



Universität
Basel

Philosophisch-Historische
Fakultät



Guidelines Master's Degree Program in **Changing Societies**

Guidelines for the Master's Degree Program in Changing Societies at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Basel

The original German guidelines were established by the Social Sciences teaching committee in consultation with the Dean of Studies Office at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. Approved by the examination commission on 01.09.2026.

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Preamble

The examination commission (“Prüfungskommission”) of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Basel has approved the following guidelines. These guidelines govern the details of the master’s degree program Changing Societies.

The paragraph numbers referenced in these guidelines refer to the Regulations of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Basel for Master’s Studies (“Ordnung der Philosophisch-Historischen Fakultät der Universität Basel für das Masterstudium”), dated 25 October 2018. Should there be any contradictions between the study guidelines and the master’s regulations (“Masterordnung”) or the study program (“Studienplan”) for the master’s degree program Changing Societies, the master’s regulations or study program for the master’s degree program Changing Societies shall apply.

Please consult the relevant documents at philhist.unibas.ch/de/studium/.

1. The Master’s Degree Program Changing Societies at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Basel

1.1 Subject area concept and focal points in Basel

Societies are dynamic entities characterized by great diversity and complexity. This is particularly evident in contemporary transformations, which encompass different aspects: the changing position of nation-states vis-à-vis international organizations and a globalized economy; economic and technological change and the transformation of the world of work; transformations of social, demographic, and cultural structures; new forms of migration and mobility of people, goods, capital, and ideas; and struggles over resources as well as the search for more sustainable and ecological solutions. The master’s degree program Changing Societies focuses on these societal transformations and the related questions, potentials, and challenges.

To comprehensively approach these developments, it is essential to examine them from multiple perspectives and through different theoretical and meth-

odological approaches from various disciplines. The master's degree program Changing Societies meets this objective by offering an open, interdisciplinary study program that investigates societal change from the perspective of different social science disciplines. Students benefit both from the broad theoretical scope of an interdisciplinary social science program and from solid methodological training in empirical social research. Understanding the complex dynamics of societies and their transformations requires a combination of theoretical concepts, methods, and analytical approaches.

The master's degree program Changing Societies is offered by the Department of Social Sciences and its associated subject areas.

1.2 Admission requirements

The master's degree program Changing Societies is based on the Regulations of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Basel for Master's Studies ("Masterordnung der Philosophisch-Historischen Fakultät"):

§ 3. Die Voraussetzungen und das Verfahren für die Zulassung zum Masterstudium sind in der Studierenden-Ordnung der Universität Basel vom 13. November 2019 sowie in den vom Rektorat erlassenen Zulassungsrichtlinien geregelt.

² Die Zulassung zum Masterstudium setzt einen Bachelorabschluss im Umfang von 180 Kreditpunkten, erbracht an einer von der Universität Basel anerkannten Hochschule voraus.

Admission to a master's degree program requires a bachelor's degree with 180

credit points from a higher education institution recognized by the University of Basel.

Admission without additional requirements is granted to applicants who:

a. hold a Bachelor's degree from the University of Basel in one of the following bachelor's degree subjects:

- Social Anthropology
- Gender Studies
- Near & Middle Eastern Studies
- Cultural Anthropology
- Political Science
- Sociology

b. who can demonstrate equivalent academic achievements earned at a higher education institution recognized by the University of Basel.

c. who can demonstrate academic achievements equivalent in scope and requirements to a Bachelor's degree subject of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Basel, obtained at a higher education institution recognized by the University of Basel, in the following branch of studies:

- African Studies

1.3 Subject-specific requirements and recommendations

Successful completion of the master's degree program Changing Societies requires basic knowledge of social science theories and methods, particularly in the field of qualitative and quantitative empirical research.

Furthermore, very good English language skills are essential for attending the full

range of courses, as the majority of classes are taught in English.

1.4 Academic advice

For questions regarding study planning and academic content, students may contact the study coordinator of the master's degree program (changingsocieties-gw@unibas.ch). In addition, the contact person of the teaching committee ("Unterrichtskommission, UK") of the Department of Social Sciences is available for questions concerning admission to the master's degree program and recognition of prior achievements (<https://dgw.philhist.unibas.ch/de/departement/leitung-organisation/unterrichtskommission/>).

