

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

# Master of Arts in Russian and East Central European Studies

## Information about the degree programme

Further details on this degree programme:

[www.uni-passau.de/en/ma-reces/](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/ma-reces/)

<b>Programme description</b>	The M.A. Russian and East Central European Studies is a research-oriented, interdisciplinary degree programme. Its aim is to equip students with profound knowledge of the countries and cultures of Eastern Europe by placing the focus on historical, literary and cultural studies. You will also acquire methodological, theoretical and applied skills as you progress through the programme. Moreover, you will have the opportunity to learn or perfect your Czech, Polish and/or Russian language skills by making use of the relevant Language Centre offerings. As the programme is focused on Eastern Europe, you will gain essential knowledge of one of the world's primary growth regions.
<b>Degree awarded</b>	Master of Arts (M.A.)
<b>Programme start</b>	October each year (winter semester)
<b>Programme duration</b>	Standard duration: four semesters' full-time study, not counting semesters out. Maximum duration: six semesters. The programme carries a total workload of 120 ECTS credits.
<b>Language of instruction</b>	German and other languages; upon request, the entire programme can be studied in English, in which case you do not need to provide proof of German language skills (see below) at the time of application. If you wish to study this programme in English, please contact the Programme Convenor, Professor Dirk Uffelmann ( <a href="mailto:Dirk.Uffelmann@uni-passau.de">Dirk.Uffelmann@uni-passau.de</a> ).
<b>Career prospects</b>	<p>By the time you graduate from this Master's programme you will be able to independently analyse and solve complex problems using scientific methods.</p> <p>You will be able not only to undertake rigorous academic research but also to work in intellectually challenging positions in a business, political or public-administration environment. This Master's degree provides access to doctoral study, paving the way for a career in academia.</p> <p>Moreover, this degree programme has a unique student and business network platform, <i>Perspektive Osteuropa</i>, which gives students and graduates from degree programmes with an East, East-Central or South-East European focus the chance to establish and grow a network of contacts with business enterprises operating in these regions.</p>
<b>How to apply and entry requirements</b>	<p>Please visit <a href="http://www.uni-passau.de/en/apply/">www.uni-passau.de/en/apply/</a> for details on how to apply and what documents you should enclose. The closing date is <b>15 July</b>: applications reaching us after this date will not be considered for that year's intake. To qualify for the programme, you should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a first university degree (e.g. a Bachelor's degree) in a social science, cultural studies or a related discipline, earned upon completion of a programme with a minimum standard length of three years' full-time study. The mark/grade/result of your first degree should be equivalent to 2.5 or better according to the German grading system; your degree result will be automatically converted into the German system upon receipt of your application. If the result is below the above threshold, you may still qualify for the programme if you can prove that your degree was ranked among the best 50 percent of your cohort by way of an official letter from your university stating your percentile.</li> </ul> <p>If you are not yet in possession of your degree certificate and transcript at the time of application, you should submit an official letter from your university showing all completed modules and assessments and the corresponding results, weighted according to the (ECTS) credit points allotted for each assessment, and the preliminary average mark for the programme; any offer made will be conditional upon your providing a certified copy of your degree certificate and transcript by the tenth week of your first semester on the programme. All assessments related to your first degree must be completed before the start of lectures at Passau.<sup>1</sup></p>

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<sup>1</sup> The Board of Examiners has final decision on admission of candidates who are unable to provide a degree certificate.

**How to apply and entry requirements (cont'd)**

- sufficient language skills in English or German and in a Slavic language; unless you can demonstrate that you have completed your secondary or undergraduate education in English, German or the relevant Slavic language or provide other proof that it is your native language, you should provide recognised language certificates: for English or the Slavic language this should be equivalent to level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR); for German a recognised language certificate such as DSH-2 or TestDaF 4×4.<sup>2</sup>

If you require additional information on how to apply for the programme, you may contact the Student Registration Office, **Ms Monika Schuster**, by telephone (+49 851 509 1133) or e-mail ([registry@uni-passau.de](mailto:registry@uni-passau.de)).

**Credit points (ECTS)**

The minimum workload required to successfully complete this degree amounts to 120 ECTS credits; of these, 20 are allotted for the research project and a further 30 for the writing and presentation of the Master's thesis. You must accumulate a total of 70 ECTS credits from the taught modules to successfully complete the Master's degree; as this is a four-semester programme, you should aim to obtain approximately 30 ECTS credits per semester.

