Programme curriculum

Master's programme in

Cognition and Communication

2024

Adjusted 2025

Faculty of Humanities
University of Copenhagen

Entry into force: 1 September 2025

Contents

This programme curriculum is supplemented by the faculty's *Shared curriculum for study programmes at the Faculty of Humanities*. Students enrolled under this curriculum are therefore subject to the guidelines and rules described in both the shared curriculum and the programme curriculum.

Part 1. Legal basis

Section 1. Legal basis

This curriculum has been drawn up under the authority endowed by:
- Ministerial Order no. 51 of 14 January 2024 on Admission to and Enrolment in Full time Programmes at Universities (*Adgangsbekendtgørelsen*)
- Ministerial Order no. 2285 of 1 December 2021 on Full time Programmes at Universities (*Uddannelsesbekendtgørelsen*)
- Ministerial Order no. 2271 of 1 December 2021 on University Examinations and Tests (*Eksamensbekendtgørelsen*)
- Ministerial Order no. 1125 of 4 July 2022 on the Grading Scale and Other Forms of Assessment of Study Programmes under the Ministry of Higher Education and Science (Karakterskalabekendtgørelsen).

Part 2. Admission requirements, prescribed period of study, affiliations and title

Section 2. Admission requirements

Admission to the Master's degree programme is in accordance with the Ministerial Order concerning admission and enrolment.

(2) The following bachelor programmes grant direct admission to the master's programme in Cognition and Communication:
- Philosophy from the University of Copenhagen
- Philosophy from the University of Aarhus
- Philosophy from the University of Southern Denmark
- Psychology from the Universities of Copenhagen, Aarhus or Southern Denmark
- Film and Media Studies from the University of Copenhagen
- Media Studies from the University of Aarhus
- Cognitive Data Science (BSc) from the University of Copenhagen

(3) The faculty may admit applicants other than those mentioned in paragraph 2 if it is assessed that the applicant has a Bachelor's degree including a minimum of 45 ECTS in cognitive science (e.g. psychology, neuroscience, computer science, philosophy, or linguistics) or in communication/media studies (e.g. modules in media sociology, media psychology, communication theory, audiovisual theory and analysis, media reception and usage, media effects, or media organizations).

(4) All applicants must have English language proficiency on par with the Danish upper secondary school 'English level B' with a weighted average of minimum 2. See http://studies.ku.dk/masters for more information.

(5) The faculty decides the admission capacity for the master's programme in Cognition and Communication each year. The admission capacity is published each year at http://studies.ku.dk/masters.

(6) If the number of qualified applicants exceeds the admission capacity, applicants will be prioritised in line with criteria at http://studies.ku.dk/masters.

Section 3. Prescribed period of study

The master's programme in Cognition and Communication is prescribed to 120 ECTS.

Section 4. Affiliation

The master's programme in Cognition and Communication falls under the auspices of the Study Board for Department of Communication and the body of external examiners for Film and Media Studies.

Section 5. Title

On successful completion of the master's programme with major subject in Cognition and Communication, graduates are entitled to use the title Master of Arts (MA) in Cognition and Communication.

Part 3. Technical requirements pertaining to study

Section 6. Reading texts in foreign languages

All literature shall be offered in English. Supplementary literature in French and German can be offered, but as often as possible only when an English translation exists.

Section 7. Writing and spelling skills

Students' writing and spelling skills are included in the overall assessment as defined in section 6 of the shared curriculum for study programmes at the Faculty of Humanities.

Section 8. Definition of a standard page

A standard page is defined in section 7 of the shared curriculum for study programmes at the Faculty of Humanities.

Section 9. Syllabus

The syllabus provisions appear in the description of the subject elements.

Part 4. Academic profile

Section 10. Competency description

The purpose of the master's programme in Cognition and Communication is to provide insight into fundamental aspects of human cognition and communication as well as the interplay between cognitive and communicative processes in situated contexts.
Graduates from the programme are thus able to identify and analyze relevant aspects of cognitive and communicative processes in specific contexts as well as identifying, analyzing, and evaluating various solutions in order to solve specific problems in these contexts.

