

MODERN EAST ASIAN STUDIES

MASTER OF ARTS



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|---------|
| WELCOME | 4 |
| VISION | 5 |
| STUDENTS | 6 - 7 |
| WHY FRANKFURT? | 8 - 9 |
| PROGRAMME STRUCTURE | 10 - 17 |
| ADMISSION | 18 - 19 |
| FACULTY AND RESEARCH | 20 - 23 |
| STUDIES IN AN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT | 24 - 25 |
| IMPRINT/CONTACT | 26 - 27 |



CORNELIA STORZ

Academic Director of Modern East Asian Studies at the University of Frankfurt

The Master of Arts in Modern East Asian Studies (M.A. MEAS) is a new and innovative programme offered by Goethe University Frankfurt. In a truly interdisciplinary sense, it accommodates students with a Bachelor's degree in economics, law, political science or another social science, and students with a Bachelor's degree in cultural studies related to East Asia. In total, four of the university's faculties – the faculties of economics, law, social sciences and cultural studies – have joined forces to guarantee professional education at the highest level within the broad range of areas covered by this unique programme. Students will acquire expert knowledge on East Asia and learn to apply theories and methods from the social sciences to contemporary phenomena in the region. They will also receive intensive language training in selected East Asian languages at beginner and advanced levels.

The programme has been accredited by the Zentrale Evaluations- und Akkreditierungsagentur Hannover (ZeVa).

INTERDISCIPLINARY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE //

The main focus of the MEAS programme is on qualifying young scholars for an academic career. In addition to developing a thorough understanding of theories and methods, students will learn to perform within a multidisciplinary and multinational environment. The M.A. MEAS strives to instil disciplinary excellence in combination with the capacity to act and think in an interdisciplinary manner. Students are encouraged to go beyond the boundaries of their specific academic background, while faculty members endeavour to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to specific East Asia-related topics – for example, by offering joint seminars. Intensive language training is intended to enable students to become true experts on the societies and economies of East Asia, with the capacity to access literature in East Asian languages. Intensive mentoring is very important within such a challenging programme: professors and lecturers are readily available for students, and a programme coordinator advises on academic and administrative issues.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY //

The programme is taught in English and is designed to attract students from all continents. A competitive admission process ensures a uniform and high-calibre academic standard within an environment of diversity in terms of disciplines, nationalities, cultures and languages. The key admission criteria are outstanding Bachelor's degree grades and advanced academic writing skills.

RESEARCH IN DIALOGUE: THE INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTRE FOR EAST ASIAN STUDIES //

The MEAS programme's focus on current topics in the social sciences requires the alignment of its teaching with ongoing academic debates. The various lecture series organized by the Interdisciplinary Centre for East Asian Studies as well as the programme's frequent invitations to renowned external lecturers to participate in its seminars – a key element of our educational approach – enable students to network within academic circles and to actively engage with the newest research.



WHY FRANKFURT?

The programme's location at Goethe University in the centre of the city of Frankfurt provides an inspiring environment for learning and research. The university has a strong tradition in social sciences and has been the breeding ground for several new political and philosophical schools of thought which have subsequently spread throughout the world. The city of Frankfurt, with its distinctive high-rise architecture, is among Germany's and Europe's finance and trade centres and offers countless internship opportunities. It is home to the European Central Bank and representatives of the major global players in the fields of finance and consulting. For students from abroad and students with an international focus, Frankfurt's international and multilingual flair – and the nearby airport, the third largest in Europe – make it the ideal place to live.

Frankfurt University hosts one of Germany's largest teaching and research centres on East Asia, the Interdisciplinary Centre for East Asian Studies (Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Ostasienstudien/ IZO), which brings together the academic expertise of ten professors specialized in East Asia and has established a large number of partnerships with foreign universities.

The majority of courses are held at the university's new, centrally located Westend Campus. The lecture rooms and library are outfitted with modern equipment, including PC pools for students. Ample green space and a variety of cafés offer a pleasurable and relaxing atmosphere for study breaks.



