

Gerontology at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Iceland and the study's connection to NordMaG, a collaboration of five Nordic universities

Halldór S. Guðmundsson

Professor

(email: halldorg@hi.is)

FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

Aim and focus of NordMaG



NordMaG is a multidisciplinary nordic specialisation in gerontology.



The main objectives of NordMaG is to educate professionals who are able to exploit, disseminate and generate gerontological knowledge with high relevance for ageing in society and to provide research-based knowledge for the future development in this field.

NordMaG (Nordic Master's specialisation Programme in Gerontology)



A multidisciplinary and collaborative mobility programme in Nordic countries in the field of gerontology.



Integrated into the programme for MA in Gerontology in Univ. of Iceland.



It combines the expertise of five Nordic Universities.

Jönköping – Oslo Met –
Tampere – Odense, South. Dan.
and UI

Gerontology - interaction of courses for Icelandic students

Courses	Gerontology: Micro-credential, 30 ECTS	Gerontology Masters's 120 ECTS	MA in Gerontology + NordMaG spes 120 ECTS
Gerontology: Policymaking and Services 10 ECTS AUTUMN / online (ÖLD-102)	X	X	X Autum 2027
(Öld-103) Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Gerontology 5 ECTS AUTUMN / online		Elective	X Autum 2028
Factors of influence in Ageing: Environment, Social Relationships and Health 10 ECTS SPRING /online and on site	X	X	
Other courses and Essay	Elected course at UI or other University 10 ECTS	Research Methods 10 ECTS	At least two NordMaG courses, 20 ECTS from 2 other Univ. (Jönköping, Oslo Met, Tampere, South.Danm./Odinse)
		Elected courses at UI or other Ice. Universities, 60-80 ECTS	Research Methods 10 ECTS
		Essay 40-60 E	Elected courses 5-25 E Essay 40-60E

HSG mars 2026
SHS 2021

ÖLD102F Gerontology: Policymaking and Services



Mode of study:

Distance learning with on-site sessions .

Course Description:

The course will present gerontology as a multi-professional discipline with an emphasis on social gerontology.

The main concepts and research methods will be introduced.

Formal and informal care will be discussed.

Personal meaning and well-being in the social contexts of later adulthood and old age will be explored and methods to enhance personal meaning will be introduced.

Emphasis is placed on deepening student's understanding by helping them become more adept at working with other professions on elderly welfare issues.

ÖLD102F Gerontology: Policymaking and Services



Learning outcomes:

On completion of the course a student will be able to:

- Describe the main theories and concepts in the field of gerontology.
- Explain their influence on the development of services to the elderly.
- Explain the legislation and welfare aims concerning the elderly in Iceland.
- Discuss the newest knowledge and research methods that are applied in gerontology, both in talks and written works.
- Discuss their research work and its connection to the basic knowledge and theories of the field.
- Write a research plan, grant proposal, scientific summary, articles and reports.
- Utilize the knowledge gained in purposeful teamwork in the service of the elderly.

Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Gerontology (ÖLD103F)



Mode of study:

Distance learning /online

- This course offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding aging, combining biological, psychological, social, and policy perspectives.
- Students will explore the physiological and cognitive processes of aging, mental health, and social roles of older adults, as well as the impact of informal networks, families, and caregiving on well-being in later life.
- The course also examines economic and welfare policies, technological innovations in elder care, ethical considerations, and research methods in gerontology.
- Designed for students from diverse academic backgrounds, it provides a comprehensive foundation for evidence-based practice and policy development to improve quality of life for older populations.
- **Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Gerontology** introduces students to the biological, psychological, and social dimensions of aging, with a focus on informal networks, families, and caregiving. Explore policy, technology, and ethical issues shaping later life and gain tools for evidence-based practice to improve quality of life for older adults.

Multidisciplinary Perspectives in Gerontology (ÖLD103F)



Learning outcomes (draft/work in progress):

On completion of the course a student will be able to:

- Explain key biological, psychological, and social processes of aging and describe how these influence health, functioning, and well-being in later life.
- Analyze the role of informal networks, families, and caregiving in supporting older adults and evaluate their impact on quality of life and care outcomes.
- Assess major welfare and economic policies relevant to aging populations and discuss their implications for practice, service delivery, and societal inclusion.
- Evaluate technological innovations and welfare technology solutions that support independence, safety, and participation among older adults.
- Identify and discuss ethical and legal considerations related to autonomy, dignity, equity, and rights of older adults in diverse care contexts.
- Use interdisciplinary perspective in research methods and evidence-based approaches to critically examine issues in gerontology and make informed recommendations for practice or policy.

Application



The application deadline for Icelandic students is twice a year:

- April 15th for the fall semester and
- October 15th for the spring semester.

- NordMaG

NordMaG - Admission procedure and acceptance of students



- Students will apply to one of the universities of the Consortium,
- which will select the NordMaG candidates according to the local admission procedures
- The partner universities will follow the enrolment regulations of the partners and inform the other partner universities and
- Inform the NMB about the students selected for NordMaG

- No tuition fees
- Exchange students
- Mobility – if required – Erasmus funding or if supported, Nordplus

Info and contact person

[NordMaG – MA nám\(link\).](#)

Supervisory teacher / Umsjónarkennari

Halldór Sigurður Guðmundsson

halldorg@hi.is

Prófessor

[Link for info.](#)

