

Scandinavian Languages and Literatures

The graduate program in Scandinavian is designed for future scholars and teachers in the fields of Scandinavian language, literature, and cultural history. The department's strengths lie in the areas of the modern literatures and film (Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish), in Old Norse and medieval studies, and in intellectual and cultural history. The department is willing to consider applications from students with special interests in areas such as Scandinavian film, art, and history, as long as literary studies remains a major point of comparison. Prospective applicants interested in such areas may consult the graduate adviser or other faculty members and should detail their interests when applying for admission in their statement of purpose.

Admission to the University

Applying for Graduate Admission

Thank you for considering UC Berkeley for graduate study! UC Berkeley offers more than 120 graduate programs representing the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary scholarship. The Graduate Division hosts a complete list (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/choosing-your-program/list/>) of graduate academic programs, departments, degrees offered, and application deadlines can be found on the Graduate Division website.

Prospective students must submit an online application to be considered for admission, in addition to any supplemental materials specific to the program for which they are applying. The online application and steps to take to apply can be found on the Graduate Division website (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/>).

Admission Requirements

The minimum graduate admission requirements are:

1. A bachelor's degree or recognized equivalent from an accredited institution;
2. A satisfactory scholastic average, usually a minimum grade-point average (GPA) of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale; and
3. Enough undergraduate training to do graduate work in your chosen field.

For a list of requirements to complete your graduate application, please see the Graduate Division's Admissions Requirements page (<https://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/steps-to-apply/requirements/>). It is also important to check with the program or department of interest, as they may have additional requirements specific to their program of study and degree. Department contact information can be found here (<https://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2024-25/graduate/degree-programs/>).

Where to apply?

Visit the Berkeley Graduate Division application page (<http://grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply/>).

Admission to the Program

The department offers an integrated MA/PhD program, in which the MA constitutes the first phase in a trajectory leading to the PhD. *Applications are not accepted for the MA degree only.* We accept applications from students holding a bachelor's degree from Berkeley or elsewhere, and from those who hold a master's degree. The best preparation for those with a limited background in Scandinavian Studies is acquisition of at least one Scandinavian modern language, familiarity with classic Scandinavian literature, and literature theory.

Normative Time Requirements

Total Normative Time

Total normative time is six years.

Curriculum

Courses Required

SCANDIN 201A/201B	Old Norse	4
SCANDIN 215	Literary and Cultural Theory	4
SCANDIN Courses per specialized study list for major and minor concentrations		
SCANDIN 300A	Methods of Teaching Scandinavian Languages	3
SCANDIN 300B	Teaching Practicum	1
SCANDIN 301	Scandinavian Teaching Methods	3
Select one of the following:		2
COLWRIT 375	Introduction to Theories and Practices of Teaching College Composition [2]	
COM LIT 375	Methods of Teaching Literature and English Composition-Comparative Literature [2]	
RHETOR 375	Teaching Rhetoric [2]	
Other suitable preparation for Reading & Composition courses		

Literature and Culture:

- Scandinavian (p. 2)

Languages:

- Danish (p. 6)
- Finnish (p. 6)
- Icelandic (p. 6)
- Old Norse (p. 6)
- Norwegian (p. 6)
- Swedish (p. 6)

Scandinavian

SCANDIN 201A Old Norse 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2014, Fall 2013

An introduction to the language of medieval Iceland and Norway.

Grammar, historical phonology, and texts.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Lindow

SCANDIN 201B Norse Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2015, Spring 2014, Spring 2013

Literary production of early Iceland and Norway. Reading of representative texts in the original.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 201A or equivalent

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Lindow

SCANDIN 204 Compact Seminar in Scandinavian Cultural and Literary Studies 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2022

A compact seminar features a distinguished instructor, usually a visitor from Scandinavia, with expertise in topics related to Scandinavian Literature and Cultures. The seminar is intended to teach these topics in an intensive format and to complement regular departmental offerings. A series of short papers or a single, longer paper is required.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes. Students may enroll in multiple sections of this course within the same semester.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 5 weeks - 2-3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

SCANDIN 206 Studies in Philology and Linguistics 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2014, Spring 2011

Variable subject matter; see departmental announcement for description.

Sample topics: runology; history of the Scandinavian languages; dialectology.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

SCANDIN 215 Literary and Cultural Theory 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Spring 2022

Introduction to varieties of literary and cultural theory used in the analysis of literary texts and other cultural artefacts.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing or consent of instructor

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

SCANDIN 220 Early Scandinavian Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2022, Fall 2020

Variable subject matter; see departmental announcement for description.

Course normally focuses on one of two areas: Eddic and skaldic poetry; or sagas (royal family, legendary, courtly, episcopal).

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: 201A or equivalent

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Lindow

SCANDIN 235 Studies in Romanticism and Realism 4 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2016, Fall 2015, Fall 2011

Variable subject matter; see departmental announcement for description.

Reading and analysis of representative works.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

SCANDIN 240 Modern and Contemporary Scandinavian Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2018, Fall 2014

Reading and analysis of representative works. Topics vary from semester to semester; see departmental announcement for description.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

SCANDIN 249 Graduate Studies 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Additional work in connection with one of the following courses:

Scandinavian C107, C108, 115, 116, 117, 120, 123, 125, C160, 165.