Graduates can, for example, use these competencies to plan and conduct empirical investigations of situated human behavior (using both qualitative and quantitative methods), and provide advice and consultancy related to various types of communication processes. Graduates are suitable for companies and other organizations looking for candidates with expertise related to a broad range of cognitive and communicative processes, in connection with, for example, the promotion and marketing of products and services and/or communication internally among employees as well as external communication to interested parties. Graduates can deploy their competencies in relation to situations involving inter-personal face-to-face communication as well as interpersonal and mass communication mediated by various technologies.

Section 11. Academic targets

A master's programme in Cognition and Communication gives the student:

Knowledge:
- the significance of human cognition for interpersonal, networked, and mass communication,
- key theories and methodologies of contemporary interdisciplinary cognitive science, philosophy, and media studies,
- cognitive and emotional factors in technologically mediated as well as face-to-face communication processes.

Skills:
- collecting data on, analyzing, and interpreting central aspects of human cognition and communication, including processes of both human-to-human and human-to-technology interaction in social and cultural contexts,
- draw on in-depth knowledge of both cognitive and communicative processes in analyses of situated human behavior,
- communicating and disseminating research-based knowledge,
- discussing academic and professional problems and issues with peers as well as non-specialists.

Competencies:
- independently planning and implementing small and medium-scale empirical research projects targeting cognitive and communicative processes, applying both qualitative and quantitative methods
- independently analyzing human cognitive factors in relation to communication and social interaction more broadly,
- participating in and managing tasks in various complex work contexts, based on their academic grounding in cognitive science and communication theory,
- initiating, implementing and taking professional responsibility for interdisciplinary collaboration,
- independently managing one's own academic and professional development and possible specialization within a specific area related to cognition and communication.

Part 5. Structure and subject elements

Section 12. Structure

The study programme consists of subject elements corresponding to 90 ECTS, including a master's thesis prescribed to 30 ECTS. The study programme also contains elective studies corresponding to 30 ECTS.
(2) The thesis must be written in semester 4 and completes the studies. The student has to have passed 60 ECTS including any elective studies in order to register for the thesis.

Section 13. Master's programme in Cognition and Communication

The study programme contains a 30 ECTS mobility window which students use for master's elective studies, studying abroad, etc.
(2) The table below shows the structured course of study for the master's programme in Cognition and Communication.

Semester	Course elements:	
1.	Introduction to Cognitive Science 15 ECTS	Introduction to Communica-tion Theory 15 ECTS
2.	Research Methods and Experi-mental design 15 ECTS	Topics in Cognition and Communication 15 ECTS
3.	Master's Elective 30 ECTS	
4.	Master's Thesis 30 ECTS	

Section 14. Study-Start Test

Activity code: HCCKSS000E

Objective	The objective of the Study-Start Test is to encourage an active study cul-ture, determine if the student has commenced the education and are partic-ipating actively during the classes.
Exam provisions	*Form of exam:* Active class participation. *Scope:* 100 % class attendance in *Introduction to Cognitive Science*. *Exam language*: English. *Assessment:* Internal exam with one examiner, approved/not approved. *Temporal placing:* The first week of class in *Introduction to Cognitive Sci-ence*. *Make-up exam/resit:* Reflection note, 1 standard page.
Special provisions	The student has two attempts to pass the Study-Start Test. The make-up exam/resit takes place 2 weeks after study start. The make-up exam/resit consist of a note with the students' reflections on motivation to apply for the education.

