Entry requirements

Academic requirements
A first (bachelor’s or equivalent) university degree in a social science, gained at the end of a three-year programme of study, with an overall average mark of, or equivalent to, 2.5 on the German marking scale, or among the best 50% of your cohort. A solid background in methods is required. Graduates from other disciplines are eligible if they have studied social sciences as a secondary/minor subject.

Language requirements
If English is not your first language or the language of instruction for your first degree, you will need to prove that you have adequate English skills at level B2 CEFR by means of a recognised language certificate.

You should also have basic knowledge of German (level A1 CEFR) to help you in your everyday life. If you do not have basic knowledge of German, you will be able to take a free language course either before the start or within the first two semesters of the programme.

Deadline for applications
To be considered, your application must reach us by 30 June.

Scholarships
The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) has a database of scholarships for international students coming to Germany: www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/en

Further information and contact details

Programme page on the web
www.uni-passau.de/en/ma-devstudies

Development Studies office staff
Ms Regina Treipl
Dr.-Hans-Kapfinger-Str. 14b, 94032 Passau, Germany
Phone: +49 851 509 2741

Programme Directors
Professor Martina Padmanabhan
Chair of Comparative and Cultural Development Studies with a focus on Southeast Asia
Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Professor Michael Grimm
Chair of Development Economics
Faculty of Business, Economics and Information Systems

Professor Rüdiger Korff
Chair of Southeast Asian Studies
Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Academic Advice Service
Primary contact for prospective international students seeking advice on study options and entry requirements
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
A wide range of foreign language and German courses
www.sprachenzentrum.uni-passau.de/en

iStudi Coach for int’l students
Contact for internships and career opportunities
www.uni-passau.de/en/iStudi

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

03/2019
About the programme
The M.A. Development Studies programme enables students to develop the advanced knowledge, analytical skills, and conceptual frameworks required to understand and navigate the complexities of economic and social development.

Students enrolled in the programme gain insights into the economic, social, ethical, and cultural contexts and constraints of development. The programme provides outstanding opportunities to put theory into practice through international field research, with a strong focus on integrating quantitative and qualitative methods.

The programme addresses the worldwide need for experts in the expanding field of development research as well as for project managers in international development cooperation.

Who should study this degree programme?
This programme is particularly suitable for students with a first degree in social science and mid-career professionals in any development-related field. Qualified students from developing and emerging countries are particularly welcome.

Programme features
• Programme entirely taught in English
• Strong focus on quantitative and qualitative methods
• Field research opportunities
• A unique selection of language courses, including German as a Foreign Language

Programme syllabus
1st semester (approx. 30 ECTS credits)
• Methods and theories of Development Studies
• Interdisciplinary seminar
• Qualitative and quantitative research methods

2nd and 3rd semesters (approx. 60 ECTS credits)
• Qualitative and quantitative research methods
• Research seminar
• Elective modules (e.g. Sociology, Economics, Sustainability of Resources, Political Science, Southeast Asian Studies, Geographies of Development)
• Languages and transferable skills courses

4th semester (approx. 30 ECTS credits)
• Field research
• Master’s thesis
A research colloquium with internationally renowned guest speakers is offered each semester.

Specialisations
If desired, students can choose a specialisation in:
• Economics
• Southeast Asian Studies
• Sustainability

Career prospects
Graduates have a wide range of potential career paths within the development field, such as:
• programme managers for local and international development organisations, including government agencies, non-governmental organisations and community groups
• policymakers at bilateral and multilateral organisations, such as GIZ, the World Bank and the United Nations, as well as for civil society advocacy groups
• an academic career as a researcher/doctoral student

The University of Passau
Since opening its doors to the public in 1978, the University of Passau has quickly developed into a first address in German academia: the University regularly attains top positions in academic rankings, e.g. in Law, Business and Economics, Computer Science, Communication Studies, Political Science and Cultural Studies.

The University’s modern campus is located in the south-eastern part of Bavaria – Germany’s high-technology state – in verdant surroundings, a few minutes’ walk from the historic Old Town of Passau.

Passau is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful cities in Germany and offers an excellent standard of living while being close to the Alps and the Bavarian Forest as well as the major metropolitan centres of Prague, Munich and Vienna.