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PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

TAILOR-MADE AND FLEXIBLE //

BASIC PROGRAMME 1: CORE: APPLYING CONCEPTS, THEORIES AND METHODS

The core lectures form the backbone of the Master's programme. The lectures begin in the winter semester and stretch over three consecutive semesters. They cover the three core disciplines of the MEAS programme: economics, law and political science. During the core lectures, students learn to apply concepts, theories and methods from these fields to East Asia.

The economics core lecture applies the concepts of institutional and innovation economics to selected East Asian economies. The legal core lecture critically scrutinizes comparative legal methods and their application to East Asia. The political science core lecture familiarizes students with the central theories and methods used to research state-society relations.

BASIC PROGRAMME 2: LANGUAGE SKILLS AND INTRO- DUCTION TO SOCIAL SCIENCES

The MEAS programme offers two different course schedules designed to meet the needs of its two student groups. Bachelor-level graduates with a background in cultural studies and advanced proficiency in an East Asian language are offered the specially designed courses Introduction to Economics, Introduction to Law and Legal Thinking, and Introduction to Politics. Students can choose two of the three courses, which aim to familiarize them with the fundamentals of the social sciences. Additionally, students undertake intensive language training at an advanced level.

Students with a background in economics, law, political science or another social science concentrate on acquiring East Asian language skills during their first year. Courses offered on a regular basis are Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Indonesian.

YOUNG SCHOLARS' FORUM: INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH AT THE FRONTIER

The Young Scholars' Forum is a unique colloquium-style seminar. Students meet with lecturers from different faculties to discuss their in-depth readings on current topics relating to East Asia, and to prepare their Master's thesis. The forum also provides students with the opportunity to exchange ideas and arguments with invited scholars from other research institutions in Europe and beyond.

ELECTIVES

Throughout the Master's programme, students can choose between various elective courses on modern East Asia. The range of topics allows students to specialize in specific areas of interest. Further elective courses are offered by guest lecturers from East Asia. Students can substitute participation in a suitable summer school for one elective.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

PREVIOUS MEAS COURSE OFFERING //

- Corporate Governance in East Asia
- International Intellectual Property - Selected Asian economies within a Framework of Conventions and Bilateral Treaties
- Emergence and present practice of Japanese Copyright Law
- Japan and the Challenge of Demographic Change
- Regional policy in Japan – a shift in paradigm?
- Ideological Change in the PR China
- "The China Model"- Western and Chinese Interpretations
- Democracy in China, Taiwan and East Asia
- Chinese Business Law
- Natural Disasters and Disaster Relief in China
- Media and Policy in Modern Southeast Asia
- Korean Society and Culture through Feminist Theory
- The Fight against Poverty in Southeast Asia

Further electives are offered by guest lecturers from Asia who are invited to teach and to do research under a variety of academic exchange agreements between the University of Frankfurt and institutions abroad.



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PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES //

The Skills and Competencies module aims to prepare students for the Master's thesis. It provides them with the opportunity to deepen their skills in a particular area of interest by attending advanced courses on quantitative or qualitative methods used in the social sciences. It also includes academic writing courses. For students whose thesis research requires the intensive use of an East Asian language, specific courses on domain-specific writing and terminology are also offered.

MASTER'S THESIS //

The fourth and last semester of the M.A. programme is reserved for the Master's thesis. This part of the curriculum requires students to explore a topic in the social sciences in great depth, such that the thesis contributes original and useful findings in the chosen area.

PLACEMENT //

The MEAS curriculum prepares students to successfully enter the job market at the intersection of the private and public sectors and the international arena. Due to its focus on methods and language skills, the M.A. degree prepares students not only for an academic career, but also for a professional career in international enterprises and organizations.

