

Political Science & Social Sciences (M.A.)

Program of Study:	Political Science & Social Sciences
Department:	Political Science & Social Sciences
Degree Awarded:	Master of Arts (B.A.)
Form of Study:	full-time study on campus
Language of Teaching:	German
Commencement of Study:	Winter trimester
Standard Period of Study:	1 year, 9 months
Academic Counseling:	Prof. Rupert M. Stettner E-mail: rupert.stettner@unibw.de
Homepage:	http://www.unibw.de/institute

I) Program Description

The five-trimester master's program in Political Science & Social Sciences builds upon the knowledge and skills developed in the bachelor's program and enables students to further explore their areas of concentration. Students in this program sharpen their ability to approach issues in political science, history, law, economics, sociology, and ethics in an interdisciplinary way and to examine them with a view to methodology and practical implementation. At the same time, students are presented with recent theory developments, debates, and cutting-edge research in these fields from an interdisciplinary perspective. Apart from knowledge and skills relating to their subject area, students in this program improve their ability to think analytically and to apply scientific methods in solving concrete problems in research.

In the area of concentration "Politics & Society", students examine the characteristics of various political and social systems, past and present, and their basis in intellectual history. Examples include social cleavage, globalization strategies, and various patterns of collective identity formation. In the area of concentration "International Law & Politics", students address such topics as the transformation of international law from "law between nations" to a legal system that entitles and obligates individuals to act in a certain way, recognizing globalization and regionalization as complementary processes, and how the results of political and social scientific research concerning conflict may be applied to historical cases as well as current events.

II) Prerequisites

Applicants to the master's program in Political Science & Social Sciences must hold a bachelor's degree in Political Science & Social Sciences from the Universität der Bundeswehr München or an equivalent degree. Those students in the bachelor's program who have earned 120 ECTS points by the end of the second academic year are permitted to proceed to the master's program. In addition students must maintain a grade point average of "3,0" or better in order to qualify. Students with a slightly lower GPA (as low as "3,5") are given the opportunity to demonstrate their aptitude in an interview.

III) Abilities & Tendencies

In order to succeed in this master's program, students must be able to identify and analyze political, legal, historical, social, and economic problems. The ability to express oneself in a clear and concise manner and willingness to analyze academic texts in German and English are essential in this program. In addition, candidates should be perceptive and motivated, and they must be able to think through problems in a logical way.

IV) Structure of the Program

From the first trimester on, the master's program is divided into the two areas of concentration "Politics & Society" and "International Law & Politics". In the latter, students focus on political, legal, and historical interpretations and controversies concerning the relationship between the State and its citizens, and they examine quantitative and qualitative views of conflict as well as current cases in international law. In the 10th and 11th trimesters, students attend electives based on their previous knowledge: students choose between additional modules in economics, political science, history, ethics, or sociology.

Courses in the area of concentration "Politics & Society" focus on further development of constitutional law in response to economic and social demands and examine how globalization affects international politics. In an interdisciplinary module, students are exposed to historical, political, and sociological approaches to analyzing social debates such as distribution conflicts, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Regardless of which area of concentration they choose, students in this master's program are given the opportunity to apply and deepen the knowledge they have acquired by participating in a 2-trimester-long role-playing simulation. In the framework of Politics & Society, this simulation module can be completed as an alternative to a module in history, which includes field trips. In the framework of International Law & Politics, students choose between the simulation module and a module in economics.

The master's program also includes one summer module, which is set aside for an internship, for earning a qualification in a foreign language, or for attending a summer session at the University.

Five months are allotted for completion of the master's thesis at the conclusion of the program.

V) Careers

Students participating in this master's program learn to address social and political problems in all of their complexity. The area of concentration "Politics & Society" gives students the opportunity to fine-tune their skills in analyzing and understanding historical, political, and social structures both in working democracies and in so-called "defective democracies". This enables graduates to assess concrete problems and the chances for development in such democracies. Regardless of which area of concentration they choose, graduates of this master's program learn how globalization affects their own society and other societies and to what extent and in which ways this may result in conflict. At the same time, the courses offered in applied ethics provide students with tools they need to independently evaluate the adequacy of potential solutions.

The skills and knowledge relating to international and European law, security policy, sources of conflict, and conflict resolution, which are acquired in the area of concentration "International Law & Politics", are not only relevant for a career in the armed forces. Graduates in both areas of concentration are well-prepared for careers in governmental departments and agencies, as well as in the growing number of European institutions, e.g. in a regulatory agency dealing with security issues. Other career opportunities can be found in international organizations, associations, political foundations, institutions for adult education, the media, corporations (in particular in the service sector), or in policy consultancies.

VI) Further Information

For more information on study at the Universität der Bundeswehr München and the application process, please visit www.unibw.de/studienberatung. As a student at the Universität der Bundeswehr München, you can also complete a portion of your studies abroad. You will find information on our exchange programs and partner universities at www.unibw.de/auslandsbuero.