State Examination, Master’s degree and traineeship

For a traineeship (‘Referendariat’) and to subsequently work as a teacher at a Bavarian state-run school, you are required to pass the First State Examination for Teachers; however, the coursework completed for your Bachelor of Education degree is insufficient for admission to the State Examination.

If you proceed to study for the Master of Education after graduating with a B.Ed., you will sit the State Examination during the 2nd semester of your Master’s study.

This is followed by advanced pedagogy studies in the 3rd semester. Finally, you will write your thesis during the 4th semester of your Master’s programme.

On the other hand, if you decide against studying the Master’s degree, having completed the B.Ed. programme, you can switch to the traditional Lehramt Realschule programme and sit the First State Examination for teachers.

How do apply for a place on the programme?

Please visit www.uni-passau.de/en/apply for details on the application process and the required documents.

Good German language skills are required to be offered a place on this degree programme, as that is the language of instruction.

If you need to learn German first, we have just what you need: www.uni-passau.de/en/learn-german

Further information and contact details

Programme page on the web
www.uni-passau.de/en/bed-seced

Academic Advice Service
Primary contact for prospective international students seeking advice on study options and entry requirements
Innstr. 41, 94032 Passau, Germany
Phone: +49 851 509 ext. 1154, 1153, 1152, 1151 or 1150
E-mail: advice@uni-passau.de
www.uni-passau.de/en/academic-advice

International Office
Assists international students with the immigration formalities and with getting settled in Passau
www.uni-passau.de/en/international

Student Registration Office
Contact for enquiries related to your application
www.uni-passau.de/en/student-registration-office

Language Centre
Offers a wide range of language courses
www.sprachenzentrum.uni-passau.de/en

Centre for Careers and Competencies
Helps students seeking internships or career entry positions and offers transferable skills courses
www.uni-passau.de/en/zkk

iStudi Coach for job market induction
Provides job market orientation and advice on internship and job search to international students
www.uni-passau.de/en/iStudi

German Courses Passau
German language courses for international students
www.uni-passau.de/en/learn-german
Secondary teaching degree (pilot scheme)

Most degree programmes in Germany are in the process of being adapted to the international Bachelor’s and Master’s degree system; among the few exceptions to this rule are the civil-service-track teacher training programmes (‘Lehramt’), which still conclude with a State Examination in Bavaria. In connection with this it should be pointed out that you must have German or EU nationality to qualify for a civil service career in Germany.

The University of Passau has launched a new type of secondary teaching degree to train teachers for the German Realschule, (a selective 6-year secondary school which qualifies pupils for higher-level vocational work or vocational higher education). The Bachelor of Education, currently in its pilot phase, takes the conventional Lehramt Realschule curriculum and gives it the new, internationally recognised first and second-cycle degree structure.

If you are interested in studying the Lehramt Realschule programme, the Bachelor of Education may be an interesting alternative for you.

Features

• The pilot scheme imparts the necessary competences for teaching at secondary schools. Continuing with the related M.Ed. Teaching and Learning Processes gives you the formal prerequisites to teach at state-run Realschule-type schools.

• The Master of Education is an internationally recognised teaching degree.

Programme syllabus

Your academic path commences with the 6-semester Bachelor of Education degree programme. During this time you will accumulate 180 ECTS credits on the basis of your thesis and the four module groups:

A) Education Science (Pedagogy)
Expertise and methodologies in the subject areas of general pedagogy, school pedagogy and psychology.

B) Teaching subjects
Two teaching subjects of your choice: one is studied in greater depth with 90 ECTS credits, while the other amounts to 50 ECTS credits.

Subject combinations: www.uni-passau.de/en/study/study-options/degrees/law-teacher-training/teaching-subjects/

C) Subject-specific teaching theory modules
Teaching method for your chosen teaching subjects.

D) Practice teaching
At this stage you will complete a number of internships where you will do actual teaching at a school to give you practical experience at an early stage. You will write your dissertation on a topic taken from module groups A or C.

Upon completion of the B.Ed. degree programme, you can proceed with the Master’s degree programme (subject to meeting the admission requirements).

• A greater proportion of pedagogy and didactics modules compared to traditional Lehramt teaching degree programmes.

• You will study one of your two chosen teaching subjects up to 90 ECTS credits – the same as students of Gymnasium schools (secondary schools that prepare pupils for access to higher education). Technically, this results in a higher-level qualification than the traditional ‘Lehramt Realschule’ teacher education degree and makes it easier for you to switch to a different secondary school track or change your main teaching subject if you wish to do so during your degree programme.

• The job market for teachers in Bavaria is becoming tighter, and you may not be able to secure employment at a school (straight away). The Master of Education is a high-powered academic degree that also qualifies you for work outside of schools, e.g. for traineeships at education institutions, non-school education of youngsters, professional development and training, pedagogical work at publishing houses, and so on.

• With a Master of Education you have the right to commence doctoral study in the area of Education Sciences or subject-specific teaching methods, thus laying the foundation for an academic career.

• Although currently in the pilot phase, there is no risk involved in studying this degree programme: if you do not wish to study for the Master of Education after completing the Bachelor’s degree, you can switch to the traditional Lehramt Realschule teaching degree programme and sit the First State Examination for teachers.