Typical job opportunities include high-level positions in:

- Academia (Ph.D. in economics, political science or law)
- Research management positions
- international firms and business organizations with connections to Asia
- ministries and international organizations

言語の四技能

読む・聞く

話す・書く



PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

OVERVIEW //

FIRST YEAR

WINTER

Language - beginners

Language - advanced
Introduction to Social Sciences

Elective
Elective
Core: Economy and Society in Asia: Theories, Concepts, Framework

SUMMER

Language - beginners

Language - advanced
Introduction to Social Sciences

Elective /Skills & Competencies
Young Scholars Forum: Paper Reading Course
Core: Economy and Society in Asia: Theories, Concepts, Framework

SECOND YEAR

WINTER

Skills & Competencies
Elective
Elective
Young Scholars Forum: Paper Reading Course
Core: Economy and Society in Asia: Theories, Concepts, Framework

SUMMER

Elective
Master Thesis



SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH A BA IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH A BA IN CULTURAL STUDIES

JOINT PROGRAM FOR ALL MASTER STUDENTS

SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR MASTER STUDENTS WITH A BA IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH A BA IN CULTURAL STUDIES

JOINT PROGRAM FOR ALL MASTER STUDENTS

JOINT PROGRAM FOR ALL MASTER STUDENTS

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS //

The two-year MEAS programme is designed as a consecutive programme and welcomes applications from students with a first degree in economics, law, political science or another social science, and from students with a first degree in cultural studies related to the East Asian region (e.g., Chinese studies, Japanese studies). The ideal candidate with a background in social sciences will wish to apply his/her theoretical and methodological knowledge to East Asian countries, while the ideal applicant with a first degree in cultural studies will have a deep interest in the social sciences, and their theories and methods.

The assessment of each applicant will consider not only the quality of his/her first degree, but also her/his ability to draft an academically sound research proposal on a social science topic – of his/her choice – related to East Asia. This proposal should be submitted with the other application documents.

Please see the Examination Rules:

http://www.izo.uni-frankfurt.de/Lehre/Modern_East_Asian_Studies__MEAS_/Admission_requirements/index.html

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED //

- CV
- Copy of Bachelor's degree (or equivalent qualification)
- TOEFL test result of at least 560 (paper), 220 (computer-based) or 84 (Internet-based), or equivalent results from other officially acknowledged English tests, such as IELTS or the Cambridge English: Proficiency examination
- At least one letter of recommendation from a university professor (or equivalent) stating why the applicant is a good candidate for the Master of Arts in Modern East Asian Studies
- A research proposal on an East Asia-related intra- or interdisciplinary topic in the field of economics, law, political science or any other social science of the applicant's choice (three to five pages)

FEES //

The programme does not charge tuition fees. For details regarding the cost of living, student fees, scholarship opportunities, etc., please see:

<http://intl-applications.uni-frankfurt.de/counseling/funding/index.html>



The core faculty is made up of internationally renowned scholars who combine studies of the East Asia region with their own disciplinary expertise. Faculty members are keen to share the results of their research with students through interactive seminars and lectures. Guest lecturers add to the broad range of topics taught during the programme.

PROF. DR. CORNELIA STORZ (ACADEMIC DIRECTOR) //



Cornelia Storz is Professor of Economics with a Focus on Japan and East Asian Area Studies and Academic Director of Modern East Asian Studies at the University of Frankfurt's Faculty of Economics and Business Administration. She is also an associate researcher at the EHESS. Her research focuses on political economy, comparative institutional analysis, institutional change, innovation systems and industry emergence, with specific attention to Japan and other East Asian regimes.

PROF. DR. MORITZ BÄLZ, LL.M (HARVARD) //



Moritz Bälz holds the Chair of Japanese Law and Its Cultural Foundations at Goethe University's Faculty of Law. His research is dedicated mainly to Japanese business law, in particular corporate law, from a comparative perspective. Furthermore, he is interested in judicial reform, including changes in dispute resolution and legal education in East Asian countries.