Further information, dates, downloads of the study program and guidelines, as well as information sheets and forms can be found on the website of the Dean of Studies Office of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences:

<https://philhist.unibas.ch/en/studies/>. The Regulations of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Basel for Master's Studies, which serve as the general framework regulations for the master's degree program, can also be found there.

Detailed information on courses offered each semester is available in the online course directory (<https://vorlesungsverzeichnis.unibas.ch/en/course-directory/>), which is published in May and December.

Students may also arrange individual academic advising with the relevant lecturers. This includes:

- advice and supervision regarding the preparation and follow-up of coursework, seminar papers, or participation in research projects, as well as the master's thesis;
- mandatory advising and supervision in connection with the master's thesis and master's examinations. Students are advised to contact lecturers as early as possible, but at least one month before the relevant registration deadline, if they intend to take a master's examination with them or write a master's thesis under their supervision.

2. Learning outcomes, qualifications and professions

2.1 Learning Outcomes and qualifications

The master's degree program provides students with the theoretical and methodological tools necessary to address questions of societal transformation and contemporary challenges in a differentiated and scientifically grounded manner. In doing so, it enables graduates to contribute to shaping societies in a solution-oriented way.

More specifically, students acquire the following knowledge, competencies, and skills:

Students

- a) are familiar with social, cultural, and political mechanisms, discourses, and challenges related to changing societies;
- b) know different theoretical foundations for analyzing changing societies and are able to discuss and critically reflect on these theoretical foundations in depth;
- c) acquire methodological competencies for the qualitative and quantitative empirical investigation of specific topics related to social sciences and humanities and are able to apply these methods independently and reflexively;

- d) are able to work critically and productively with academic literature from the different areas of the master's degree program and combine empirical research practice, interpretation, and theoretical reflection;
- e) are capable of independently conducting a research project, identifying relevant research topics, developing detailed research questions, productively applying suitable theoretical foundations, and developing an appropriate research design;
- f) acquire skills such as independent, differentiated, problem-oriented, and critical thinking and judgment; organizing their work efficiently and independently or in project groups through planning and prioritization; and communicating complex and systematic relationships and findings clearly in oral and written form.

2.2 Professions

After successfully completing the master's degree program Changing Societies, graduates may pursue either an academic or a non-academic career path.

Depending on their chosen specialization within the master's degree (particularly the master's thesis and master's examinations), students may acquire the necessary foundations for further academic qualification (doctoral studies) in one of the participating disciplines. Admission to doctoral studies after completion of the master's degree program is governed by the doctoral study regulations ("Promotionsordnung") of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

In addition, careers in many different areas of the non-academic labor market are possible. Internships in governmental and administrative institutions, NGOs, international organizations, foundations, research institutions, and private companies provide opportunities to gain initial professional experience. The program offers strong preparation for positions requiring independent, methodological, and analytical work, as well as the ability to analyze societal processes and apply the resulting knowledge in practice.

More detailed information on the competencies and learning outcomes of this program can be found in the qualification profile in the appendix.

3. Program structure

The master's degree is the second academic degree following the bachelor's degree. The master's program comprises a total of 120 credit points (CP). The master's degree program Changing Societies is studied without an additional minor master's degree subject (i.e. it is a "Monostudiengang") and consists of 100 CP, plus an elective component of 20 CP. One CP corresponds to approximately 30 hours of work.

The regular period of study is four semesters. Descriptions of the modules and sample study programs are provided below.

3.1 Organizational information

All students receive access to the Online Services platform (services.unibas.ch) through their university email account credentials. Credits that are earned are recorded there. It is essential that students register for their selected courses each semester via Online Services; otherwise, no credits can be awarded. Students must therefore observe the registration deadlines of the University of Basel (<https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/In-My-Studies/Dates-Events/Deadlines/Course-Registration.html>).

The platform ADAM (adam.unibas.ch) serves as the online platform for individual courses. Documents can be uploaded there, and lecturers can communicate with students via email.