**Modules and examinations**

The degree programme is comprised of three module groups: the Theories and Methods Foundation Modules and the Language Module; the Focus Modules; and the Research Module; moreover, you will write a thesis at the end of the programme. See the appendix more details.

**Master's thesis**

Your thesis should demonstrate your ability to carry out independent academic research of a high quality by applying scientific methods to a clearly defined subject matter. The thesis may be written as a group project on condition that each contribution has a defined scope and is easily attributable to the respective candidates.

The topic of the thesis is derived from one of the focus modules. Before you can start writing the thesis you must accumulate a minimum of 60 ECTS credits in the taught modules.

You are given six months to write the thesis, which should not exceed 80 pages in length. The thesis should be written in German, English or (if agreed with the examiners beforehand) a Slavic language. You will receive 30 ECTS credits for achieving a pass mark on your thesis and the presentation.

**Attaining a pass mark**

In order to be awarded the degree, you have to achieve a pass mark (4.0 or better) in all examination modules as well as your thesis and accumulate at least 120 ECTS credits.

**Examinations Office**

The Examinations Office (*'Prüfungssekretariat'* in German) helps you with questions on credit transfers and all examination-related matters. The Examinations Office also issues – upon request – your degree certificate, your final examination certificate, the diploma supplement and your transcript of records.

Find the Examinations Officer for your degree programme at:  
[www.uni-passau.de/studium/waehrend-des-studiums/pruefungssekretariat/kontakt/](http://www.uni-passau.de/studium/waehrend-des-studiums/pruefungssekretariat/kontakt/)

**Credit transfers**

Coursework, examinations and other academic achievements completed elsewhere as part of a related programme of study may be counted towards your Master's degree. Credit transfer requests should be addressed to the Examinations Officer for your programme (see above).

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<sup>2</sup> Details: [www.uni-passau.de/en/international/coming-to-passau/information-for-new-students/applications/german-language-requirements/](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/international/coming-to-passau/information-for-new-students/applications/german-language-requirements/)

<b>Credit transfers (cont'd)</b>	Please note that we cannot formally recognise any previous coursework/achievements until you are fully registered as an ordinary student of the University of Passau. Please discuss any questions relating to the curriculum with the relevant programme advisor.
<b>Degree regulations</b>	The study and examination regulations, currently only available in German, can be found at <a href="http://www.uni-passau.de/studien_und_pruefungsordnungen/">www.uni-passau.de/studien_und_pruefungsordnungen/</a> .
<b>Module catalogue</b>	Please be aware that you have to sign up individually for the seminars and tutorials which you need to attend as part of your degree programme; this is not done automatically for you. The appendix shows a list of available modules.
<b>Virtual Learning Environments</b>	<p>Students should use Stud.IP, one of the University's virtual learning environment (VLE) systems, to register for the required modules. Moreover, Stud.IP gives you access to module-related content, timetable functions, updates on the module sessions and allows you to engage with lecturers and fellow students via the notice boards. Finally, Stud.IP is used for CampusCard (i.e. the student ID card) management functions. The username and password used for Stud.IP are identical to your campus computer network credentials. <a href="http://www.zim.uni-passau.de/en/systems-login/studip/">www.zim.uni-passau.de/en/systems-login/studip/</a></p> <p>HISQIS, another VLE system, is the platform students use to register for module and language examinations and to obtain student enrolment certificates and similar documents. The username and password used for HISQIS are identical to your campus computer network credentials. The Examinations Office has more details on HISQIS and how to use it: <a href="http://www.uni-passau.de/index.php?id=162">www.uni-passau.de/index.php?id=162</a></p>
<b>Language placement tests</b>	<p>The Foundation Modules give you the chance to study a Slavic language as part of the degree programme. If you already have language skills in your chosen language, you are required to take a placement test, the results of which determine at which level you will join the respective language course.</p> <p>If you have existing language skills for a language for which no placement tests are carried out, you should talk to the relevant lecturer, who will determine which course you should join. You should do this well before courses start.</p> <p>The placement test dates are shown on the website of the Language Centre: <a href="http://www.sprachenzentrum.uni-passau.de/en/placement-tests/">www.sprachenzentrum.uni-passau.de/en/placement-tests/</a>. Please be aware that many placement tests take place before the Orientation Week.</p>
<b>International Students' Orientation Weeks</b>	<p>During the last two weeks of the semester break, the International Office holds the International Students' Orientation Weeks. These are open to all international students starting out at the university and, like the 'Orientation Week' for all students (see below), are designed to help you settle in quickly. Being specially designed for international students, they include guided tours of the town, campus and university facilities in English as well as short-term German language and area studies courses – and usually one or two multi-day outings to interesting places in Germany. As the International Students' Orientation Weeks precedes the regular Orientation Week, new students coming to Passau will be able to take part in both. <a href="http://www.uni-passau.de/en/intl-orientation-weeks/">www.uni-passau.de/en/intl-orientation-weeks/</a></p>
<b>Orientation Week ('O-Woche')</b>	<p>At the beginning of each semester, the 'Fachschaften' (student committees) hold an Orientation Week (often abbreviated 'O-Woche') for all new students. In the case of this degree programme, the student committee that organises the Orientation Week for you is <i>Fachschaft Philo</i> (aka 'FS Philo'). During the O-Woche you will be given guided tours of the campus and of various key units of the University, including the University Library. You can also attend courses explaining how to use Stud.IP and there will be fellow students around to help you when it comes to preparing your timetable; naturally there will also be plenty of fun social activities on- and off-campus during this week.</p>

