

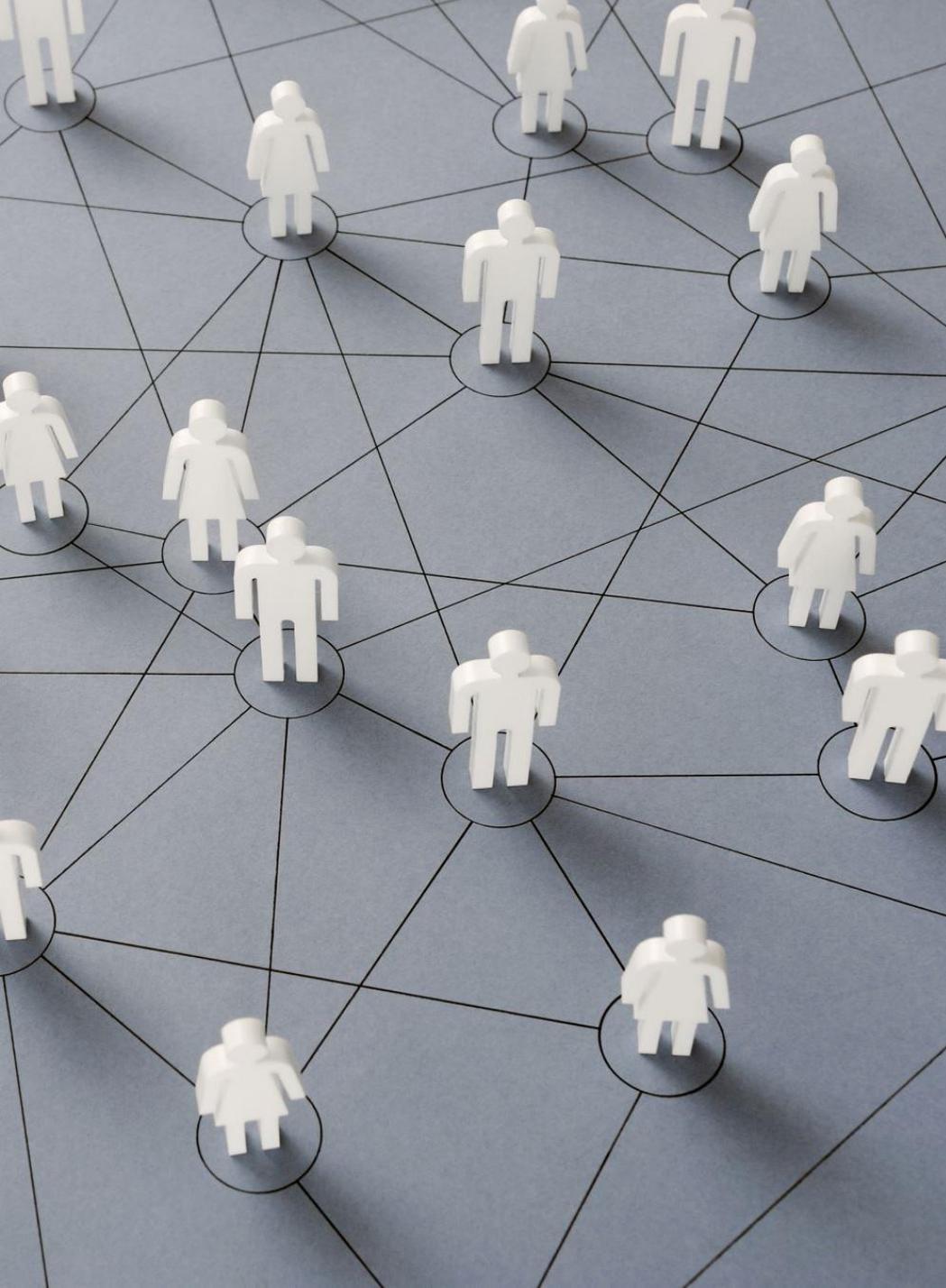
Jönköping University School of Health and Welfare Institute of gerontology (IFG)



Ageing and Society - Nordic perspectives

- 10 credits
- Web-based
- Approx. 50% (20 hours/week)
- Spring 2027





Content

Drawing on social gerontology, this course aims to provide a critical understanding of (old) age. It will examine the position of older people in societies and how age intersects with gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic position, and functionality.