Section 15. Subject elements of the programme

Introduction to Cognitive Science (compulsory and constituent)
15 ECTS
Activity code: HCCK03051E

Academic targets	At the examination, the student can demonstrate: Knowledge and understanding of • contemporary models of cognitive phenomena such as perception, action, attention, reasoning, emotion, social cognition and communication. • ways in which cognitive processes and human behaviour can be described and explained at various levels (ranging from descriptions of cognitive tasks to neurobiological implementation). • the interdisciplinary nature of cognitive science and its different frameworks - from classical computational model and connectionism to situated and embodied approaches. • various research designs used in cognitive science research. • key notions in contemporary philosophy of psychology and philosophy of mind. Skills in • describing and explaining how insights from cognitive science may have relevance for communication. • describing and explaining the various research designs and modelling tools used in cognitive science. • describing and explaining the relationship between experimental design, experimental manipulations, and cognitive models. Competencies in • critically assessing contemporary research in a given domain of cognitive science. • independently presenting and arguing in favour of various academic positions in writing.
Syllabus	The student specifies a syllabus of app. 1,000 standard pages for the exam. The syllabus is not approved prior to the exam. The syllabus is comprised by the reference list included in the written assignment.
Teaching and working methods	Lectures and class teaching, discussions and exercises.

Exam provisions	**Form of exam:** Oral exam, optional subject, with material, following active class participation. The active class participation consists of: • Minimum 75% class attendance • Approval of three exercises (form and extend are described in the course description at http://kurser.ku.dk) • Student peer feedback on two of the exercises. **Scope:** 30 minutes incl. 5 minutes of assessment. The material is a report of 11-15 standard pages. **Assessment:** Internal exam with two examiners, the 7-point grading scale. The report counts for 50% of the assessment. Active class participation must be approved by the teacher. **Regulations for group exams:** The oral exam can only be sat individually but the report can be prepared in a group of max. 4 students. In case of group exam, the length of the report must be 16-22 standard pages (2 students), 22-30 standard pages (3 students) or 27-37 standard pages (4 students). **Exam language(s):** English. **Permitted exam aids:** All, but refer to special provisions regarding generative artificial intelligence in the course description. **Make-up exam/resit:** Conducted in the same manner as immediately above.
	Exam in case of non-approved active class participation **Form of exam:** Oral exam, optional subject, with material. **Scope:** 30 minutes incl. 5 minutes of assessment. The material is a report of 21-25 standard pages. **Assessment:** Internal exam with two examiners, the 7-point grading scale. The report counts for 50% of the assessment. **Regulations for group exams:** The exam can only be sat individually. **Exam language(s):** English. **Permitted exam aids:** All, but refer to special provisions regarding generative artificial intelligence in the course description. **Make-up exam/resit:** Conducted in the same manner as immediately above.
Special provisions	The oral examination starts with the student's presentation (maximum 10 minutes), followed by a dialogue between the student and the internal examiner (maximum 15 minutes) and five minutes assessment by internal examiners. The student may bring an unannotated copy of the submitted material into the examination. The material must not serve as a manuscript for the oral presentation. The student may also bring a written synopsis for the oral presentation, which must be max. one standard page. A copy of any such synopsis must be submitted at the start of the examination to the internal examiners. Active class participation which has been approved is valid for the following 2 exam periods.

Introduction to Communication Theory (compulsory and constituent)
15 ECTS
Activity code: HCCK03061E