3.2 Study structure

The study program of the master’s degree program Changing Societies provides information about the start of studies, admission requirements, language requirements, structure and organization of the program, the master’s thesis, the master’s examination, and the relevant teaching committee.

The study program forms part of the Regulations of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Basel for Master’s Studies, which serve as the general framework regulations.

Completing the degree program, CP		Modules	Eligible course formats
12 CP		Theories and Methods of Changing Societies	tutorial, course, colloquium
48 CP , comprising 24 CP from each of two modules chosen by the student, of which	- 3 CP for a seminar - 5 CP for a seminar paper - 16 CP for electives	Bodies, Objects, Circulation	All in accordance with § 7, section 4 and 5
	- 3 CP for a seminar - 5 CP for a seminar paper - 3 CP for a course - 13 CP for electives	Sustainable Societies: Inequality, Power, Conflict	
	- 3 CP for a seminar - 5 CP for a seminar paper - 2 CP for a colloquium - 14 CP for electives	Global Modernity and Difference	

10 CP	Master's examination	
30 CP	Master's thesis	
20 CP	Free electives	
120 CP	Master's degree program	

Column „Completing the degree program, CP”

This column lists the minimum requirements for successfully completing the degree program. It provides an overview of study regulations, including the credit points to be earned within each module, as well as the types of courses that must be attended.

The term “electives” in the modules refers to credits that can be earned in courses of choice within a specific module. For this contingent of CP, students may choose any courses that are assigned to the corresponding module in the course directory.

The number in bold represents the total of the individual requirements for a given module or for several modules. The CP for seminar papers are included and count towards this total. The sum of all bold numbers across all cells amounts to the total of 120 CP.

Column „Modules”

A module is a collection of several courses forming a single learning unit, whose internal coherence is defined by the program's learning objectives. A study program specifies learning outcomes that must be achieved within particular modules. Other learning out-

comes are achieved by successfully completing a selection of modules from a broader range of options.

3.3 Modules

The master's degree program Changing Societies consists of the foundational module “Theories and Methods of Changing Societies” (12 CP) and the three thematic modules “Bodies, Objects, Circulation” (24 CP), “Sustainable Societies: Inequality, Power, Conflict” (24 CP), and “Global Modernity and Difference” (24 CP).

To complete the master's degree program, students must choose two of the three thematic modules. In each module selected, one seminar paper must be written.

„Theories and Methods of Changing Societies”, 12 CP

The foundational module “Theories and Methods of Changing Societies” provides basic training in quantitative and qualitative social research while also fostering research-oriented reflection on theoretical perspectives and concepts.

It is recommended that students complete the methods training (course plus tutorial in qualitative and quantitative research) during the first year of study and attend the theory colloquium during the

second year, alongside the preparation of the master's thesis.

Course plus tutorial „Fundamentals of Qualitative Research“

This course is an introduction to qualitative social research. Various methods of data collection and analysis are discussed, including interviews, ethnographic fieldwork, and document analysis (visual methods). The course also addresses epistemological foundations, data protection, and research ethics. Particular emphasis is placed on linking theory and research practice. The accompanying tutorial provides practical training in applying the methods.

The aim of the course is to provide students with an overview of qualitative research methods and to develop their ability to align research interests, research questions, and methods choices.

The course and tutorial must be attended together.

Course plus tutorial „Fundamentals of Quantitative Research“

This course offers an introduction to quantitative methods in contemporary social science research. It provides students with the conceptual foundations, analytical techniques, and practical skills necessary to design, conduct, and evaluate empirical studies using quantitative data. The course covers key topics ranging from measurement, data structures, and sampling to descriptive and inferential statistics, hypothesis testing, and regression analysis.

In the tutorial that complements the course, students will apply the analytical methods discussed in the course to real-world social science questions using the statistical software R.

The course and tutorial must be attended together.

Theory colloquium

In the theory colloquium, students are guided in discussing and critically reflecting upon theoretical perspectives and concepts relating to changing societies in a research-oriented manner.

It is recommended that students attend the theory colloquium during their second year of study, alongside the preparation of the master's thesis.