<b>Orientation Week (cont'd)</b>	For more information on the O-Woche, visit: <a href="http://www.phil.uni-passau.de/fakultaetsorganisation/fachschaft/o-woche/">www.phil.uni-passau.de/fakultaetsorganisation/fachschaft/o-woche/</a> (this website is only available in German).
<b>Academic Advice Service</b>	The Academic Advice Service provides information on the master's programme and can help you if you have questions about changing your programme of study or are thinking of de-registering from the programme altogether.  Academic Advice Service, Innstr. 41, 94032 Passau Phone: +49 851 509 ext. 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153 or 1154 (calls are accepted Mon to Fri 8:30 a.m. – 12 noon and Mon to Thurs 1 – 3 p.m.) Please make an appointment for a consultation session. Drop-in hours: Wed 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon E-mail: <a href="mailto:advice@uni-passau.de">advice@uni-passau.de</a> <a href="http://www.uni-passau.de/en/academic-advice/">www.uni-passau.de/en/academic-advice/</a>
<b>Programme Convenor</b>	For specific questions about the degree programme you should contact the Programme Convenor, Professor Dirk Uffelmann.  Chair of Slavic Literatures and Cultures Room 468, Philosophicum building, Innstrasse 25, 94032 Passau Phone: +49 851 509 2950 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Dirk.Uffelmann@uni-passau.de">Dirk.Uffelmann@uni-passau.de</a> Web: <a href="http://www.phil.uni-passau.de/en/slavic-literatures-and-cultures/teaching/master-of-russian-and-east-central-european-studies/">www.phil.uni-passau.de/en/slavic-literatures-and-cultures/teaching/master-of-russian-and-east-central-european-studies/</a>
<b>Study abroad</b>	If you need help planning your study or internship abroad, the International Office can help you with plenty of informational material and personal advice:  The International Office Innstr. 41, 94032 Passau, Germany Telephone: +49 0851 509 ext. 1160, 1162, 1163, 1165 or 1167 Web: <a href="http://www.uni-passau.de/en/international/">www.uni-passau.de/en/international/</a>
<b>kuwi netzwerk international e.V.</b>	With a membership figure of more than 3,500 – comprised entirely of students and alumni of the degree programmes offered by the Department of Cultural Studies – <i>kuwi netzwerk international</i> provides assistance finding internships (and having them recognised for the programme) as well as other forms of employment; kuwi netzwerk also provides advice to students on writing up timetables and all other study-related questions. Furthermore, kuwi netzwerk is a co-organiser of the Orientation Week and holds various events throughout the year for students and alumni, such as the kuwi.karrieretag (careers day) and the kuwi.symposium. Kuwi netzwerk members have access to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• weekly e-mail newsletters with a list of vacancies and upcoming events</li> <li>• the virtual kuwi.community</li> <li>• the kuwi.mentoring programme</li> </ul> kuwi netzwerk international e. V. Room NK213, Nikolakloster building, Innstrasse 40 Phone: +49 851 509 2894 Web: <a href="http://www.kuwi.de">www.kuwi.de</a> (please note that the website is only available in German)
<b>Careers Service</b>	The Careers Service is the University's bridge between students and employers. For you as a student, it is a valuable informational resource when it comes to organising an internship or other work placement in Germany or abroad, a temporary job or even your first rung on the career ladder after you graduate. Visit <a href="http://www.uni-passau.de/en/careerservice/">www.uni-passau.de/en/careerservice/</a> for more details.  The Careers Service also has a dedicated adviser for international students who wish to stay in Germany and start a career here after graduating: the iStudi Coach will help you to make the most of your studies and gain a foothold in the German labour market: <a href="http://www.uni-passau.de/en/iStudi">www.uni-passau.de/en/iStudi</a> .

