Master's in Political Science
Academic year 2025-2026

Student's Guide

September 2025

Contents

Presentation and objectives

The **Master's Degree in Political Science at the UAB** provides advanced training in political analysis. The Master provides essential theoretical and methodological training for students who wish to start in academic research in order to carry out doctoral studies or to develop their skills as analysts, consultants and policy advisers, both in public and in the private sector.

The master provides conceptual and methodological advanced training for students, so that they can contribute to the understanding of contemporary societies. Students will be able to handle the main theories and concepts in political science, and to apply them to rigorous analysis of current political issues. They will learn how to appropriately choose from a variety of research methods and apply them to a research problem. In close interaction with current research projects at the department, students will develop the analytical skills required to develop their own research, to be further developed in an academic context but also in public administrations, consulting firms, think tanks, international organizations, mass media, political organizations and NGOs, etc.

The master is taught by the [teaching and research staff](#) of the Department of Political Science at UAB. Professors from other national and international universities and institutions are also invited to participate in the master. The master is taught in English.

The master welcomes graduate students in political science and related disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. Students of this master are highly international and have a multidisciplinary profile.

Students who successfully complete the master may apply to continue their studies in the [doctoral program](#) of the department. Note that the access to the doctoral studies follows an independent process.

Career options

The **master's degree** in **Political Science** is an advanced studies programme which enables students to continue onto the following highly qualified professional environments:

Research: advanced research in politics, activities which generate new scientific knowledge in the discipline, exhaustive and precise analysis of complex political phenomena, transfer of knowledge using the appropriate formats according to the type of audience.

Public administration: directive, management, coordination, study, assessment and planning tasks in any sector of public administration, political institutions and organisations operating at international, European, national, regional or local levels.

Political organisations, interest representing and non-governmental organisations: directing, strategic planning, assessment, coordination and communication within the organisation.

Private sector: highly qualified advisers, consultants and assistance in public administration bodies, political institutions and organisations, interest representation and non-governmental organisations, as well as liaison between state-run and private enterprises.

Alumni profile and requirements

The profile of our master students is highly international and interdisciplinary. We have incoming students from all over the world and with previous education both in the Social Sciences and the Humanities. We consider this an important asset of this program. We require our **students that do not have a background in Political Science** to pay special attention to the **remedial readings** included in the different syllabus.

Contents

The master consists of 60 ECTS credits during one academic year. Each ECTS credit involves approximately 6 hours of seminars/class time and 19 hours of student's independent work (reading and preparation of seminars, papers, exams, tutorials, etc.).

Students must take four compulsory modules (Democracy and Citizenship, Policy Analysis and Management, Introduction to Research, and Research Methods), an optional module (choice of European Integration: Theories and Political Process, Socio-Political Marketing, Políticas migratorias, integración y gestión de la diversidad religiosa). They must also write and defend a Master Thesis (MT).

Modules

Democracy and Citizenship (compulsory, 10 ECTS). The objective of this module is to discuss the principle contemporary debates in the field of democratic theory, and will address the following: the conditions facilitating the development and stability of democracies; the role of political parties in democratic systems; democracy and social citizenship; and the challenges faced by contemporary

democracies, including transnationalism and citizen participation in decision-making processes.

Policy Analysis and Management (compulsory, 10 ECTS). This module focuses on the major theoretical and methodological models for the analysis and management of public policies. It explores three key areas: research in the subfield of policy analysis, the treatment of complex social and political problems, and organizational environments in politics and public management.

Introduction to Research (compulsory, 10 ECTS). The objective of this module is to provide the necessary methodological tools for the successful development of a Master's thesis and a PhD dissertation. It analyzes the main stages of the research process, the different strategies available to the researcher, and the problems and limitations that occur in any empirical investigation. Some sessions are devoted to the presentation of research projects carried out by professors of the department with an emphasis on methodological issues.

Research Methods (compulsory, 10 ECTS). This module enables students to identify and apply the main existing methods for collecting and analyzing evidence in political and social research. The course includes quantitative and qualitative methods.

Master's Thesis (compulsory, 10 ECTS). The Master's thesis should present a research question, a well-structured theoretical framework and a suitable research strategy. It should be a substantial piece of work that demonstrates the student's competence to carry out research autonomously. Master's theses can be written and defended in English, Catalan or Spanish.