„Bodies, Objects, Circulation“, 24 CP

How do bodies and objects move, connect, and gain meaning in an increasingly global and unequal world? Focusing on “circulation” as mobility and movement but also as moments of negotiation and contestation, students examine both the transnational and local flows of human and non-human bodies – people, objects, ideas, and capital – across borders, institutions, and everyday settings.

The module introduces students to key social science approaches to understanding bodies and objects as powerful political and social entities. Drawing on anthropology, feminist and queer theories, theories of materiality, and Science and Technology Studies, it examines how bodies and objects are formed through

their relationships with images and infrastructures within systems of capital and control. Topics include migration and displacement, global tourism, humanitarian interventions, commodity and pop cultures, and museum and heritage politics. Students will also explore how objects, from consumer goods to tech and cultural artifacts, from lively entities and inert matter to technological and epistemic instruments, mediate relationships between individuals, states, markets, and institutions. Across the module, attention is paid to how ideas, capital, and governance practices such as surveillance and militarization circulate both globally and locally.

Courses within this module provide a clear conceptual and methodological foundation for critically studying mobility, materialization, and power, preparing students to analyze contemporary social issues in an interconnected world.

Students must complete at least one seminar (3 CP), write one seminar paper (5 CP), and acquire an additional 16 CP through courses of their choice.

This module is coordinated by the subject areas of Social Anthropology, Gender Studies, and Cultural Anthropology.

„Sustainable Societies: Inequality, Power, Conflict“, 24 CP

This module focuses on inequality, resources, and conflict.

Courses focus on theoretical approaches from political science, international rela-

tions, and sustainability studies, combined with intensive engagement with empirical social science methods.

Key themes include political and social inequality, political representation, the functioning of political institutions, as well as intra- and interstate conflict and peacebuilding. Moreover, the courses offered discuss fair resource distribution, sustainable political and economic processes, and the consequences of climate change. The module combines an introduction to the fundamental theoretical approaches with current research on the topics mentioned above.

Students must complete at least one seminar (3 CP), one course (3 CP), write one seminar paper (5 CP), and acquire an additional 13 CP through courses of their choice.

Students are strongly encouraged to attend the introductory course offered jointly by the participating professors during the first semester.

Successful completion of this course as well as of the two courses from the foundational module “Theories and Methods of Changing Societies” is a prerequisite for writing the seminar paper in this module. In the second semester, students are strongly recommended to attend the methods seminar “Research Methods in Social and Political Science” (3 CP) and the accompanying tutorial (2 CP), especially if their master’s thesis is thematically located within this module.

This module is coordinated by the subject areas of Political Science and Sustainability Research.

„Global Modernity and Difference“, 24 CP

This module addresses the global dimensions of modernity with a particular focus on the interplay between integration and difference. It introduces central theories of modernity and modernization, as well as their critiques and contemporary developments. The module covers historical and contemporary processes of social differentiation and de-differentiation, different paths of modernization in Western and non-Western contexts, and the significance of culture, gender, class, and ethnicity for global inequalities.

Students engage with theoretical approaches and empirical case studies in order to understand global transformation processes. The aim is to highlight the global diversity of the different manifestations of modernity and to critically reflect on how modernity and difference are intertwined. The module also discusses global power relations and their influence on knowledge production and collective identities. It fosters students' ability to analytically assess complex social dynamics and to evaluate them from a normative perspective.

Students must complete at least one seminar (3 CP), one colloquium (2 CP), write one seminar paper (5 CP), and acquire an

additional 14 CP through courses of their choice.

This module is coordinated by the subject areas of Sociology and Near & Middle Eastern Studies.

3.4 Sample Study Program

The following two sample study programs are intended to provide guidance on how the master's degree program Changing Societies can be completed within the regular period of study (four semesters). Other variants are possible depending on the combination of modules chosen. It is also possible to deviate from the sample study programs and still successfully complete the degree program.

For questions regarding the course of study, please contact the study coordinator (see Section 1.4).

