



Arctic Studies

- A specialization of the Culture, Communication and Globalization (CCG) programme, Aalborg University

Aalborg University offers a new specialization under the CCG with a focus on Arctic communities and globalization. The region of interest in “Arctic Studies” (AS) is the Circumpolar North, including Greenland, the northern parts of Scandinavia, Canada, Alaska and Russia, the North Atlantic and the Polar Sea.

In an age of political, cultural and economic globalization, when climate changes promise the opening of new shipping routes and access to hitherto inaccessible natural resources in the Arctic, the region is the object of increased global scientific, political and commercial attention. Not only Arctic states but also the EU, the US and Asian powers see themselves as stakeholders and are vying for access to and influence on the development of the region. The impacts of such engagement are likely to be great, both on the relationships between global actors and on Arctic communities, which are often small and characterized by unique cultural identities, economic and/or political dependency and structures only partly geared towards local capacity and competence-building at the scale demanded by such massive pressures. Political, cultural, economic, social and environmental sustainable development thus becomes essential.

This specialization gives particular attention to studies in the human sciences within the areas of social and cultural encounters and exchange, inter-cultural communication, nation-building, geopolitics and globalization, governance and sustainable development. In lectures, relevant theories of identity-building, inter-cultural communication, international relations and sustainable development will be applied to case studies from across the Arctic.

The specialization consists of the following modules (70 ECTS points)

Module	Semester	ECTS	Exam form
1. Cultures and histories of the peoples of the Circumpolar North.	7th (1st)	5	Internal, written exam: 48h take-home assignment (max. 10 pgs.). Graded.
2. The Arctic in the Age of Globalization.	8th (2nd)	5	Internal, written exam: 48h take-

			home assignment (max. 10 pgs.). Graded.
3. Project oriented course (internship) with an emphasis on one or more dimensions of Arctic Studies. Alternatively, relevant studies in another programme /university with an emphasis on one or more dimensions of Arctic Studies.	9th (3rd)	30	Portfolio exam. Graded. Alternatively, exams elsewhere.
4. Master's thesis with an emphasis on one or more dimensions of Arctic Studies.	10th (4th)	30	Written report. Graded

Course descriptions

1. Cultures and histories of the peoples of the Circumpolar North (7th semester)

Based on theories of identity-building and inter-cultural communication, this course will focus on colonial histories and nation-building, historical and contemporary migration, inter-cultural encounters and exchange.

2. The Arctic in the Age of Globalization (8th semester)

Based on theories of international relations and sustainable development, this course will focus on contemporary international relations and sustainable development in the Arctic at a time when global players (nation-states, supranational entities and multinational corporations) increasingly take interest in and invest in the Arctic.