First semester	Second semester
Core modules	
• Democracy and Citizenship • Policy Analysis and Management • Introduction to Research	• Research Methods • Master Thesis
Optional modules (Choose one)	
	• Socio-political Marketing • European Integration: Theories and Political Process • Políticas migratorias, integración y gestión de la diversidad religiosa • Spanish and Catalan politics

European Integration: Theories and Political Process (optional, 10 ECTS). This module analyzes the principal theories used to explain the European integration process and applied to the debate on the changing nature of the EU and the analysis of the actors involved. It analyzes the relations between the EU and member states, particularly from the perspective of Europeanization.

Socio-political Marketing (optional, 10 ECTS). This module explores different aspects of political communication processes, electoral campaigns, elections, and voting behavior, with particular emphasis on the instruments and tools that serve to analyze political markets.

Políticas migratorias, integración y gestión de la diversidad religiosa (optional, 10 ECTS). This module offers analytical, conceptual and empirical tools to approach the migration policies in the EU context. Note that this module is taught in Spanish.

Spanish and Catalan politics (optional, 10 ECTS). The aim of this course is to provide a comprehensive overview of the Spanish and Catalan political system from the transition to democracy onwards: institutions and territorial organisation, parties and elections, political culture and behaviour, policy-making, the urban dimension of politics and relations with the EU. Note that this module is not offered in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Master's Thesis

The Master's Thesis (MT) is a substantial piece of academic work (between 8,000 and 12,000 words) that proves the student's competence to carry out research autonomously at a Master level. In the MT students should present:

- a research question related to any of the questions dealt with in the substantive modules of the master,

- a well-structured theoretical framework that demonstrates good knowledge of the literature and the debates involved in the research question,

- a suitable research strategy involving methods learned in the methodological modules of the master.

For a more detailed description of the MT guidelines, requirements, tutors and deadlines, please check the **MT Guide**.

The MT will be evaluated by two professors of the department and will be defended publicly in July or September.

Tutorials

Each student will be assigned a tutor from the UAB faculty who would guide the student in a personalized way during the development of the MT. Students are advised to explore potential tutors early in the academic year and to contact them on a regular basis. Note that it is the student's responsibility to contact his/her tutor. Check the MT Guide for more information.

In addition to these meetings with the tutor, all students will attend regular discussion sessions with the module coordinator during the second term, which will provide additional methodological supervision.

Faculty

Module	Coordinator	Other UAB Professors
Democracy and Citizenship	John Etherington john.etherington@uab.cat	J. Etherington; C. Galais; E. Østergaard-Nielsen, A. Vranceanu
Policy Analysis and Management	Daniel Edmiston daniel.edmiston@uab.cat	R. Gallego; M. León; D. Edmiston; I. Pérez, X. Ballart.
Introduction to Research	Carol Galais carol.galais@uab.cat	E. Anduiza; C. Galais; S. Villamayor, L. Rincón.
Research Methods	Dani Marinova Dani.Marinova@uab.cat	E. Østergaard-Nielsen L. Maestripieri, D. Marinova, G. de Carvalho
Master Thesis	Daniel Edmiston daniel.edmiston@uab.cat	D. Edmiston, D. Marinova
EU Integration: Theories and Political Process	Irina Ciornei Irina.ciornei@uab.cat	N. Font; Ana Mar Fernández
Políticas migratorias, integración y gestión de la diversidad religiosa	Sònia Parella Sonia.parella@uab.cat	A. G. Petroff; T. Sorde
Socio-political Marketing	Marc Guinjoan marc.guinjoan@uab.cat	G. Rico, M. Guinjoan, S. Camatarri, A. Vranceanu
Spanish and Catalan Politics	Not offered.	--

Syllabus, learning and assessment method

The guides for each module will be available here. Detailed syllabus with calendars and readings will be distributed by the module coordinators at the beginning of each term.

The Master requires regular seminar and class attendance and participation of students. The learning method is based on the questioning of existing knowledge about politics. This requires active, autonomous students' work, so that a fruitful and informed dialogue can be established among participants. Seminars usually include professors' and students' presentations and a discussion of the selected readings. **Prior preparation of these readings and students' participation** are thus essential components of the learning method.