Academic targets	At the examination, the student can demonstrate: Knowledge and understanding of • key theories, models, and concepts in the field of communication theory, including interpersonal, networked, and mass communication. • the role of media and technology in communication processes and behaviours. • cognitive, cultural, and contextual factors that shape communication practices and meaning-making. Skills in • identifying, analyzing, and interpreting different forms of interpersonal, networked, and mass communication processes. • identifying, analyzing, and interpreting specific cognitive, cultural, and contextual factors and their role in communication processes. Competencies in • applying communication theories, models, and concepts to analyze real-world communication phenomena. • critically assessing the role of technological, cognitive, cultural, and contextual factors in real-world communication phenomena. • communicating effectively and coherently about communication processes and theories in both oral and written forms.
Syllabus	The student specifies a syllabus of app. 1,000 standard pages for the exam. The syllabus is not approved prior to the exam. The syllabus is comprised by the reference list included in the written assignment.
Teaching and working methods	Lectures and class teaching, discussions and exercises.
Exam provisions	***Form of exam:*** Take-home assignment, optional subject, following active class participation. The active class participation consists of: • Minimum 75% class attendance • Approval of three exercises (form and extend are described in the course description at http://kurser.ku.dk) • Student peer feedback on two of the exercises. ***Scope:*** 11-15 standard pages. ***Assessment:*** Internal exam with one examiner, the 7-point grading scale. Active class participation must be approved by the teacher. ***Regulations for group exams:*** The exam can be sat individually or as a group (max. 4 students) with individual assessment. Each individual's contribution must constitute distinct entities that can be identified and assessed individually. The joint element must not exceed 25 % of the total assignment. In case of group exam, the length of the take-home assignment must be 16- 22 standard pages (2 students), 22-30 standard pages (3 students) or 27-37 standard pages (4 students). ***Exam language(s):*** English. ***Permitted exam aids:*** All, but refer to special provisions regarding generative artificial intelligence in the course description. ***Make-up exam/resit:*** Conducted in the same manner as the original exam.

	Exam in case of non-approved active class participation *Form of exam:* Take-home assignment, set subject. *Scope:* 21-25 standard pages with a two week deadline. *Assessment:* Internal exam with one examiner, the 7-point grading scale. *Regulations for group exams:* The exam can only be sat individually. *Exam language(s):* English. *Permitted exam aids:* All, but refer to special provisions regarding generative artificial intelligence in the course description. *Make-up exam/resit:* Conducted in the same manner as immediately above.
Special provisions	Active class participation which has been approved is valid for the following 2 exam periods.

Research Methods and Experimental Design (compulsory and constituent)
15 ECTS
Activity code: HCCK03071E

Academic targets	At the examination, the student can demonstrate: Knowledge and understanding of • the fundamental concepts and principles of research methods and experimental and non-experimental designs in both quantitative and qualitative studies. • the key components and steps involved in conducting research, including formulating research questions, selecting appropriate methodologies, and designing research studies. • the strengths and limitations of various quantitative and qualitative research methods and their applicability to different research contexts. • statistics in data analysis and its relevance to research design and interpretation. Skills in • identifying and critically evaluating different research designs, research methodologies, and data collection and analysis techniques. • applying appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods to address research questions and objectives. • collecting, organizing, and analyzing quantitative and qualitative data using relevant statistical techniques and qualitative analysis methods. • interpreting and presenting research findings in a clear and coherent manner, both orally and in writing. • communicating research findings and methodological considerations effectively, both to specialized and non-specialized audiences, in a concise and accessible manner. Competencies in • designing research studies that incorporate appropriate research methods and designs. • applying statistical techniques and qualitative analysis methods to analyze research data and draw meaningful conclusions. • evaluating and critically assessing the strengths and weaknesses of research studies in terms of their methodological rigor, validity, and reliability.

Syllabus	The student specifies a syllabus of app. 1,000 standard pages for the exam. The syllabus is not approved prior to the exam. The syllabus is comprised by the reference list included in the written assignment.
Types of teaching and working	Lectures and class teaching as well as workshops.
Exam provisions	***Form of exam:*** Oral exam, optional subject, with materials, following active class participation. The active class participation consists of: • Minimum 75% class attendance • Approval of three exercises (form and extend are described in the course description at http://kurser.ku.dk) • Student peer feedback on two of the exercises. ***Scope:*** 30 minutes incl. 5 minutes of assessment. The material is a report of 11-15 standard pages. ***Assessment:*** External exam, the 7-point grading scale. The report counts for 50% of the assessment. Active class participation must be approved by the teacher. ***Regulations for group exams:*** The oral exam can only be sat individually, but the report can be prepared in a group of max. 4 students. In case of group exam, the length of the report must be 16-22 standard pages (2 students), 22-30 standard pages (3 students) or 27-37 standard pages (4 students). ***Exam language(s):*** English. ***Permitted exam aids:*** All, but refer to special provisions regarding generative artificial intelligence in the course description. ***Make-up exam/resit:*** Conducted in the same manner as the original exam.
	Exam in case of non-approved active class participation ***Form of exam:*** Oral exam, optional subject, with materials. ***Scope:*** 30 minutes incl. 5 minutes of assessment. The material is a report of 21-25 standard pages. ***Assessment:*** External exam, the 7-point grading scale. The report counts for 50% of the assessment. ***Regulations for group exams:*** The exam can only be sat individually. ***Exam language(s):*** English. ***Permitted exam aids:*** All, but refer to special provisions regarding generative artificial intelligence in the course description. ***Make-up exam/resit:*** Conducted in the same manner as immediately above.