Alternative a: Modules „Bodies, Objects, Circulation” and „Global Modernity and Difference”, with master’s thesis in the module „Bodies, Objects, Circulation”

Module	Semester 1 (HS)	Semester break	Semester 2 (FS)	Semester break	Semester 3 (HS)	Semester 4 (FS)
Theories and Methods of Changing Societies (12 CP)	3 CP course 2 CP tutorial		3 CP course 2 CP tutorial		2 CP colloquium	
Bodies, Objects, Circulation (24 CP)	3 CP seminar 3 CP electives	5 CP seminar paper	6 CP electives		3 CP electives	4 CP electives
Global Modernity and Difference (24 CP)	6 CP electives		3 CP seminar 3 CP electives	5 CP seminar paper	3 CP electives 2-3 CP colloquium	1-2 CP electives
Free electives	20 CP free electives					
Master's thesis				30 CP master's thesis		
Master's examinations						10 CP master's examinations

Alternative b: Modules „Bodies, Objects, Circulation” and „Sustainable Societies: Inequality, Power, Conflict”, with master’s thesis in the module „Sustainable Societies: Inequality, Power, Conflict”

Module	Semester 1 (HS)	Semester break	Semester 2 (FS)	Semester break	Semester 3 (HS)	Semester 4 (FS)
Theories and Methods of Changing Societies (12 CP)	3 CP course 2 CP tutorial 3 CP course 2 CP tutorial				2 CP colloquium	
Bodies, Objects, Circulation (24 CP)	3 CP electives		3 CP seminar 3 CP electives	5 CP seminar paper	6 CP electives	4 CP electives
Sustainable Societies: Inequality, Power, Conflict (24 CP)	3 CP course 3 CP seminar	5 CP seminar paper The seminar paper can	6 CP electives (Strong recommendation:		4 CP electives	3 CP electives

		only be written after both methods courses in the foundational module and the introductory course for this module have been completed.	seminar and tutorial “Research Methods“)			
Free electives	20 CP free electives					
Master's thesis				30 CP master's thesis		
Master's examinations						10 CP master's examinations

Registration for the master's thesis in a degree program is possible for students who, at the time of registration, have a) acquired at least 20 CP, fulfilled any additional requirements, and provided proof of any language certificates that may be required, and b) completed at least one of the required seminar papers in the degree program.

In addition, the master's thesis must be linked to one of the two thematic modules selected. At the time of registration, the seminar paper in the corresponding module must already have been successfully completed.

4. Teaching and study formats

4.1 Course formats

Seminars (3 CP) are interactive courses. Students are expected to attend regularly and participate actively. For each session, students should plan for three to four hours of preparation time, for example for the required reading. Assessment criteria are defined in the respective seminar and communicated at the beginning of the semester.

The seminar serves as preparation for writing a seminar paper.

Research seminars (3-4 CP) are interactive courses with a practical research component. Students are expected to attend regularly and participate actively. For each session, students should plan for three to four hours of preparation time, for example for the required reading. Assessment criteria are defined in the respective seminar and communicated at the beginning of the semester.

The research seminar serves as preparation for writing a seminar paper.

To successfully complete the degree program, students must write two **seminar papers**, each worth 5 CP. Each seminar paper is developed in consultation with the lecturer of the respective seminar or research seminar. The paper usually comprises 20 to 25 pages and is graded.

Seminar papers must be submitted by the deadline agreed upon with the lecturer. Lecturers have six weeks to assess the paper. This should be taken into account with regard to the registration deadlines for the master's thesis and master's examinations (<https://philhist.unibas.ch/en/studies/>).

Lectures offer students the opportunity to gain a comprehensive overview of specific thematic areas. They consist of a series of thematically connected presentations delivered by one or more lecturers. Lectures may be complemented by colloquia (see below).

Colloquia provide a framework for academic discussion. Students have the opportunity to present their own research, particularly with regard to the master's thesis.

Courses ("Kurse") are designed for in-depth engagement with a clearly defined topic. In contrast to lectures, the focus is on students' active participation. Through reading, discussions, and practical exercises, students apply, consolidate, and critically reflect on the knowledge acquired during their studies.

Tutorials accompany lectures or courses and give students the opportunity to review course content, clarify questions of understanding, and deepen what they have learned in smaller groups. They are usually led by advanced students and foster exchange as well as targeted preparation for assessments.

Learning contracts regulate the requirements for acquiring CP outside regular courses on an individual basis. They define the allocation of credits for student work in the context of supervised self-study, individual excursions, participation in research projects, individual internships, tutorial activities, activities in student self-governance, and independent seminar papers, for instance.

