

# Introducing Scandinavia

You have probably heard about the **Vikings**, read the fairytales of **Hans Christian Andersen** or bought your furniture at **IKEA**.

But did you know, for example, that we wouldn't call the weekdays Tuesday, Thursday and Friday if it hadn't been for the **Vikings** and their **Gods: Tyr, Thor and Freya?**

Or that Danish philosopher **Søren Kierkegaard** has been one of the most read and discussed philosophers in the 20th Century, and that the plays of Norwegian playwright **Henrik Ibsen** are the second most staged after Shakespeare?

Or that we are called "**homo sapiens**" because of **Carl von Linné**, an 18th Century Swedish scientist?

Indeed, Scandinavia has a long and strong cultural tradition. We offer you an excellent opportunity to learn more.

Nyhavn, Copenhagen, Denmark

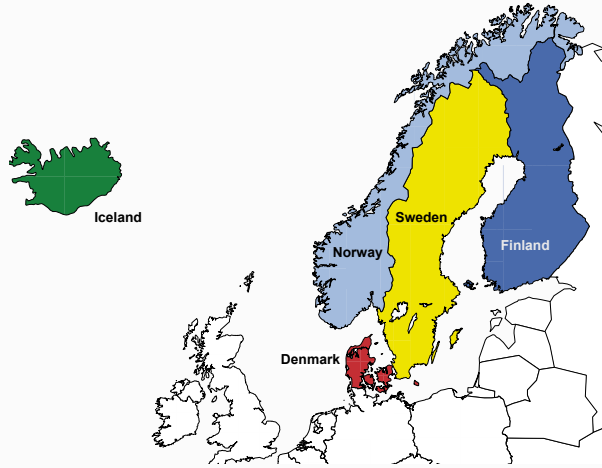


## Scandinavia Today

Present day Scandinavia is dominated by **wealth**, innovation and **creativity**. The social welfare system, public support to students and **equality** between the sexes are among the most striking trademarks of these countries.

Swedish women were the first in the world to get **voting rights**, and Denmark was one of the first countries to offer **public education**.

Today Scandinavia benefits from these early initiatives: information technology, **fashion**, **arts** and **design** dominate the new job market in this era of globalization.



**IKEA** (Swedish), **Skype** (Danish/Swedish) and **Nokia** (Finnish) were voted the number 1, 2 and 3 best brands in Europe in January 2007, reflecting the development in this dynamic region.

## Scandinavian Literature and Culture Courses

SCAN: 411, 412, 413, 414 (No Prereqs)

If you want to learn more about Scandinavian Arts and Culture, we offer you a "**smorgasbord**" of topics:

Discover the great **dramas** of Ibsen and Strindberg as well as various masterpieces from the strong **Scandinavian film** tradition, e.g., Bergman and Kaurismäki.

Investigate topics such as Scandinavian **Identity** and **Gender**, 19th century Danish art and philosophy (Kierkegaard) or the Dogma wave in contemporary Danish film.

Explore the Vikings and the Sagas and the complex **Nordic Mythology**.

Dig deeper into the major prose works of **Scandinavian Literature** from H.C. Andersen to Knut Hamsun, Karen Blixen and Halldór Laxness.

Or take a closer look at the Literatures of the **Baltic**, with important writers such as Grass, Kaplinski and Tranströmer.

Scandinavian literature and culture are also part of our courses CENS 201 and 202 which cover much of Central, Eastern and Northern Europe.

## Scandinavian Languages

Swedish & Danish

SCAN: 300, 350 (No Prereqs)

310, 360, 400, 402, 450, 460.

The Scandinavian Language Courses offer you **Beginner** and **Intermediate** level Swedish and Danish.

You will learn the grammar and structure of the two languages and acquire basic **speaking** and **writing skills**. You will also be able to engage in basic conversation and read shorter texts.

The courses will also provide you with **knowledge** of Swedish and Danish culture, and are a good foundation if you would like to **study** or **work** abroad in Denmark or Sweden.

If you already have speaking or writing skills, ask the instructor whether you can join a prereq course.

[You will find the course descriptions here:](#)

[www.cenes.ubc.ca](http://www.cenes.ubc.ca)

Lucia celebration at UBC. Photo: Epheumia Redden



## SNCA

When signing up for a SCAN course you become a part of the **Scandinavian Community** at UBC through the Scandinavian and Nordic Cultural Association students club.

### More info:

[www.snca.wordpress.com](http://www.snca.wordpress.com)  
[snca.ubc@gmail.com](mailto:snca.ubc@gmail.com)

## Scandinavian Exchange Program

UBC has exchange agreements with a wide selection of **Scandinavian Partner Universities** in Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Iceland.

A unique opportunity for you to pursue studies abroad matching your field of study or to brush up on your language skills in the language courses offered during the summer semester.

## UBC's Partner Universities include

University of Lund  
University of Copenhagen  
Copenhagen Business School  
University of Uppsala,  
Stockholm School of Economics  
University of Oslo  
Norwegian University of Life Sciences  
Norwegian School of Economics  
University of Reykjavik

Find out more about the possibilities for exchange on UBC's **Go Global** website:

[www.students.ubc.ca/global/](http://www.students.ubc.ca/global/)

Riddarholmen seen from City Hall, Stockholm, Sweden. Photo: Preben Kristensen



## Contact

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## Explore Scandinavia



Summertime and City Hall, Stockholm, Sweden. Photo: Olaf Holdar

## Scandinavian Courses at UBC



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