Special provisions	The oral examination starts with the student's presentation (maximum 10 minutes), followed by a dialogue between the student and the internal examiner (maximum 15 minutes) and five minutes assessment by the internal and external examiners.
	The student may bring an unannotated copy of the submitted material into the examination. The material must not serve as a manuscript for the oral presentation. The student may also bring a written synopsis for the oral presentation, which must be max. one standard page. A copy of any such synopsis must be submitted at the start of the examination to both the internal examiner and the external examiner.
	Active class participation which has been approved is valid for the following 2 exam periods.

Topics in Cognition and Communication (compulsory and constituent)
15 ECTS
Activity code: HCCK03081E

Academic targets	At the examination, the student can demonstrate: Knowledge and understanding of • a set of key contemporary discussions in cognitive science and communication studies. • key interrelationships between cognitive and communicative processes in various situations. Skills in • identifying and analyzing a set of relevant factors related to situated cognitive and communicative processes. • identifying and analyzing the interplay of said relevant factors and their potential consequences for situated cognitive and communicative processes. Competencies in • critically evaluating specific issues related to the interplay of situated cognitive and communication processes. • communicating an overall assessment of said issues in clear and concise form.
Syllabus	The student specifies a syllabus of app. 1,000 standard pages for the exam. The syllabus is not approved prior to the exam. The syllabus is comprised by the reference list included in the written assignment.
Types of teaching and working	Lectures and class teaching, discussions and exercises.

Exam provisions	***Form of exam:*** Take-home assignment, optional subject, following active class participation. The active class participation consists of: • Minimum 75% class attendance • Approval of three exercises (form and extend are described in the course description at http://kurser.ku.dk) • Student peer feedback on two of the exercises. ***Scope:*** 11-15 standard pages. ***Assessment:*** Internal exam with one examiner, the 7-point grading scale. Active class participation must be approved by the teacher. ***Regulations for group exams:*** The exam can only be sat individually. ***Exam language(s):*** English. ***Permitted exam aids:*** All, but refer to special provisions regarding generative artificial intelligence in the course description. ***Make-up exam/resit:*** Conducted in the same manner as immediately above.
	Exam in case of non-approved active class participation ***Form of exam:*** Take-home assignment, set subject. ***Scope:*** 21-25 standard pages with a two week deadline. ***Assessment:*** Internal exam with one examiner, the 7-point grading scale. ***Regulations for group exams:*** The exam can only be sat individually. ***Exam language(s):*** English. ***Permitted exam aids:*** All, but refer to special provisions regarding generative artificial intelligence in the course description. ***Make-up exam/resit:*** Conducted in the same manner as immediately above.
Special provisions	Active class participation which has been approved is valid for the following 2 exam periods.

