

## Political Science & Social Sciences (B.A.)

Program of Study:	Political Science & Social Sciences
Department:	Political Science & Social Sciences
Degree Awarded:	Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Form of Study:	full-time undergraduate study on campus
Language of Teaching:	German
Commencement of Study:	Fall trimester
Standard Period of Study:	3 years
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### I) Program Description

The interdisciplinary bachelor's program "Political Science & Social Sciences" provides its students with a thorough basic understanding of the following subjects in the social sciences and humanities: political science, history, law, economics, sociology, and ethics. The program also emphasizes the methods used in the social sciences, especially empirical social research and statistics. Students are given the choice between "Politics & Society" or "International Law & Politics" as their area of concentration.

### II) Prerequisites

It is helpful to have taken higher level courses in history, civics, German, and English in high school, but this is not required. Higher level mathematics is advantageous for those students wishing to focus on economic issues. However, all students are required to attend a refresher course in mathematics during the introductory stage of their studies.

### III) Preparing for Study

In order to get a feel for the various topics relating to this program, we recommend the following works. *Das politische System Deutschlands. Institutionen, Willensbildung und Politikfelder* by Manfred G. Schmidt examines political institutions and processes, foreign policy, economics, and national finances in Germany. In *Über Deutschland. Die Bundesrepublik in der deutschen Geschichte*, Gerhard A. Ritter describes the political traditions that tie into the two German states following the Second World War and how different the underlying processes of change in the State, Economy, and Society turned out to be. The magazine *Informationen zur politischen Bildung* is published quarterly by the *Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung* and provides reliable information on politics, history, law, and economics. Since writing plays such an essential role in this subject, we also recommend the *Rechtschreibtrainer* (German orthography trainer) published by Duden.

### IV) Abilities & Tendencies

Applicants to this bachelor's program should be sensitive to political, legal, historical, social, and economic issues. 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 must be able to think through problems in a logical way.

## **V) Structure of the Program**

The bachelor's program in Political Science & Social Sciences is divided into two main stages: the introductory stage (1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> trimester) and the advanced stage (4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> trimester if the student chooses the "intensive study" option, otherwise 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> trimester). In the initial stage, students attend introductory seminars and lectures in all of the program's sub-disciplines. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> trimester students choose between "Politics & Society" or "International Law & Politics" as their area of concentration. In the former priority is given to political science and history, with additional courses in sociology and ethics. In the latter emphasis is placed on political science and international politics in connection with law, in general, and international law in particular. In addition, students with this area of concentration attend seminars in economics or in sociology and ethics. The area of concentration is generally chosen after the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester. Only those students who wish to focus on economics in the framework of "International Law & Politics" need to register for the appropriate module in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> trimesters.

Excellent students who plan to enter the master's program choose the "intensive study" option, which enables them to complete their bachelor's theses in the 7<sup>th</sup> trimester. The other students write their bachelor's theses in the 9<sup>th</sup> trimester. Either way, three months are allotted for the bachelor's thesis.

This bachelor's program also includes two summer modules: at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> year, students write an essay analyzing a particular text from the field; the 2<sup>nd</sup> summer module is set aside for internships, earning a qualification in a foreign language, or for attending a summer session at the University.

## **VI) Careers**

This program of study has a two-pronged goal. On the one hand, it seeks to teach officers and officer candidates the core competencies required to overcome intercultural challenges and attain success in an international working environment. Thanks to ever-increasing political cooperation and networking in Europe, this is not only necessary for officers stationed abroad, but for almost every officer in the German Armed Forces. On the other hand, this interdisciplinary program also seeks to prepare its students for civilian careers. For example, the theoretical basis presented in the first stage of the program should enable graduates of the program to identify problems with multiple causes. Critical thinking ability and a solid understanding of the subject and of the methods employed therein help our graduates to analyze and solve such problems.

The advanced stage of the program gives students the chance to apply their diversified problem-solving skills (via simulations, field trips, and internships) and improve their ability to work in an international environment (via language courses and study abroad). Thus, regardless of which area of concentration one chooses, the bachelor's program in Political Science & Social Sciences combines the acquisition of knowledge in the field and the ability to think analytically with the development of practice-oriented skills.

## **VII) Further Information**

For more information on study at the Universität der Bundeswehr München and the application process, please visit [www.unibw.de/studienberatung](http://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](http://www.unibw.de/auslandsbuero) .