student must prepare a written product without invigilation. Optional means that the student independently formulates the problem statement/exam questions related to the content and learning objectives of the course. The home assignment must apply compulsory reading from the course and link relevant conceptual and theoretical literature to a concrete case or problem.

The length of the home assignment should not exceed:

- For one student: 36,000 keystrokes (15 standard pages)
- For two students: 60,000 keystrokes (25 standard pages)
- For three students: 84,000 keystrokes (35 standard pages)

The re-sit exam is an optional written home assignment. For written home assignments on an optional subject, the student must prepare a written product without invigilation. Optional means that the student independently formulates the problem statement/exam questions. The length of the home assignment must not exceed:

- For one student: 36,000 keystrokes (15 standard pages)
- For two students: 60,000 keystrokes (25 standard pages)
- For three students: 84,000 keystrokes (35 standard pages)

For further details on what constitutes a standard page, please refer to the Curricula's Common Part for the Faculty of Social Sciences.

The exam and re-sit exam are assessed by an internal and external examiner according to the seven-point scale.

Literature

Course literature is a syllabus of 900 pages.

6.2 Elective courses

The MSc programme in Security Risk Management includes 45 ECTS of elective elements. A selection of elective courses will be pre-approved for students in the programme each semester and specified in the course catalogue (www.kurser.ku.dk).

For a course to be pre-approved as an elective, the learning objectives and curriculum of the course must be up-to-date, sufficiently specified and fall within the subject area of the program.

Pre-approval of electives will be determined each semester by the Head of Studies in corporation with the Study Board

Extent

The subject comprises 7.5 or 15 ECTS.

Literature

The syllabus comprises 900-1,200 pages for 7.5 ECTS and 1,800-2,100 pages for 15 ECTS.

Teaching and working methods

Classes are usually held during one semester as two hours per week in each subject, equivalent to 28 hours for one semester (7.5). In courses where the classes are held in one half of the semester, there are two hours of classes twice a week. The length of courses and number of hours per week may vary. Elective courses for 15 ECTS have classes for four hours per week and a total of 56 hours for a semester. The elective courses must be established with minimum 20 and maximum 45 students. If more than 45 students are registered, the students will be admitted on the basis of their study progress.

The exam form is determined by the individual course and can take one of the following forms:

6.2.1 Exam form: Oral exam with or without preparation

This exam takes the form of an individual oral examination. To begin the exam, the student draws a random question prepared by the teacher. The question forms the basis for the oral exam, which also includes a wider discussion of the syllabus, as the examiner is required to assess the student in relation to the entire syllabus. The exam lasts 30 minutes in total, including grading.

For oral exams with preparation, the student is given 30 minutes to prepare before the start of the exam. Oral exams with or without preparation can only be taken individually.

6.2.2 Exam form: Oral exam based on a synopsis

An oral exam with a synopsis takes the form of an individual oral exam based on a written paper (synopsis). The exam also includes a wider discussion within the syllabus, as the examiner is required to assess the student in relation to the entire syllabus. A synopsis may be written individually or in a group (maximum three persons).

The synopsis may not exceed 7,200 keystrokes (3 standard pages). In connection with the preparation of a synopsis, the student may use supplementary literature as maximum 25% in addition to the syllabus.

See the Curricula's Common Part for more information about the formal requirements for written assignments and an overview of what is included in the keystroke count.

Students are examined individually. No member of a group may be present during the other members' exams.

The assessment is based solely on the oral performance, as the synopsis is not part of the assessment. Students are allowed to bring an outline consisting of keywords (max. 100 words) and the synopsis into the exam. Comments, etc. may not be added to the outline and synopsis.

6.2.3 Exam form: Optional home assignments and optional home assignments not covered by the course catalogue

Elective course pertaining to the Master's programme in Political Science
The written assignment consists of an analysis of an independently formulated problem.

The extent of the assignment may not exceed:

The extent of the home assignment may not exceed:	**7.5 ECTS**	**15 ECTS**
For one student:	36,000 keystrokes (15 standard pages)	48,000 keystrokes (20 standard pages)
For two students:	60,000 keystrokes (25 standard pages)	79,200 keystrokes (33 standard pages)
For three students:	84,000 keystrokes (35 standard pages)	108,000 keystrokes (45 standard pages)

6.2.4 Five-day written home assignment on a set subject

The written assignment consists of an answer to a single question.