Each module coordinator is responsible for its assessment in collaboration with other participating professors. In **order to be assessed a student must attend at least 80% of the sessions for each module.** Details on the characteristics of the assessment criteria are explained in each syllabus and include assignments and/or written exams.

Students, teachers and coordinators

The master involves the cooperation of students, professors and coordinators. It is important that everybody is aware of his/her responsibilities to ensure that students get the maximum out of this program.

Students' responsibilities

- Read the remedial readings indicated in the syllabus if they do not have a background in political science (and even if they do, it may be a good idea to refresh them).

- Attend classes, seminars and tutorials. Attendance is a requirement for assessment in all modules.

- Prepare recommended reading prior to each session. Seminars cannot function properly unless everybody has done the required readings.

- Participate actively in class raising questions and providing insights. The contribution of each student is important and valued in the assessments.

- Prepare and deliver on time the assignments required in each module based on your own individual work.

- Contact with their MT tutors on a regular basis, between four and six times a year, having previously sent written drafts of the questions to be discussed.

- Provide feedback through the evaluation survey regarding each of the modules. Evaluation is essential for the continuous improvement of the master.

Coordinators' responsibilities

- Prepare a detailed module syllabus including readings for each session in coordination with other participant professors.
- Ensure students get the necessary information about the module through the virtual campus/moodle and, when necessary, e-mail.
- Provide other professors involved in the module with a list of students enrolled before the start of the module, as well as other necessary information. Help invited professors with the development of their tasks.
- Assess the module students taking into account the information provided by other professors involved in the module.

Professors' responsibilities

- Collaborate with the coordinator in the preparation of the detailed syllabus, including content definition, readings, teaching and assessment methods.
- Help students with doubts and questions regarding their module sessions, and the MT they supervise.
- Assess students and pass this information on to the module coordinator.
- Monitor the development of the assigned MT as tutor.

Collusion, plagiarism, citations and bibliography

Every student of the UAB is expected to act with integrity in relation to the production and representation of academic work and in acknowledging the contributions of others in their work. We are ready to help you as much as necessary, but you are responsible for respecting the principles of academic integrity in your assignments and exams.

In this MIT web you will find accessible and detailed information of what academic integrity entails and a brief summary of the dos and don'ts of academic integrity.

Please read it carefully for this Student's Guide does not mean to be an exhaustive catalogue of academic dishonesty examples.

Collusion

Collusion is a form of cheating which occurs when two or more students work together to develop a submission for an assessment that has been restricted to individual effort. Collaboration among students is welcome to the extent indicated by the professor. If you have doubts about it, ask your module coordinator.

> **PLEASE NOTE: Professors in the Masters are concerned with and actively seek for potential cases of collusion. Collusion in any written piece will entail a fail in the final mark of the module where collusion is committed.**

Plagiarism

Each time you use an idea or information from another author, source or institution, you must include a citation. This practice is essential for two reasons:

- It is a basic principle of honest academic work to acknowledge other people's work. Otherwise you would be committing plagiarism.

- You must offer your readers the chance to go to the original source to verify the information or to complete it.

We are committing plagiarism when (see http://www.plagiarism.org/):

- We present the work of others as our own;

- Words or ideas are taken from other authors without due recognition (e.g. no mention);

- We do not use quotation marks around a direct quotation;

- We give incorrect information about the true source of a quotation;

- We paraphrase a source without mentioning it (e.g., without quoting)

- We abuse of paraphrasing, even if the source is mentioned (e.g., "rehashed")

> **PLEASE NOTE: Professors in the Masters are concerned with and actively seek for potential cases of plagiarism. Plagiarism in any written piece will entail a fail in the final mark of the module where plagiarism is committed.**

Artificial intelligence and academic integrity

The recent availability of artificial intelligence (AI) tools (e.g. ChatGPT, Copilot,

Bard, Claude, DeepL, etc.) makes it necessary to establish clear rules for their use in academic work. AI can be a useful assistant, but using it inappropriately is considered academic dishonesty, just like plagiarism or collusion.

You are <u>misusing</u> AI when:

- You present AI-generated text as if it were your own original work;

- You generate entire sections of your thesis or assignments (e.g. literature review, empirical analysis, discussion) and submit them without revision or attribution;

- You use AI to create bibliographic references, quotes or data without checking their accuracy (AI tools often "hallucinate" sources or invent information);

- You rely on AI to interpret your results, design your arguments, or substitute for your own critical analysis;

- You use AI to translate or paraphrase other authors without crediting the original source.