4.2 Assessment

Assessment in courses and modules is conducted in accordance with §§ 11–16 of the Regulations for Master's Studies. The teaching committee of the Department of Social Sciences is responsible for overseeing assessments during the course of study.

Assessments in courses are generally the responsibility of the respective lecturers. The scope, format, and timing of the assessment are announced at the beginning of the course, as are the assessment criteria.

Seminar papers are graded and must meet academic standards. In their seminar papers, students are expected to demonstrate their ability to work with the methods and theories acquired in the

program. Seminar papers must be submitted by the deadline agreed upon with the lecturers, taking into account the registration deadlines for the master's thesis and master's examinations.

All written work must also be submitted in electronic form for plagiarism checks and must include the "Declaration concerning the rules for ensuring academic integrity" ("Erklärung betreffs Regeln zur Sicherung wissenschaftlicher Redlichkeit" (philhist.unibas.ch/de/studium/dokumente-merkblaetter)). Students must also take into account the university guidelines on "Citing AI tools" (<https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/Learning-and-Teaching/AI-in-learning-and-teaching.html>)

Assessment of student performance

Student performance is assessed by lecturers on a pass/fail basis or graded. The two seminar papers, the master's examinations, and the master's thesis are graded. The grading scale ranges from 1 to 6, with 4 being the minimum passing grade. Grades are awarded in whole or half grades.

The final master's grade is composed as follows:

- Master's thesis (50%)
- Master's examination 1 (25%)
- Master's examination 2 (25%)

5. Master's thesis and master's examination

5.1 Master's thesis

The interdisciplinary master's thesis (30 CP) is governed by §§ 17–20 of the Regulations for Master's Studies. In consultation with the supervisors of the master's thesis, it may be written in English or German, or, by agreement, in another language.

The master's thesis must be linked to one of the two thematic modules selected. Students may choose their supervisors from among the examiners authorized in the participating disciplines. The topic of the master's thesis is chosen in consultation with the supervisors.

At the time of registration, the seminar paper in the corresponding module must already have been successfully completed.

5.2 Master's examination

Two oral master's examinations are held, each lasting 60 minutes. One examination is held for each of the two thematic modules selected. For each examination, two topics are agreed upon with the examiners. Both topics are examined. The language of examination is English or German, as agreed with the examiners.

The following Latin grades are awarded for successful completion of the master's program:

- summa cum laude (5.8 – 6.0),
- insigni cum laude (5.3 – 5.7),
- magna cum laude (4.8 – 5.2),
- cum laude (4.3 – 4.7),
- rite (4.0 – 4.2)

6. Free Electives

Free electives (20 CP) are available to all students in addition to their degree program, regardless of their degree subject or program. Students are free to choose any courses to acquire these 20 CP.

The free elective component generally serves to acquire general skills, such as foreign languages or rhetorics; to support interdisciplinary learning through courses outside one's own discipline or interdisciplinary courses; and/or to further deepen one's studies by attending additional courses within the Changing Societies degree program or by earning a certificate.

Please see the guidelines for elective courses at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences ("Wegleitung für den freien Wahlbereich an der Phil.-Hist. Fakultät") for further information.

7. Further information and contacts

7.1 Mobility

For general information and regulations concerning student mobility, please visit:

<https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/In-My-Studies/Mobility.html>

7.2 Contacts

Website of the Department of Social Sciences

<https://dggw.philhist.unibas.ch/en/>

Website of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

FAQs, documents etc.

<https://philhist.unibas.ch/en/studies/>

Website of the University of Basel

Dates etc. General questions about your studies

<https://www.unibas.ch/en.html>

Course Directory

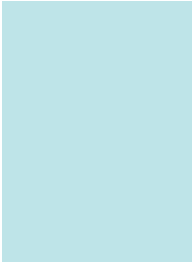
<https://www.unibas.ch/en/Studies/In-My-Studies/Course-Directory.html>

IT Services of the University of Basel (Questions regarding e-mail, web access etc.)

