

The need for specialist knowledge on the Caucasus region is growing

# CAUCASUS STUDIES

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<https://caucasusstudies.mau.se/courses/>





## THE CAUCASUS REGION

The Caucasus region is located at the crossroads of Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia. Historically the region has been dominated by different empires, including Persia, the Ottoman Empire the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union.

### PEOPLES AND LANGUAGES

Ethnically, the Caucasus is one of the most complex regions of the world. More than 50 languages, including Caucasian, Iranian, Slavic, Turkic and other languages, are spoken in the region.

### RELIGIONS

The Caucasus is also a meeting place for different Islamic, Christian and pre-Christian religious traditions.

### GEOPOLITICS

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War the Caucasus region has obtained a new strategic significance. Regional great powers compete for political influence in the region and for control over its strategically important energy resources. New external actors, notably the USA and the EU, seek to obtain influence in the region.

### SOCIETY

The newly independent states in Post-Soviet Caucasus are weak states, characterized by unresolved violent conflicts, high numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons, high unemployment and weak democratic institutions. Despite these problems, the societies are involved in reform programs and foreign presence and investment is increasing.

### WHY CAUCASUS STUDIES?

The need for specialist knowledge on the Caucasus is growing. Several of the conflicts in the region are highly internationalized. Many international organisations and actors are engaged in the region, such as the UN, EU, Council of Europe, OSCE, Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), USAID, and the World Bank. NGOs and International companies are increasing their presence in the Caucasus region.

## CAUCASUS STUDIES

Caucasus Studies is offered exclusively online with instruction in English. Students on the courses come from countries worldwide. This creates international networks of people who are engaged in different joint activities during the courses.

### COURSE MODULES

Students are welcome to study the full course package Caucasus Studies or to select individual modules, such as *Introduction to Caucasus Studies*, *Conflicts and Conflict Resolution in the Caucasus*, *Post-Soviet developments in the Caucasus*, *History of the Caucasus*, *Peoples and languages of the Caucasus*, *State and Nation building in the Caucasus*. The course offerings also include languages of the Caucasus region.

### CONTACT AND APPLICATION DETAILS

The Malmö University website provides information on course modules, course requirements, application deadlines and contact details:

<https://caucasusstudies.mau.se/courses/>