The extent of the home assignment may not exceed:	**7.5 ECTS**
For one student:	24,000 keystrokes (10 standard pages)
For two students:	40,800 keystrokes (17 standard pages)
For three students:	55,200 keystrokes (23 standard pages)

6.2.5 Exam form: Ongoing written exam

An ongoing writtten exam is passed by submitting two mandatory assignments during the course. The extent of each assignment is as follows:

The extent of the home assignment may not exceed:	**7,5 ECTS**	**15 ECTS**
For one students:	19.200 keystrokes (8 standard pages)	24.000 keystrokes (10 standard pages)
For two students:	24.000 keystrokes (10 standard pages)	28.800 keystrokes (12 standard pages)
For three students:	28.800 keystrokes (12 standard pages)	33.600 keystrokes (14 standard pages)

A single overall grade is given based on the two assignments - pass/fail or the 7-point grading scale. Students who do not get their assignment approved by the first submission deadline can resubmit a revised version once for reassessment at the second deadline. To be eligible for resubmission, the student must have submitted the assignment the first time (it is not accepted to submit a blank assignment).

Make-up and re-examinations are passed through a free assignment.

The extent of the home assignment may not exceed:	**7,5 ECTS**	**15 ECTS**
For one students:	36.000 keystrokes (15 standard pages)	48.000 keystrokes (20 standard pages)
For two students:	60.000 keystrokes (25 standard pages)	79.200 keystrokes (33 standard pages)
For three students:	84.000 keystrokes (35 standard pages)	108.000 keystrokes (14 standard pages)

See the Curricula's Common Part for more information about the formal requirements for written assignments and an overview of what is included in the keystroke count.

6.3 Academic internship (15/30 ECTS)

It is possible to replace elective courses corresponding to 15 or 30 ECTS with an academic internship.

The purpose of the academic internship is for the student to combine knowledge, competence and skills acquired in the programme with practical experiences from the field of security risk management.

Through on-site work in a host organization, the student will train the ability to apply academic skills in a practical context.

6.3.1 Learning outcome

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

Knowledge

- give an account of the conditions, institutions, processes and working methods of the labour market related to security risk management.
- critically discuss the demands placed on security risk management professionals and how they work on concrete assignments.

Skills

- analyze the strategic mission, challenges, and operations of specific organizations.
- formulate concise research questions related to one or more concrete tasks and/or projects performed during the internship and apply theoretical and methodological insights to these.

Competencies

- provide and implement solutions through a combination of academic reflection and practical experience.
- plan, coordinate and execute tasks individually and collaboratively.
- provide research and evidence needed for specific tasks and/or projects.

Application

Students must a apply for pre-approval no later than six weeks before commencing an academic internship. The academic internship must fall within the competence profile of the programme.

6.3.2 Working methods and process

The academic internship is mainly organized independently by the student. However, students are expected to work on a project report during the internship and participate in organized (online) feedback activities.

Moreover, a project supervisor must be attached to both the academic internship and the preparation of the project report. The student must find a supervisor among the Department's potential supervisors for academic internship. The supervisor must agree to supervise the student.

Work hours for the internship and the project report are distributed as follows:

No. of ECTS	Field of work	Number of hours
15 ECTS	Working hours at the internship site	327 hours
	Project report, including feedback and preparation	85 hours
	Total	**412 hours**
30 ECTS	Working hours at the internship site	650 hours
	Project report, including feedback and preparation	175 hours
	Total	**825 hours**

6.3.3 Literature

The syllabus comprises 250 pages of obligatory methodological literature selected by the Study Board. 500 pages are selected by the student. The student is permitted to use the syllabus previously used from both the bachelor and master's degree programmes.

6.3.4 Exam

The academic internship is graded on the basis of a concluding project report. In addition to the report itself, feedback prepared for fellow students must be included as appendices. Eligibility for the exam is premised in participation in organized (online) feedback activities.

The exam and re-sit exam are assessed by an internal examiner as pass/fail.

Assessment of the project report must take into account whether the internship replaces 15 or 30 ECTS in the programme.

To pass the exam, the project report must provide:

- Selection of a task/project carried out during the internship for further analysis, including reflections on the relevance to the internship site, the student's role and the experience gained
- Formulation of a concise research question in relation the chosen task(s)/project(s), which identifies a more general issue, theme or problem relevant to the field of security risk management
- Discussion of the relevant cases(s)/data used, including how they were obtained during the internship, as well as their relative strengths and weaknesses
- An analysis of the chosen case(s)/data, which puts relevant methods and theories from the field of security risk management to use and evaluate their adequacy
- *As appendices*: Formative feedback provided to fellow students, i.e. the provision of specific suggestions about possible improvements to submitted drafts, based on the above criteria

Length of the report:

	15 ECTS	**30 ECTS**
Project report	24.000 keystrokes (10 standard pages)	36.000 keystrokes (15 standard pages)
Appendix: Feedback evaluation	Two feedback papers of minimum: 2,400 keystrokes (1 standard page)	Two feedback papers of minimum: 4,800 keystrokes (2 standard pages)

See the Curricula's Common Part for more information about the formal requirements for written assignments and an overview of what is included in the keystroke count.

6.3.5 Re-examination

It is possible to take the re-examination even though the exam requirements have not been met.

Length:

	15 ECTS	**30 ECTS**
Project report	43.200 keystrokes (18 standard pages)	60.000 keystrokes (25 standard pages)

See the Curricula's Common Part for more information about the formal requirements for written assignments and an overview of what is included in the keystroke count.