<https://its.unibas.ch/en/>

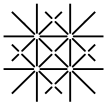
List of Abbreviations

BA	Bachelor
ECTS	European Credit Transfer System, sometimes used synonymously for CP
EUCOR	European Confederation of Upper Rhine Universities Strasbourg, Basel, Freiburg/Br., Karlsruhe, Mulhouse (https://www.eucor-uni.org/en/)
CP	Credit Point(s)
MA	Master's studies
UK	Teaching committee ("Unterrichtskommission")



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Qualifikationsprofil

Masterstudiengang Changing Societies

Anbietende Einheit	Departement Gesellschaftswissenschaften
Abschluss	MA in Changing Societies
Umfang, Dauer, Beginn	120 KP, 4 Semester (bei Vollzeit); Herbst- und Frühjahrssemester
Unterrichtssprache	Englisch

Studienziele

Die Studierenden erwerben vertiefte theoretische, methodische und empirische Kenntnisse zur Analyse sich wandelnder Gesellschaften. Sie setzen sich mit sozialen, kulturellen, politischen und ökologischen Transformationsprozessen auseinander und lernen, gesellschaftliche Herausforderungen aus interdisziplinärer Perspektive kritisch zu reflektieren. Auf dieser Grundlage sind sie fähig, eigene Forschungsfragen zu entwickeln und wissenschaftliche Forschungsprojekte eigenständig durchzuführen.

Merkmale Studienangebot

Ausrichtung	Wissenschaftliche Forschungsausbildung
Vertiefungen	–
Studienmodell	Der Masterstudiengang gliedert sich in die Module: Theories and Methods of Changing Societies (12 KP); Bodies, Objects Circulation; Sustainable Societies: Inequality, Power, Conflict; Global Modernity and Difference (insgesamt 48 KP, je 24 KP aus zwei der drei Module); Masterprüfung (10 KP); Masterarbeit (30 KP); freier Wahlbereich (20 KP)
Besonderheiten	Der Studiengang zeichnet sich durch die thematische, theoretische und methodische Kombination unterschiedlicher Fächer (Interdisziplinarität) der Gesellschaftswissenschaften aus. Gesellschaftlicher Wandel wird somit aus unterschiedlichen Perspektiven betrachtet und analysiert. Ein weiterer Schwerpunkt liegt auf der Verbindung gesellschaftswissenschaftlicher Theorien mit qualitativen und quantitativen Methoden der empirischen Sozialforschung. Das Vertiefen empirischer Methodenkompetenzen und forschungsorientiertes Arbeiten bilden zentrale Bestandteile des Studiengangs.

Berufsfelder

Tätigkeitsbereiche	Regierungs- und Verwaltungseinheiten; NGOs; internationale Organisationen, Stiftungen, Forschungseinrichtungen, Unternehmungen, Journalismus, Politik- und Unternehmensberatung
Weiterführende Studien	Doktorat

Lehre

Lehre / Lernen	Anwendungsorientiertes Lernen, exemplarisches Lernen, forschungsorientiertes Lernen, problemorientiertes Lernen, Selbststudium, theoretisches Lernen, Literaturrecherche, Projektarbeit
Prüfungen	Schriftliche und mündliche Prüfung, aktive Teilnahme an Lehrveranstaltungen, Seminararbeiten, Masterarbeit, Masterprüfung