Students attend lectures and do all written work in the "main course," and also read assignments in the Scandinavian languages, and write a paper.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate standing in Scandinavian

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of discussion per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

SCANDIN 250 Seminar in Scandinavian Literature 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2023

Investigation of selected authors, topics, or problems. Variable subject matter; see departmental announcement for description.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

SCANDIN 260 Studies of Arctic and Indigenous Cultures 4 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025

Introduction to varieties of literary and cultural theory used in the analysis of literary texts and other cultural artefacts pertaining to the Arctic. The course comprises critical discussions of ethnographic studies, historical and contemporary scholarship, and policy, aiming to provide students with a nuanced understanding of Arctic cultures in a rapidly globalizing world. All readings and discussions are in English.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

Instructor: Monsted

SCANDIN 297 Reading Strategies for the Scandinavian Languages 2 Units

Terms offered: Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

This course is designed to prepare graduate students for reading and translation in the three core Scandinavian languages: Danish, Norwegian and Swedish.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Students must have a B1 or Intermediate High level of reading proficiency in their main Scandinavian language; in either Danish, Norwegian and Swedish. The course is open to native-, near-native-, or heritage speakers of Nordic languages

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1.5-2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

SCANDIN 298 Special Study 2 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Designed to explore a restricted field involving the writing of a report. May not be substituted for available seminars.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2-12 hours of tutorial per week

Summer: 10 weeks - 3-18 hours of tutorial per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Letter grade.

SCANDIN 299 Dissertation Writing 2 - 12 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

3 weeks - 10-60 hours of independent study per week

6 weeks - 5-30 hours of independent study per week

8 weeks - 3.5-99 hours of independent study per week

10 weeks - 3-18 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

SCANDIN 300A Methods of Teaching Scandinavian Languages 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020

The course consists of a two-hour session per week that will examine current theory and practice of foreign language teaching in connection with Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Consent of instructor

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

SCANDIN 300B Teaching Practicum 1 Unit

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Graduate Student Instructors must enroll in 300B each semester following the completion of 300A or the equivalent. The course consists of a one-hour weekly session devoted to the analysis and a discussion of pedagogical problems as they arise in the classroom.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate Student Instructor in the Scandinavian department

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 1 hour of session per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

SCANDIN 301 Scandinavian Teaching Methods 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Course on practical teaching methods, grading, testing, classroom activities, and design of course materials and syllabi. Required of all Scandinavian Department GSIs.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit with instructor consent.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 3 hours of independent study per week

Summer:

3 weeks - 10-60 hours of independent study per week
 6 weeks - 5-30 hours of independent study per week
 8 weeks - 3.5-99 hours of independent study per week
 10 weeks - 3-18 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

SCANDIN 375 Seminar in Foreign Language Pedagogy: Teaching College Nordic Languages 3 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023

Introductory pedagogy course for graduate students to examine current theory and practice of foreign language teaching in connection with Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish.

Rules & Requirements

Prerequisites: Graduate student standing and teaching appointment in the Department of Scandinavian

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 2 hours of seminar per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Professional course for teachers or prospective teachers

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

SCANDIN 601 Individual Study for M.A. Candidates 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Individual study for the comprehensive or language requirements in consultation with the field adviser. Units may not be used to meet unit or residence requirements for the master's degree.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

SCANDIN 602 Individual Study for Doctoral Candidates 1 - 8 Units

Terms offered: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024

Individual study in consultation with the major field adviser to prepare qualified students for various examinations required of candidates for the Ph.D. May not be used to meet unit or residence requirements for the doctoral degree.

Rules & Requirements

Repeat rules: Course may be repeated for credit without restriction.

Hours & Format

Fall and/or spring: 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

Additional Details

Subject/Course Level: Scandinavian/Graduate examination preparation

Grading: Offered for satisfactory/unsatisfactory grade only.

Danish

DANISH 1A	Beginning Danish	4
DANISH 1B	Beginning Danish	4
SCANDIN 100A	Intermediate Nordic Languages (section 103, intermediate Danish)	4
SCANDIN 100B	Intermediate Nordic Languages (section 103, advanced Danish)	4

Finnish

FINNISH 1A	Beginning Finnish	4
FINNISH 1B	Beginning Finnish	4
FINNISH 102A	Intermediate Finnish	4
FINNISH 102B	Intermediate Finnish	4

Icelandic

ICELAND 1A	Beginning Icelandic I	4
ICELAND 1B	Beginning Icelandic II	4

Old Norse

SCANDIN 201A	Old Norse	4
SCANDIN 201B	Norse Literature	4

Norwegian

NORWEGN 1A	Beginning Norwegian	4
NORWEGN 1B	Beginning Norwegian	4
SCANDIN 100A	Intermediate Nordic Languages (section 102, intermediate)	4
SCANDIN 100B	Intermediate Nordic Languages (section 102, advanced)	4

Swedish

SWEDISH 1A	Beginning Swedish	4
SWEDISH 1B	Beginning Swedish	4
SCANDIN 100A	Intermediate Nordic Languages (section 101, intermediate)	4
SCANDIN 100B	Intermediate Nordic Languages (section 101, advanced)	4