- Age as a social construction
- Cultural representations of age, gender, and ethnicity
- Ageist attitudes in societies
- Disability policy and age
- Older people's rights, agency, and participation in society

Part 1: Age and social identity

Part 2: Sustainable ageing societies - Agenda 2030 and issues related to older people

Part 3: Healthy ageing in the Nordic Region - possibilities and challenges.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and understanding

- Identify and analyse the social dimensions of age and their relation to other dimensions of identity, such as gender, ethnicity, and functionality
- Analyse how age as a social position can intersect with other positions to create inequalities in health and welfare

Skills and abilities

- Discuss different approaches to support the participation and inclusion of older people
- Use social dimensions of age, as well as gender, ethnicity, and functionality as an analytical lens to investigate the situation of older people in society
- Apply an interdisciplinary perspective and an intersectional approach in relation to age and ageing
- Critically compare and reflect on challenges and possibilities for healthy ageing in Nordic countries

Judgement and approach

- Reflect on how attitudes towards ageing and older people in societies, social policies, and by healthcare workers can have an impact on older people's lives
- Reflect on older people's rights, agency and autonomy

Examination and grades

- The course is graded Pass with distinction, Pass or Fail.
- The final grade will be based on active participation in group discussions and individual written assignments
- Discussions (1.5 credits)
- Written assignment 1 (6 credits) – Part 1 & 2.
- Written assignment 2 (2.5 credits) – Part 3.



Part 1. Age and social identity

- In Age and identity (Part 1), we tackle how age is understood as something socially and culturally constructed. We discuss how "old age" is constructed as a social category. Intersectionality is also introduced, and examples from research are discussed, where age intersects with ethnicity and gender.
- Lectures, inspirational videos, and reading material
- **Examination: Group discussion**



Part 2. Sustainable ageing societies



- **Agenda 2030** and issues related to older people. Here, the student will work both independently on finding a scientific article, and as a group to discuss the Agenda 2030 goals and to share the article they have found
- Lectures, inspirational videos, and reading material
- **Examination: Group discussion**
- **Examination written assignment 1:** Formulate a topic or question to write on where age and old age intersect with other social **positions**, e.g., ethnicity, social class, gender, sexual orientation, disability/functionality.

Part 3. Healthy ageing in the Nordic Region – possibilities and challenges

- ILO: Critically compare and reflect on challenges and possibilities for healthy ageing in Nordic countries
- Under development

Example of literature that could be useful

- Cuadrado, A., Stjernberg, M., & Huynh, D. (2022). Indicators for Active and Healthy Ageing in the Nordic Region: Possibilities and Challenges.
- Dahlberg, L., McKee, K. J., Lennartsson, C., & Rehnberg, J. (2022). A social exclusion perspective on loneliness in older adults in the Nordic countries. *European Journal of Ageing*, 19(2), 175-188.
- Kjelvik, G. (2024). Dementia prevention in the Nordics.



After finishing this course:

- you will be able to identify and analyse the social dimensions of age and their relation to other dimensions of identity such as gender, ethnicity and functionality.
- You will be able to use knowledge gained in this course as an analytical lens to investigate the situation of older people and society.
- You will also deepen your understanding of different approaches that support the participation and inclusion of older people in society, in areas such as old age care.

Application timeline

- **Students in Sweden apply to our Master's program in gerontology (120hp)**
- **March 16 – April 15**
- **Distance learning. Four years on 50%**
- **30 credits NordMaG courses as a minimum, including the course Ageing and Society – Nordic Perspectives**
- **If only online: the courses in Iceland and Finland.**
- **But also possible to do exchange studies in Norway and Denmark through Erasmus. Read more about possible exchange studies via NordMaG and Jönköping University:**
<https://ju.se/student/en/exchange/exchange-opportunities-and-requirements/hhj.html#showmore-ExchangeStudies>



Masterprogram i gerontologi

Vill du vara med och forma framtiden för en åldrande befolkning i Sverige och i Norden? Det här programmet ger dig fördjupad kunskap om åldrande och äldre personers livsvillkor – och verktyg för att göra skillnad. Programmet är ett nordiskt samarbete mellan Jönköping University, Tampere University, University of Southern Denmark, University of Iceland och Oslo Metropolitan University.