**Centre for Key Competencies (ZfS)**

Every semester, the Centre for Key Competencies offers seminars on social skills, self-competence, intercultural skills and methodologies, as well as computer courses. These are free of charge to students and are usually held on weekends as block seminars.

For more information, visit [www.zfs.uni-passau.de](http://www.zfs.uni-passau.de) (information in German).

**Accommodation, and student services**

The Student Services Association manages the refectory, cafeterias and halls of residence, administers student loans and grants and provides welfare advice, among other things: [www.stwno.de/en/](http://www.stwno.de/en/).

If you are an international student and wish to arrange accommodation for the first semester through the University, get in touch with Ms Alexandra Winterkorn of the International Office:

International Office  
Room 106, Administration building  
Innstr. 41  
94032 Passau  
E-mail: [alexandra.winterkorn@uni-passau.de](mailto:alexandra.winterkorn@uni-passau.de)  
Phone: +49 851 509 1161  
Fax: +49 851 509 1164

For information about **hotels, B&Bs and guest houses**, contact:

Tourist Information Passau  
Rathausplatz 3  
94032 Passau  
Phone: +49 851 955980  
E-mail: [tourist-info@passau.de](mailto:tourist-info@passau.de)  
[www.passau.de](http://www.passau.de)

More information: [www.uni-passau.de/en/accommodation/](http://www.uni-passau.de/en/accommodation/).

## Foundation Modules: 'Theories and Methods' and Foreign Languages

## Appendix 1

The foundation modules provide an overview of the methodological state of the art of history, literary and cultural studies while placing the emphasis on Slavic literary and cultural studies as well as East-Central-European history. This will enable you to weigh the suitability of various theories and methods for examining specific phenomena and to judge whether they can be further explored in an interdisciplinary context. You will, moreover, have the opportunity to learn a Slavic language (Czech, Polish or Russian). These crucial competences will enable you to define your own research interests, choose suitable research methods and develop the theoretical underpinnings.

While **foundation modules I and III must be completed by all** students enrolled in the programme, you have a choice between Foundation Module II or the Foreign Languages Module.

These modules are examination modules: you must achieve a pass mark to complete the programme.

### Foundation Modules and Foreign Languages

<i>Module title</i>	<i>Module type*</i>	<i>Contact hours per week</i>	<i>ECTS* credits</i>
<b>Foundation Module: Theories and Methods I</b> Current East and East Central Europe Research: Theories and Methods	(AS) or (PostSem)	2	10
<b>Foundation Module: Theories and Methods II</b> Application of Theory and Methods in Actual Research Projects	— or —		
<b>Language Module</b> Two language courses in Czech, Polish or Russian.  Please note: no ECTS credits are awarded for language skills which you have stated as an entrance qualification for the degree programme.	(AS) or (PostSem)	2 or 8	10
<b>Foundation Module: Theories and Methods III</b> Interdisciplinary Research Methods in Slavic Studies and Eastern European History	(AS) or (PostSem)	2	10
<b>Totals for 3 modules</b>		<b>6 or 12</b>	<b>30</b>

## Focus Module Groups

The Focus Modules give you the opportunity to decide on your own specialisation in terms of sub-region, study area and subject orientation. A number of specialised seminars on current topics of East- and East-Central-European research are offered. You will complete a total of four modules from at least two of the four available Focus Module Groups:

- Focus Module I: National, Ethnic, Cultural and Confessional Identities in East Central Europe
- Focus Module II: Spaces and Borders in Europe's Eastern Regions
- Focus Module III: Literatures and Discourses in and on Europe's Eastern Regions
- Focus Module IV: Internal and External Conflicts in East Central Europe

### Focus Module Group I: National, ethnic, cultural and confessional identities in East-Central Europe

<i>Module title</i>	<i>Module type*</i>	<i>Contact hours per week</i>	<i>ECTS* credits</i>
<b>Focus Module Ia</b> National, Ethnic, Cultural and Confessional Identities in East Central Europe	(AS) or (PostSem)	2	10
<b>Focus Module Ib</b> National, Ethnic, Cultural and Confessional Identities in East Central Europe	(AS) or (PostSem)	2	10
<b>Totals for 2 modules</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>