Kompetenzen

Allgemein Haltung / Kommunikation Arbeitsweise / Management	Studierende erwerben die Fähigkeit, ... – eigenständig, differenziert, problemorientiert und kritisch zu denken und zu urteilen. – Strategien zur Bewältigung grosser Textmengen zu entwickeln, anzuwenden und kritisch mit wissenschaftlicher Forschungsliteratur zu arbeiten. – kritisch zu reflektieren sowie wissenschaftliche Methoden angemessen anzuwenden. – eigenständig Recherchen durchzuführen, konzeptuelle Alternativen und verschiedene theoretische Ansätze differenziert und begründet abzuwägen und komplexe Themen aufzuarbeiten. – sich in neue disziplinäre und methodische Zusammenhänge selbstständig und rasch einzuarbeiten und Fragestellungen explorativ zu bearbeiten und zu beantworten. – im Team zu arbeiten und mit Differenzen umzugehen. – selbständig oder in Projektgruppen die eigene Arbeit durch Planung und Prioritätensetzung zu diskutieren, zu strukturieren und gestalten. – eigene Forschungsdesigns zu erarbeiten, wie auch Fragen der Praxis und der Umsetzung zu kennen und beschreiben. – komplexe und systematische Zusammenhänge und Erkenntnisse darzulegen und sowohl vor einer wissenschaftlichen als auch für eine breitere Öffentlichkeit nachvollziehbar darzustellen und in Diskussionen zu vertreten. – inter- und transdisziplinär zu arbeiten.
Disziplinspezifisch Wissen / Verstehen Anwendung / Urteilen Interdisziplinarität	Studierende erwerben die Fähigkeit, ... – aktuelle politische, gesellschaftliche und kulturelle Fragen und Entwicklungen zu reflektieren. – aus Einzelerkenntnissen ein zusammenhängendes gesellschaftswissenschaftliches Verständnis von Gesellschaften zu entwickeln. – gesellschaftliche Phänomene und Veränderungsprozesse, Deutungsmuster und Konflikte in ihrer Geschichtlichkeit und Vielschichtigkeit zu untersuchen und einzuordnen. – kontroverse politische Themen aus unterschiedlichen wissenschaftlichen Disziplinen zu bearbeiten und zu beleuchten und diese Themen sachlich zu diskutieren. – empirische Untersuchungen selbstständig durchzuführen und dabei problemadäquate Methoden einzusetzen. – komplexe soziale Prozesse zu analysieren. – Methoden-, Theorie- und Sachkenntnisse der Gesellschaftswissenschaften individuell zu vertiefen. – offene Fragestellungen zu identifizieren und zu formulieren sowie anhand von Methoden und Theorien der Gesellschaftswissenschaften ein Forschungsdesign zu erarbeiten. – Daten selbst zu erheben oder an grösseren Datenerhebungsprojekten aktiv mitzuarbeiten. – ihre Forschung in den Rahmen gesellschaftspolitischer Aushandlungsprozesse zu stellen und mit ihrem Fachwissen den gesellschaftspolitischen Diskurs zu gestalten.

Learning Outcomes

Absolvent*innen des Masterstudiengangs Changing Societies ...

- können sich aufgrund ihres Fachwissens im gesellschaftspolitischen Diskurs analytisch orientieren und kontroverse politische Themen aus unterschiedlichen wissenschaftlichen Disziplinen sachgerecht bearbeiten.
- kennen Strategien zur Bewältigung grosser Textmengen und sind in der Lage, diese zur kritischen Bearbeitung wissenschaftlicher Forschungsliteratur einzusetzen.
- kennen wissenschaftliche Schreibtechniken sowie Methoden des wissenschaftlichen Arbeitens und können diese kritisch reflektieren sowie problemorientiert zur Diskussion von gesellschaftlichen und kulturellen Fragen anwenden.
- können eigenständig Recherchen durchführen, konzeptuelle Alternativen sowie verschiedene theoretische Ansätze differenziert und begründet abwägen und diese zur Aufarbeitung komplexer Themen nutzen.

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- sind in der Lage, sich in neue disziplinäre und methodische Zusammenhänge selbständig und rasch einzuarbeiten und sind auf dieser Grundlage fähig, eigene Forschungsfragen zu entwickeln und wissenschaftliche Forschungsprojekte eigenständig durchzuführen.
 - kennen verschiedene quantitative wie auch qualitative Analyseverfahren und Erhebungsinstrumente und können diese bei grösseren Datenerhebungsprojekten kompetent anwenden sowie die Ergebnisse mündlich wie schriftlich klar und nachvollziehbar darstellen.
 - haben die Fähigkeit, selbst gewählte empirische und/oder theoretische Fragestellung im Rahmen von eigenständig erarbeiteten Forschungsdesigns gezielt zu analysieren.
 - können komplexe und systematische Zusammenhänge und Erkenntnisse wissenschaftlich darlegen und sowohl vor einer wissenschaftlichen als auch für eine breitere Öffentlichkeit nachvollziehbar darstellen und in Diskussionen vertreten.
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