

M.A. International Education and Global Learning

A degree programme of the Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences.

The information in this infosheet is pertinent for the degree programme starting in summer semester 2026.

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Web page of the degree programme
Information for prospective students

PDF download



Last revised in September 2025

How to apply

Degree awarded: Master of Arts (M.A.)

Language of instruction: the entire programme is taught in English

Mode of study: Full-time or part-time

Entry qualifications

To be eligible for a place on this degree programme, you must have a university degree (bachelor's, state examination [Erste Lehramtsprüfung], Magister, Diplom) from a university in Germany or abroad with a minimum of **30 ECTS credits** in **educational or social sciences**. Your final grade should be equivalent to **2.5** or better according to the German grading scale or you should ranked among the best 50% of your cohort. Overall, your first university degree must consist of

- **240 ECTS credits** (four years of study), **or**
- **180 ECTS credits** (three years of study) **and an additional 60 ECTS credits** gained from assessments completed at a higher education institution **or** at least one year of practical experience in the field of education or social sciences gained after completion of your first degree, **or**
- **210 ECTS credits and an additional 30 ECTS credits** gained from assessments completed at a higher education institution **or** at least six months of practical experience in the field of education or social sciences gained after completion of your first degree.

Additionally, you have to prove

- Study-related **internationalisation experience** in the field of education or social sciences (e.g. internships, work experience, occupational activities, excursions with an international dimension in a university context) of a cumulative duration at least **six weeks** in total or a credit load of at least **10 ECTS credits**. Alternatively, ungraded courses related to internationalisation amounting to 10 ECTS credits (e.g. an internationalisation-related certificate) are also accepted.¹
- Adequate **knowledge of English** at **level B2** of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), unless English is your native language or language instruction for your prior education.

Applying before completing your undergraduate degree

In exceptional cases, students can commence the degree programme before they are in possession of all required documents proving that they fulfil the admission requirements. These students can apply with a transcript of records showing an overall grade of 2.5 or better. They will then be enrolled on condition that they provide the missing documentary evidence by the end of the 10th week of lectures. Nevertheless, the prior university degree programme must be completed by the start of lectures for the degree programme at the University of Passau. Specifically, all required assessments and coursework must have been completed and the final dissertation/thesis submitted by that date.

Application

Starting semester: This programme starts in April each year (summer semester).

The **application deadline** is **15 January**.

[Please apply online.](#)

If you have any questions on the application process, please contact the [Student Registration Office](#), Innstr. 41, 94032 Passau, Germany; phone: +49 851 509 1127; e-mail: registry@uni-passau.de.

¹ These assessments must be substantiated by suitable letters of reference, certificates or similar documents.

Information for new students

Please visit our website to find out everything you need to know as you're [starting out on your studies](#) and for information on the [Orientation Weeks](#).

The following videos are particularly helpful for new students and are available with English subtitles:

- [At the start of the degree programme](#)
- [Semester cycle](#)
- [Important documents for your studies](#)
- [European Credit Transfer System \(ECTS\) and the standard period of study](#)
- [Course types](#)
- [Language courses and placement tests](#)
- [Examinations](#)
- [Online portals for your studies](#)
- [Scientific methods](#)
- [Leisure activities](#)
- [Advice centres](#)

Modules, module catalogue, overall grade calculation

The curriculum is modularised, and each module has a specific ECTS credit load. When you pass a module exam, you acquire the number of ECTS credits allotted for that module. You will also receive a mark on your exam; however, this does not affect the number of ECTS credits awarded – you receive the full credit load for a pass and no credits for a fail.

In the module catalogue you will find detailed descriptions of the content of all modules and courses, as well as any module prerequisites and information on the examination format. There is no fixed sequence in which you should complete your module examinations; however, you should generally pass the introductory modules before attempting the more advanced modules.

All modules of the degree programme are examination modules and are graded with the exception of the modules *Concepts and Practice of International Education (Field Atelier & Internship)* and *Research Atelier*. The final grade for your degree is calculated based on the ECTS-weighted module marks of the examination modules and the mark you attain on your master's thesis.

Courses

The individual courses for the modules can be found in **Stud.IP**, the University's learning management system: [Master](#)

Full-time or part-time study

This master's degree programme can be studied either full-time or part-time. The standard period of study is two semesters for full-time students or four semesters for part-time students. You should earn approx. **30 ECTS credits (full-time)** or **15 ECTS credits (part-time)** per semester in order to complete the programme within the standard period of study.

Part-time students can sit examinations totalling a maximum of 35 ECTS credits per academic year. The Board of Examiners may allow exceptions to this rule upon justified written application. The written application must be submitted before registering for the examination.