6.4 Master's Thesis

Through the work on the thesis, students must show an ability to use theories and methods of the programme to produce a major, written academic product on an individually chosen topic.

The thesis writing period is fixed and follows the deadlines by the University.

The thesis must be prepared in the course of the second academic year. The student must have passed 60 ECTS in the program before the thesis writing period can commence.

6.4.1 Learning outcome

After completing the master's thesis, students are expected to be able to:

Knowledge

- Formulate a delimited precise problem statement and research design
- Summarise the thesis' topic, theory and method

Skills

- Select, discuss and apply theory and methodology to the preparation of a comprehensive analysis and, during a prolonged work process,
- prepare a clear problem statement and set up objectives and sub-objectives, incorporate the parts and the whole, critically read and evaluate their own work, and contribute a systematic response to the problem statement, and
- collect data in a broad sense and search for information and literature.

Competencies

- Participate constructively in academic collaboration
- Plan, organise and complete major assignments within a given timeframe and in accordance with the requirements for academic quality
- Communicate specialised knowledge at a high academic level
- Critically evaluate their own work by reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses of the selected theories and methods

Criteria for assessment of goal attainment

Grade	Designation	Description
12	Excellent performance which with no or few insignificant deficiencies complies with the following:	• Knowledge o Relate critically to the self-chosen political-science issue. o Relate critically and reflectively to key concepts and significant assertions o Explain and state the reasons for the choice of theory and the methodological approach • Skills o Independently analyse primary and/or secondary sources o Independently put the applied theory into a wider perspective o Discuss the methodological approach • Competencies o Answer the research question formulated in the thesis o Write a thesis characterised by independence, boldness and/or originality in relation to the selected topic, methodology, data collation, analytical work and/or theoretical reflection, and/or consider a difficult issue/topic, and/or create new knowledge.
7	Good performance, which demonstrates fulfilment of the subject's objectives, with several deficiencies.	• Knowledge o Fulfils the knowledge criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, albeit with some deficiencies • Skills o Fulfils the proficiency criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, albeit with a number of deficiencies • Competencies o Comply with the competence criteria for the subject, as per the described objectives, albeit with a number of deficiencies
02	Adequate performance, which demonstrates the minimum acceptable degree of fulfilment of the subject's objectives.	• Knowledge o Complies with the knowledge criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, which demonstrate the minimum acceptable level of achievement of the subject objectives • Skills o Complies with the skills criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, which

		demonstrate the minimum acceptable level of achievement of the subject objectives • Competencies o Complies with the competence criteria for the subject, according to the described objectives, which demonstrate the minimum acceptable level of achievement of the subject objectives

6.4.2 Teaching and supervision

As an integral part of thesis-writing, students are assigned a supervisor. Supervision is normally carried out by assistant professors, associate professors, or professors at department. The appointment of individual supervisors is determined by the Head of Studies.

Supervision is conducted in clusters of 3-6 theses, depending on number of students and the selected topics. Student feedback on submitted drafts is an integral part of the cluster supervision process.

6.4.3 Exam form

The master thesis is assessed by an internal and external examiner according to the seven-point scale. If a secondary supervisor has been involved in the thesis, then the principal supervisor must consult the former before grading the thesis.

The internal and external examiner will provide a jointly written assessment of the thesis, which includes the grading. The grading of the thesis must not take more than one month.

Writing and spelling skills form part of the overall assessment of the thesis, although the academic content will carry the greatest weight, as per the Examination Order. The Study Board is empowered to grant exemptions from this regulation for students who are able to document a relevant and specific impairment. When assessing a thesis, weight is also placed on the summary.

6.4.4 Formal requirements

The student must choose one of the following models for the master thesis:

Monograph

- For one student: 144,000-168,000 keystrokes (60-70 standard pages)
- For two students: 240,000-288,000 keystrokes (100-120 standard pages)
- For three students: 336,000-360,000 keystrokes (140-150 standard pages)

Academic article

- For one student: the article plus introduction may not exceed 120,000 keystrokes (50 standard pages).

The academic article cannot be written in groups. The article must be assessed by the supervisor to be an almost final draft or have been submitted to a journal. In addition to the article, an introduction is drafted in relation to the article or its subject matter, for example a more comprehensive review of the field or methodological discussions. Together, the introduction and the article must fulfil the learning objectives for the thesis.

Irrespective of the chosen format, the master thesis must include the following:

- Summary written in either Danish or English (max. one page)
- Bibliography
- Number of keystrokes. See the Curricula's Common Part for an overview of what is included in the keystroke count.

The front page of the thesis must include the following:

- Title
- Name of supervisor
- Name of author
- Month and year of submission
- Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen

If the thesis is written in groups, primary authorship for specific sections must clearly be assigned to individual students. A thesis not including these elements will be rejected.