Any of the above constitutes academic dishonesty and will entail a fail in the final mark of the module where it is committed.

You may use AI as a support tool, provided you remain transparent and critical. Acceptable uses include:

- Asking AI to suggest alternative ways of phrasing or to improve the clarity of your text;

- Using AI to check grammar, spelling, or formatting;

- Employing AI to brainstorm initial ideas or examples, which you then develop independently;

- Generating code (e.g. in R, Stata, or Python) as long as you fully understand, verify, and adapt it, and cite the tool in a footnote or methods appendix (e.g. *"Code adapted with the help of ChatGPT"*);

- Using AI-powered translation tools to polish language, while ensuring accuracy and correctness remain your responsibility.

Citing AI use

If you use AI in a substantive way, you must acknowledge it. This can be done in a footnote (e.g. *"This paragraph was revised with the assistance of ChatGPT (OpenAI, 2025)"*) or in a methods/acknowledgements section if the use is extensive. You are always responsible for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of your submission.

PLEASE NOTE: Professors in the Masters are attentive to potential cases of AI

misuse. Misuse of AI in any written piece will entail a fail in the final mark of the module where the misuse is committed.

How to cite

You must use a bibliographic manager such as Mendeley, Endnote, Refworks, or Zotero to ensure a systematic production of bibliographies. The UAB library provides Mendeley training sessions.

There are several ways to cite. You can follow the recommendations of any academic journal. The point is to have a homogeneous system of quoting and referencing. APA recommendations are particularly thorough and useful. See http://www.apastyle.org/learn/quick-guide-on-references.aspx .

At the end of any written piece include the complete **reference of all works cited in alphabetical order by author's last name**. The character, style and punctuation are important and should also be uniform. It is recommended not to use bold or underlined fonts.

> **PLEASE NOTE: Any assignment or written piece without an adequate system of quoting and referencing will not be assessed.**

Calendar and timetables

- Please check the faculty general calendar for holidays and exceptions to the usual schedule.
- Please check the master's calendar for the courses' timetables.
- Please check regularly your email and Campus Virtual for professors' last-minute updates and changes.

Important Dates

- Pre-enrolment tutorial	8 September 2025
- Welcome session	18 September 2025
- Classes start on	29 September 2025
- MT submission deadline for July	31 June 2026
- MT submission deadline for September	31 August 2026
- Defences	(TBD, 2nd week of July and September 2025)

Schedule for first semester

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-11:30					
11:30-14	**Introduction to research**	**Policy analysis and management**	**Introduction to research**	**Policy analysis and management**	
15-17:30	**Democracy and citizenship**		**Democracy and citizenship**		

Schedule for second semester

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11:00-13:30	Sociopolitical Marketing (10.30 to 13:00) **	**Research Methods**	**Research Methods**	Sociopolitical Marketing (10.30 to 13:00) **	
Afternoon	European Integration (15 to 17:30)*	**Master Thesis (TBD)**	European Integration (15 to 17:30)*		
				Migration Policies in the UE (18h to 20h)***	

* Shared module with Master in European Integration ** Shared module with Master in Marketing *** Shared module with Master en Política Social, Trabajo y Bienestar. Module taught in Spanish.

IMPORTANT: Invited professors may teach on any free slots.

A detailed calendar is available here.

Enrolment

Before enrolling, students must meet with the director of the programme in order to choose the specific modules

Fees

UAB official master's degrees cost approximately 27,67 euros per credit for EU citizens and non-EU citizens who hold a Spanish residence permit (about 1.660 euros for the whole master). If you are not a citizen of the European Union and do not hold a Spanish residence permit the price per credit is approximately 75 euros (about 4.500 euros for the full master). Additional charges for administrative services apply. Insurance not included. Note: These are provisional fees. Prices may change depending on the fees decree passed by the Catalan Government. If you fail a course and you need to re-enrol it, additional fees apply (please consult this and other similar issues with academic management: ga.masters.fcps@uab.cat). Detailed information on other concepts to be paid when enrolling can be found [here](#).

Master Coordinator

The Master's Program in Political Science is coordinated by Professor Danislava Marinova. You can contact her by email dani.marinova@uab.cat.