At the time of enrolment, you must indicate whether you wish to study full-time or part-time.

Overview of modules

The degree programme consists of two module areas, in addition to the master's thesis (15 ECTS credits) and an accompanying Research Atelier. When planning out your studies, please use the module catalogue and check that they are applicable to the specific version of the [study and examination regulation](#) (German text).

Module Area A: Research and Practice of International Education

This module area consists of three examination modules (**30 ECTS credits**), which must be completed by all students.

Module type	Module title	Type of assessment	WCH	ECTS credits
SE	Concepts of Learning and Leadership in international Comparison	Portfolio	2	10
SE	Engaging International Education Research Methods and Design	Portfolio	2	10
PT+SE	Concepts and Practices of International Education (Field Atelier & Internship)	Presentation	2	10
Total:			6	30

Module Area B: Connective Aspects of International Education

This module area consists of **10 ECTS credits**. In the *Intercultural Learning and Multilingualism* module, students whose prior education was not conducted in German can also take a *German as a Foreign Language* course at the Language Centre.

Module type	Module title	Type of assessment ²	WCH	ECTS credits
SE	Intercultural Learning and Multilingualism	Written exam, written exam and oral exam, or portfolio	2	5
HS	Advanced Approaches to Intercultural Learning and Multilingualism	Written exam, written exam and oral exam, or portfolio	2	10
SE	International Sustainable Development	Written exam, written exam and oral exam, or portfolio	2	5
HS	Advanced Approaches to Global Sustainable Development	Written exam, written exam and oral exam, or portfolio	2	10
Total:			2-4	10

Module Research Atelier

In addition to the master's thesis, you will complete the ungraded *Research Atelier* module, which carries a credit load of **5 ECTS credits**.

Module type	Module title	Type of assessment ²	WCH	ECTS credits
SE	Research Atelier	Presentation	2	5
Total:			2	5

Key of abbreviations

CEFR	=	Common European Framework of Reference for Languages
ECTS	=	European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
SE	=	Seminar
HS	=	Advanced Seminar
PT	=	Internship
WCH	=	Teaching contact hours per week

² The lecturer decides on the type of assessment used if the module catalogue provides for several types of assessment for a module.

During your studies

Internship

The *Concepts and Practices of International Education* module in module area A encompasses a six-week internship abroad related to internationalisation, as well as the accompanying *Field Atelier* seminar. Upon request, you may be able to complete the internship in Germany.

The university's [Future: Career and Competencies Section](#) (ZKK) can support you in your search for a suitable internship. You may also be eligible for a scholarship, if you decide to complete an internship abroad. On the [ZKK website](#), you will find confirmation letter templates for internships.

Master's thesis

Your thesis should demonstrate your ability to independently carry out academic research by applying scientific methods to a clearly defined subject matter. Prior to commencing the thesis, you will have to accumulate a minimum of 30 ECTS credits in this degree programme.

You will write your master's thesis in English on an educational science topic. The master's thesis should not exceed 40 pages of text (excluding appendices). You will be given three months to write the thesis and will be awarded **15 ECTS credits** for receiving a pass mark on your thesis.

Completing your degree studies

You have passed the master's examination when you have gained pass mark on all required modules and the master's thesis, and acquired at least 60 ECTS credits. You will then graduate and be awarded the degree of **Master of Arts (M.A.)**.

At the end of the degree programme, you should submit a [written request for your final degree documents](#) (i.e. the final transcript, degree certificate etc.) to the Examinations Office.

Key competencies and career planning

With the so-called ZKK courses (the German abbreviation ZKK stands for the [Future: Career and Competencies Section](#)), the University offers you a comprehensive range of transferable skills seminars and computer courses for free. ZKK also offers a wide range of careers and internship advice services, such as the [careers portal](#), which make it easier for you to start your career later on.

Voluntary completion of additional modules

If you earn more than the required 60 ECTS credits in your degree programme, these additional credits are listed separately in your final transcript. However, the marks attained in these additional modules do not count towards the final grade for your degree.

You can acquire various [additional qualifications and certificates](#), and all students enrolled at Bavarian universities can take advantage of the online courses of the [Bavarian Virtual University \(Virtuelle Hochschule Bayern\)](#).

Doctoral study

This master's programme enables you to work according to scientific principles and thus gives you the prerequisites for [doctoral study](#). When undertaking a doctoral project, you should ideally have already done research in the field of your future doctoral topic in your master's thesis. The University of Passau offers excellent conditions for pursuing a scientific research project within the framework of a doctorate.