Master's Thesis (compulsory and constituent)
30 ECTS
Activity code: HCCK03091E

Academic targets	At the examination, the student can demonstrate: Knowledge and understanding of • established theories, methodologies, interpretations, philosophical points of view, etc. relevant for the subject area of the thesis. Skills in • identifying and delineating one or more problems in such a way that they are relevant to academic research and to topical academic discussions, so that they can be processed adequately within the framework of a Master's thesis. • searching for literature in a relevant and comprehensive manner, using generally accepted methods and sources within cognitive science and communication research, e.g. databases, academic journals, reference works, handbooks, etc. • following the subject's standards with regard to a written presentation and its notes, quoting practice, referencing practice, punctuation, orthographic conventions, table of contents, bibliography, etc. • structuring the content of the thesis such that the suppositions, theses, arguments, and conclusions presented are internally coherent in relation both to each other and to the thesis's empirical, theoretical, and/or methodological suppositions. Competencies in • writing up an academic analysis that is well structured, well planned, and focused. • writing up an academic analysis that is conceptually and linguistically precise, and demonstrates mastery of academic terminology relevant to the chosen subject. • contextualizing a given analysis critically and independently in relation to relevant theories, interpretations, methodologies, philosophical points of view, etc. within a specific subject area. • summarizing content and results of a written academic work in a suitable and precise manner. • presenting complex subject matter and academic problems in a clear and precise manner at the oral defense. • engaging in academic dialogue on the thesis and its academic qualities.
Teaching and working methods	Individual or group supervision and seminars.

Exam provisions	***Form of exam:*** Take-home assignment and oral defense, optional subject. ***Scope:*** Take-home assignment: 50-60 standard pages. Summary: ½-1 standard page. Oral defense: 45 minutes, including grading. ***Assessment:*** The 7-point grading scale. The take-home assignment weighs 2/3 and the oral defense weighs 1/3. The summary is included in the assessment. A single assessment is given on the basis of the take-home assignment and the oral defense, both of which must be assessed as passed for the exam to be passed. ***Grading:*** External. ***Regulations for group exams:*** The exam can be sat individually or as a group (max 3 students) with individual assessment. If several students work together, their individual contributions must constitute distinct units that can be identified and assessed separately. The joint element must not exceed 50% of the total assignment. Take-home assignments for group exams are: 75-90 standard pages (2 students) or 100-120 standard pages (3 students). Length of the oral defense for groups: 70 minutes including assessment (2 students) or 90 minutes including assessment (3 students). ***Exam language(s):*** English. Summary: The summary must be written in English or Danish. ***Permitted exam aids:*** All, but refer to special provisions regarding generative artificial intelligence in the course description.

Part 6. Credit and transitional provisions

Section 16. Credit

Credit can be given for subject elements that have previously been passed on the master's programme in Cognition and Communication in line with the table below.

(2) Students wishing to apply for credit for subject elements that have previously been passed on the master's programme in Cognition and Communication, that do not appear in the table below, must contact the study board for an individual decision.

(3) Credit for other subject elements is granted in accordance with the rules and regulations in section 19 of the shared curriculum for study programmes at the Faculty of Humanities.

2019 curriculum	ECTS	2024 curriculum	ECTS
Introduction to Cognitive Science and Experimental Methods (HCCK03001E)	15	Introduction to Cognitive Science (HCCK03051E)	15
Communication Theory and Research Design (HCCK03011E)	15	Introduction to Communication Theory (HCCK03061E)	15

Section 17. Interim provisions

Once this curriculum enters into force, it will only be possible to take exams under the old curriculum in line with the study board's closure plan. The closure plan is available on KUnet under Study programme → Curriculum and rules.

Part 7. Exemptions, commencement and approval

Section 18. Exemptions

The study board may, based on an application, grant exemptions from rules contained in the curriculum that have been set by the university, if special circumstances apply.

Section 19. Commencement

This curriculum enters into effect on 1 September 2024, and applies to students who enrol in the master's programme in Cognition and Communication on 1 September 2024 or later.

Section 20. Approval

This curriculum was approved by the Study Board for The Department of Communication on 29 August 2023.

The curriculum was approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities on 22 January 2024.

The curriculum was adjusted by the Faculty of Humanities on 10 December 2024.