MS. HANNAH KREIS //

Hannah Kreis teaches economic theory at the Interdisciplinary Centre for East Asian Studies at Goethe University Frankfurt. Her research focuses on economic thought, political economy, development economics and politics. A special interest is the reception of economic theory in nineteenth-century Japan.



MR. JOHANNES LEJEUNE //

Johannes Lejeune is a research assistant to the Chair of Political Science with a Focus on Chinese and East Asian Area Studies at the University of Frankfurt. His current research focuses on democratization in East Asia and the ideological aspects of China's foreign policy.



PROF. DR. HEIKE HOLBIG //

Heike Holbig is Professor of Political Science with a Focus on Chinese and East Asian Area Studies at Goethe University's Faculty of Social Sciences. Within the broad field of Chinese politics, her research focuses on state-society relations, the legitimation of authoritarian rule, and the changing role of ideology, as well as on other current issues at the intersection between China's political and economic transformation.



DR. PETER GANEA (COORDINATOR) //



Peter Ganea is Coordinator of the Master of Arts in Modern East Asian Studies Programme. Before joining Goethe University, he was head of the East Asia Department at the Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property and Competition Law, Munich. His current research focuses on the legal, economic and political aspects of knowledge transfer as well as on intellectual property, both in general and with a special focus on Asia.

DR. THOMAS FELDHOFF //



Thomas Feldhoff is Academic Coordinator at the Interdisciplinary Centre for East Asian Studies at Goethe University Frankfurt. He received the 2006 JaDe Award from the Association for the Promotion of Japanese-German Cultural Relations and the 2008 Book Prize from the European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS). His work examines regional development, planning and policy-making.

FACULTY AND RESEARCH

WAKAKO KATSUBE //

Wakako Katsube is a certified Japanese language teacher and a lecturer in modern Japanese. Since receiving her Master's degrees in 2004, she has been teaching the language and cultural history of Japan in both formal and non-formal education settings. Currently she is conducting research at the University of Zurich on the narrative semiotics of Japanese art history for her Ph.D. From 1994 to 1997 she served as a programme specialist on literacy promotion at UNESCO's Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre.



PROF. DR. IWO AMELUNG //

Iwo Amelung is Professor of Chinese History and Culture. He has published widely on the history of science and technology during the late Qing era and the Republican period, with particular emphasis on processes for the transfer of knowledge. He is also interested in the formation of collective identities and the political, cultural and social processes related to this.



The academic staff is complemented by members of the Faculty of Cultural Studies – Jun. Prof. Dr. Joanna Elfving-Hwang, Prof. Dr. Arndt Graf, Dr. Ma Qian, Dr. des. Jin Meiling and Dr. Lydia Kieven – as well as by a permanent visiting professorship funded by the Chinese Ministry of Education and the European Center for Chinese Studies at Peking University (ECCS).

ACADEMIC COOPERATION AND EXCHANGES //

- Kyoto University
- Doshisha University
- Fudan University, Shanghai
- Renmin University, Beijing
- South West University of Political Science and Law, Chongqing/PR China
- Seoul National University
- Korea University
- Ehwa Women's University
- Chung-Ang University
- Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Malaysia
- Universitas Muhammadiyah Prof. Dr. Hamka, Jakarta, Indonesia
- East-West Center, Honolulu
- Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Hamburg



IMPRINT

DESIGN:

Academy of Visual Arts,
Nora Fischer

PHOTOS:

Nora Fischer, Pixelio, Elssy Kiradjieva

PUBLICATION YEAR:

2012

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION TO THE PROGRAMME COORDINATOR, WHO WILL ALSO RESPOND TO ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE:

Modern East Asian Studies (MEAS)
Master's Programme

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For further details see the MEAS
programme's website

<http://meas.uni-frankfurt.de>

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 INTERDISZIPLINÄRES
ZENTRUM FÜR
OSTASIENSTUDIEN

GOETHE 
UNIVERSITÄT
FRANKFURT AM MAIN