Important exam-related rules and regulations

Study and examination regulations; module catalogue

- [General study and examination regulation \(AStuPO\) for the master's degree programmes of the faculty](#)
- [Subject-specific Study and Examination Regulation \(FStuPO\)](#) (German text)
- Module catalogue

Standard and maximum duration of study

a) Full-time

The standard period of study is **two** semesters (60 ECTS credits).

The maximum period of study is four semesters. If you have not passed all required examinations by the end of the fourth semester, you will incur an initial fail on the degree programme; however, you will then be given an additional two semesters in which to complete the missing assessments. This deadline is not interrupted by a leave of absence or de-registration from the programme.

If you have not passed all required modules by the end of the sixth semester, you will fail the programme without the possibility of re-sitting the examinations.³

b) Part-time

The standard period of study is **four semesters** (60 ECTS credits).

The maximum period of study is eight semesters. If you have not passed all required examinations by the end of the eighth semester, you will incur an initial fail on the degree programme; however, you will then be given an additional four semesters in which to complete the missing assessments. This deadline is not interrupted by a leave of absence or de-registration from the programme.

If you have not passed all required modules by the end of the twelfth semester, you will fail the programme without the possibility of re-sitting the examinations.³

Resitting failed examinations

You may resit failed module examinations up to **two times**. You may re-attempt a failed master's thesis once; however, you must do this with a new topic.

Resitting passed examinations for mark improvement

One examination module can be repeated once for voluntary mark improvement. Only the better mark attained is shown on the degree certificate and included in the final grade calculation. The last opportunity to repeat an examination for mark improvement is in the semester following the last examination taken during the degree programme. You can [register for mark improvement](#) at the Examinations Office.

Credit transfers

If you wish to have coursework and assessments completed elsewhere or for another degree programme counted towards your degree, please contact the [Teacher Education Programme Coordinators](#).

Cheating in examinations; plagiarism

If you attempt to influence the result of an assessment by cheating (e.g. plagiarism or use of unauthorised examination aids), the assessment in question is assigned a mark of 5.0 ("insufficient", "nicht ausreichend") or "fail" ("nicht bestanden").

When preparing written work such as seminar papers, master's theses, etc. you must do so in compliance with the [University of Passau's Rules for the Ascertainment of Good Research Practice](#). Such written work should usually be submitted in electronic form.

Illness and inability to attend examinations

If you fall ill before an examination, you must decide before the examination whether you want to withdraw from the examination due to illness. You will need a medical certificate. If you become ill during an examination and have to abort the examination, you also have to provide a medical certificate.

In either case you must submit the completed [Inability to Attend Examinations Due to Illness Form](#) at the earliest opportunity. You should submit the form and medical certificate to the Examinations Office as described in the [information sheet on inability to attend examinations](#).

³ It is important to understand that this *endgültig nicht bestanden* status, which means "final fail", also bars you from enrolling in the same degree programme at other German universities.

If you fall ill for a longer period of time during the semester, it may be expedient for you to take [leave of absence](#) for the whole semester. If that is the case, please seek advice from the Student Registration Office and the Advice Centre for Students with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses.

Academic adjustments (exam access arrangements)

If you have a disability, are chronically or psychologically ill, you may be able to apply for [academic adjustments](#), including access arrangements (e.g. extra time for written exams). The advice centre for students with disabilities and chronic illnesses will be happy to advise and support you with your application.

Service and advice centres

Academic Advice Service

The [Academic Advice Service](#) staff provide general advice on all degree programmes and on questions that may arise during your studies. Please make an appointment if you wish to talk to us in person, by telephone or online.

Academic Advice Service, Innstr. 41, 94032 Passau
Drop-in hours: Wednesdays 9:00–12:00
Phone: +49 851 509 1154
E-mail: advice@uni-passau.de

Programme Coordinators

The [programme coordinators](#) at the Teacher Education Centre will advise you on questions relating to the organisation of your studies, examination regulations, module catalogues and credit transfers:

Matthias Fuchs, Isabella Karasek and Hazal Dogudan
Gottfried-Schäffer-Str. 20 (Institute Building), Room 203 IG
Phone +49 851 509 ext. 2963, 2969 or 4921
E-mail: stuko.lehramt@uni-passau.de

Examinations Office

The [Examinations Office](#) has overall responsibility for all exam-related matters. Visit the Examinations Office website for important information and applications concerning your degree programme.

Student Committee of the Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences

The [student committee](#) ("Fachschaft") informs and advises all students of the SOBI faculty on study-related matters. It also represents students' interests in the University's governing bodies and organises the Orientation Week as well as numerous other leisure activities.

Innstrasse 40 (Nikolakloster Building), Room 235 NK
Phone: +49 851 509 2613
E-mail: fachschaft-sobi@uni-passau.de

All [advice services and student societies](#) can be found on our website.