### Focus Module Group II: Spaces and Borders in Europe's Eastern Regions

<i>Module title</i>	<i>Module type*</i>	<i>Contact hours per week</i>	<i>ECTS* credits</i>
<b>Focus Module IIa</b> Spaces and Borders in Europe's Eastern Regions	(AS) or (PostSem)	2	10
<b>Focus Module IIb</b> Spaces and Borders in Europe's Eastern Regions	(AS) or (PostSem)	2	10
<b>Totals for 2 modules</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>



### Focus Module Group III: Literatures and Discourses in and on Eastern Europe

<i>Module title</i>	<i>Module type*</i>	<i>Contact hours per week</i>	<i>ECTS* credits</i>
<b>Focus Module IIIa</b> Literatures and Discourses in and on Europe's Eastern Regions	(AS) or (PostSem)	2	10
<b>Focus Module IIIb</b> Literatures and Discourses in and on Europe's Eastern Regions	(AS) or (PostSem)	2	10
<b>Totals for 2 modules</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>

### Focus Module Group IV: Internal and external conflicts in East-Central Europe

<i>Module title</i>	<i>Module type*</i>	<i>Contact hours per week</i>	<i>ECTS* credits</i>
<b>Focus Module IVa</b> Internal and External Conflicts in East Central Europe	(AS) or (PostSem)	2	10
<b>Focus Module IVb</b> Internal and External Conflicts in East Central Europe	(AS) or (PostSem)	2	10
<b>Totals for 2 modules</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>

## Research Module

You will apply the theoretical knowledge gained during the first two semesters by completing a research semester in Germany or abroad and carrying out a research project which you have previously defined and formulated. To this end, you will spend three months conducting research at an archive, library or other suitable institution and submit a research report.

As the Research Module is an examination module, you must achieve a pass mark on this module and the presentation of your research findings.

<i>Module title</i>	<i>ECTS* credits</i>
Independent research (archives, libraries or field research) in Germany or abroad, with presentation of research findings	20
<b>Totals for 1 module</b>	<b>20</b>

List of abbreviations:

ECTS = European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System  
AS = Advanced Seminar  
W = Workshop  
PostSem = Postgraduate Seminar

\* Contact hours per week, or 'Semesterwochenstunden' (SWS) in German, expresses the number of hours of taught instruction per week in a given semester; one hour in this context denotes a 45-minute 'academic hour'.

	<b>1st semester (winter semester; 6–12 contact hours per week; 30 ECTS credits)</b>	
<b>Knowledge transfer</b>	<b>Theories and Methods Foundation Module I</b> Current East and East Central Europe Research: Theories and Methods (AS) or (PostSem) (2 contact hours per week)	<b>10 ECTS credits</b>
	<b>Theory and Methods Foundation Module II</b> Application of Theory and Methods in Actual Research Projects (AS) or (PostSem) (2 contact hours per week)	— or —
	<b>Language Module</b> Two language courses in a Slavic language (8 contact hours per week)	<b>10 ECTS credits</b>
	<b>Focus Module</b> (AS) or (PostSem) from one of the focus module groups I to IV (2 contact hours per week)	<b>10 ECTS credits</b>
	<b>2nd semester (summer semester; 6 contact hours per week; 30 ECTS credits)</b>	
	<b>Theory and Methods Foundation Module III</b> Interdisciplinary Research Methods in Slavic Studies and Eastern European History (AS) or (PostSem) (2 contact hours per week)	<b>10 ECTS credits</b>
<b>Focus Module</b> (AS) or (PostSem) from one of the focus module groups I to IV (2 contact hours per week)	<b>10 ECTS credits</b>	
<b>Focus Module</b> (AS) or (PostSem) from one of the focus module groups I to IV (2 contact hours per week)	<b>10 ECTS credits</b>	
<b>Knowledge creation</b>	<b>3rd semester (winter semester; 2 contact hours per week; 30 ECTS credits)</b>	
	<b>Focus Module</b> (AS) or (PostSem) from one of the focus module groups I to IV (2 contact hours per week)	<b>10 ECTS credits</b>
	<b>Research Module</b> Research stay: archives, library or field research in East-Central Europe Research report Presentation of the research findings (W)	<b>20 ECTS credits</b>
	<b>4th semester (summer semester; 30 ECTS credits)</b>	
<b>Thesis preparation</b> and presentation of thesis at a workshop	<b>30 ECTS credits</b>	
	<b>Total ECTS credits</b>	<b>120</b>