

BA/MA degree programmes in Cultural Studies:



Culture fascinates and polarises, it connects and divides. Culture is the source of collective meaning and understanding, the basis of our belief systems, institutions and material artefacts, the product of human creativity. However, cultural skills and beliefs can also separate 'us' from 'them'. Culture can be denied to other people or misused for identity politics purposes with the image of a clash of cultures. What is understood by culture and how it is discussed is therefore often unclear and controversial.

The transdisciplinary Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes in Cultural Studies are designed to enable you to analyse cultural phenomena scientifically from a historical and social science perspective.

The focus is on the diverse relationships between Africa, the Mediterranean region and Europe. You will acquire fundamental cultural theoretical knowledge and receive comprehensive training in cultural studies methods. Practical knowledge of religion, society, culture and legal norms in these regions is just as much a focus as a sound language education (Arabic and French), which is essential in a globalised world. You will also have access to a wide range of international summer school and internship opportunities.

You will gain insights into the cultural history of these transregional interconnections and acquire knowledge of religious studies, with a special focus on Islam. In addition, these degree programmes examine the phenomena of migration and flight and address the protection of cultural property in times of peace and war.

You will compare political cultures of order and action and gain an understanding of interactions and exchange processes.

This is particularly relevant not only from a social and security policy perspective, but also when reflecting on colonial and post-colonial power relations. Intercultural awareness and dialogue skills are particularly important here.

Like all students at the University of the Federal Armed Forces in Munich, you will attend courses as part of studium plus ('studium generale') in addition to the programme-specific modules. A wide range of courses in other disciplines offers you the opportunity to broaden the perspective of your own studies and, depending on your interests, acquire specific knowledge and skills in other subject areas.

Today, these skills and abilities are not only required for foreign assignments, but also affect the everyday professional life of almost all officers in view of Europe's security policy on cooperation and networking with other parts of the world.



Study Content at a glance:

Understanding of the conditions of *Refugee, Migration and Mobility* in a regional and global context, knowledge of *National and International Public Law* especially legal norms for the protection of cultural assets in times of peace and war, research into *General Cultural Studies* and *International Relations* to consider the culture and power of political orders, institutions and identities from a comparative perspective.

Reflection on analytical and normative cultural theories of social action, human subjectivity and symbolic order formation, teaching the *Modern Cultural History of North African* societies between foreign and self-determination.

Analysis of the symbolism, performativity and materiality of *Religion in Islamic cultures*, including diaspora groups.

Formal requirements:

- › Generally a seven-term Bachelor's programme
- › Start of programme in the autumn term, i.e. October
- › Includes a six- to eight-week internship or summer school, possibly abroad
- › Degree: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
- › Followed by a consecutive Master of Arts (M.A.) degree (five semesters)

At the end of your bachelor's degree...

- you will have gained a deep insight into cultures and societies and acquired the methodological tools for analyzing them;
- you will be able to recognize the multiple causes of problems and will have developed a sophisticated ability to judge;
- you will be able to adopt different cultural perspectives and
- conduct intercultural dialogues with the help of one of the lingua francas;
- you have a sound knowledge of the interrelationships between North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, and Europe in a globalized world;
- you have acquired an international profile by completing an excursion, an academic summer school, or a language course abroad;
- you have gained valuable work experience through internships and developed career prospects.



Your future career:

The cultural studies programme has two objectives:

On the one hand, it aims to equip you, as future officers, with the core competencies you will need in your often international professional life. Knowledge of culture and religion is of paramount importance, particularly given North Africa's geographical proximity to Europe and the associated intercultural interdependencies and challenges. An understanding of sub-Saharan Africa is also becoming increasingly important due to the transforming remit of the British Armed Forces and increasing globalisation.

On the other hand, the programme's emphatically transdisciplinary approach and the resulting diversity of subjects taught should also enable you to make an optimal start to your career outside the Armed Forces.

An understanding of and ability to act in culturally diverse contexts is not only important in the fields of diplomacy, development cooperation, international authorities and institutions, and tourism. The professional profile of these degree programmes is also of interest to the numerous companies and organisations that help shape the dynamic relations between Africa and Europe.

The highly practical nature of the programme, the language training and the opportunity to gain experience on the African continent provide you with ideal career preparation.

The Bachelor's programme optimally prepares you for the subsequent Master's programme.



Prospective students should have:

- › An interest in critically examining culture, politics, law, history and religion
- › Curiosity about intercultural encounters and motivation to learn Arabic and French
- › An interest in internships and study abroad programmes
- › Willingness to engage in intensive reading and to reflect on their own point of view, as well as the ability to discuss different perspectives on complex topics



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