 **Nivå:** Avancerad nivå

 **Ort:** Ortsberoende

 **Examen:** Filosofie masterexamen med huvudområdet gerontologi.

 **Ansökningstid:** 2026-03-16 – 2026-04-15

 **Programstart:** Hösten 2026

 **Omfattning:** 120 hp

<https://ju.se/studera/valj-utbildning/program/program-pa-avancerad-niva/masterprogram-i-gerontologi-ht2026-ms115.html>

NEAR



National E-infrastructure for Aging Research <https://www.near-aging.se>

- 17 population-based longitudinal studies on aging and health in Sweden (some are twin studies)
- Over 90,000 participants: Baseline ages = 35 to 105 (mean = 73), follow-up of 12 to 52 years.
- Measures: clinical, biomedical, psychological, social, economic, and care-related aspects of health and aging.

Application procedure

- Completed application form, including project title and description.
- CV of the main applicant, who must hold an academic position, e.g., Assistant Professor or equivalent.
- List of the desired variables for your project. You can explore available variables on [Maelstrom](#).
- Ethical approval needed

STR



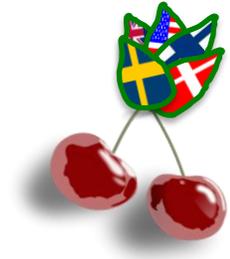
Swedish Twin Registry: web [page](#)

- Largest twin registry in the world
- Contains records of every twin born in Sweden since 1886 (N = 194,000)
- Twins with known zygosity = 87,000
- Longitudinal and cross-sectional data
- Measures: clinical, biomedical, psychological, social, economic

Application procedure

- Application (3-5 pages) submitted to the STR by an applicant with a PhD, MD or equivalent.
- Expert Committee will review and assess the applications
- 2026 deadlines: Feb 10, May 12, Sept 1, Dec 1
- Ethical approval needed

IGEMS



Interplay of Genes and Environment across Multiple Studies

<https://dornsife.usc.edu/cesr/igems/>

- Consortium of 21 twin studies from 5 countries (Australia, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, USA)
- 145,000 twins aged 18-108 at intake
- Focus on data harmonization for analyses of pooled data
- Measures: clinical, biomedical, psychological, social, economic

Application Procedure

- Contact IGEMS with preliminary project idea
- Present abstract of intent (approved by IGEMS executive committee)
- Complete data use agreements



Magisterprogram i gerontologi

Vill du vara med och forma framtiden för en åldrande befolkning? Det här programmet ger dig fördjupad kunskap om åldrande och äldre personers livsvillkor – och verktyg för att göra skillnad. Oavsett om du redan arbetar med äldre eller vill bredda din kompetens får du här möjlighet att kombinera studier med arbete och utveckla din strategiska och tvärprofessionella förmåga.



Nivå: Avancerad nivå



Programstart: Hösten 2026



Ort: Ortsoberoende



Omfattning: 60 hp



Examen: Filosofie magisterexamen med huvudområdet gerontologi.

<https://ju.se/studera/valj-utbildning/program/program-pa-avancerad-niva/magisterprogram-i-gerontologi-ht2026-ms114.html>



Ansökningstid: 2026-03-16 – 2026-04-15

NordMaG contact person

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Vill du veta mer om magisterprogrammet i gerontologi och masterprogrammet i gerontologi?

- Den 25 mars kl. 16:00-17:00 berättar programansvarig [Charlotta Nilsen](#) mer om båda programmen i gerontologi.
- Zoom-länk: <https://ju-se.zoom.us/j/61001092921>