

Geschwister Scholl Institute of Political Science

Introductory Meeting M.A. Political Science

Winter term 2025/26
October 2nd, 2025



Study Program Coordination for the M.A. Political Science

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PoWi Start 2025

WhatsApp-Gruppe



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Instagram für Fristen,
Termine und Events!**



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Program structure

- 120 ECTS points; no minor
- Standard period of study: 4 terms
- Maximum period of study: 7 terms, otherwise exmatriculated
- Elective modules in the second and third term are divided into three focus areas (out of which you chose two):
 - Democratic Politics and Governance
 - Global and European Politics
 - Public Policy and Public Administration

Curriculum for the Master's Programme in Political Science (PO 2020)

The Master's programme in Political Science is a single-subject Master's programme, there are no minors. The programme is divided into compulsory and elective modules. The compulsory modules include research logic, the basic modules, advanced research methods, the project module and the master thesis. The elective modules are organised in three focus areas, whereby students must take two of the three focus areas in the second and third semester.

		Research Methods and Research Design		Focus Area 1: Democratic Politics and Governance	Focus Area 2: Global and European Politics	Focus Area 3: Public Policy and Public Administration	
1. Semester	Compulsory Module	P1: Research Logic of Political Science	3 Compulsory Modules	P2: Basic Module Democracy Research and Governance	P3: Basic Module International Relations and European Studies	P4: Basic Module Public Policy and Public Administration	30 ECTS (10 CHW)
		12 ECTS (4 CHW) EX		6 ECTS (2 CHW) EX or TP or PR or EP	6 ECTS (2 CHW) EX or TP or PR or EP	6 ECTS (2 SWW) EX or TP or PR or EP	
		Lecture: Methods in Political Science		Seminar 1: Theories and Concepts	Seminar 1: Debatten in International Relations	Seminar 1: Public Policy	
		Tutorial: Methods in Political Science		Seminar 2: Challenges to Democracy in Modern Contemporary Societies	Seminar 2: Debates in European Studies	Seminar 2: Public Administration	
2. Semester	Compulsory Module	P5: Advanced Research Methods of Political Science	2 of 3 Elective Modules	WP1: Advanced Module Democracy Research and Governance	WP2: Advanced Module International Relations and European Studies	WP3: Advanced Module Public Policy and Public Administration	30 ECTS (10 CHW)
		6 ECTS (2 CHW) EX or TP or PR		12 ECTS (4 CHW) TP and PR	12 ECTS (4 CHW) TP and PR	12 ECTS (4 CHW) TP and PR	
		Seminar: Selected Methods in Political Science		Seminar 1: Political Actors and Conflicts	Seminar 1: International Relations - Theories and Empirical Applications	Seminar 1: Public Policy - Theories and Empirical Applications	
				Seminar 2: Political Institutions and Processes	Seminar 2: European Studies - Theories and Empirical Applications	Seminar 2: Public Administration - Theories and Empirical Applications	
3. Semester	Compulsory Module	P6: Project Module	2 of 3 Elective Modules	WP4: Research Module Democracy Research and Governance	WP5: Research Module International Relations and European Studies	WP6: Research Module Public Policy and Public Administration	30 ECTS (10 CHW)
		6 ECTS (2 CHW) EX or TP or PR or EP		12 ECTS (4 CHW) TP and PR	12 ECTS (4 CHW) TP and PR	12 ECTS (4 CHW) TP and PR	
		Seminar: Research Questions in Political Science		Seminar 1: Democratic Politics - Current Fields of Research	Seminar 1: International Relations - Current Fields of Research	Seminar 1: Public Policy - Current Fields of Research	
				Seminar 2: Governance - Current Fields of Research	Seminar 2: European Studies - Current Fields of Research	Seminar 2: Public Administration - Current Fields of Research	
4. Semester	Compulsory Module	P7: Master Module					30 ECTS (2 CHW)
		Admission requirement: Successful participation in P1 to P4.					
		Master Thesis (28 ECTS)					
		Master Thesis Seminar (2 ECTS, 2 CHW)					

CHW = Credit Hours per Week, ECTS = European Credit Transfer System, EP = Exercise Portfolio, EX = Exam, P = Compulsory Module, PR = Presentation, TP = Term Paper, WP = Elective Module

Program structure: Compulsory modules

1. Term

- P1: *Research Logic of Political Science*
- P2 – P4: Basic modules in all three focus areas

2. Term

- P5: *Advanced Research Methods of Political Science*

3. Term

- P6: *Project Module*

4. Term

- P7: Master Module; consisting of *Master Thesis* (23 weeks writing time) and *Master Thesis Seminar*

Program structure: Compulsory modules

1. Term (Winter)	<i>P1 Research Logic of Political Science</i> <i>P2 – P4: Basic modules in all three focus areas</i>
2. Term (Summer)	<i>P5: Advanced Research Methods of Political Science</i>
3. Term (Winter)	<i>P6: Project Module</i>
4. Term (Summer)	<i>P7: Master Module</i> consisting of <i>Master Thesis</i> (22 weeks writing time) and <i>Master Thesis Seminar</i>

Program structure: Elective modules

2. Term

Two out of three focus areas; each consisting of two seminars
Examination: term paper AND presentation

3. Term

Two out of three focus areas; each consisting of two seminars
Examination: term paper AND presentation

You may switch focus areas between your second and third term, although we do not recommend doing so, as specialization will help you in your MA thesis.

Courses to take in the first term

- **P1:** Research Logic of Political Science
 - Lecture: Methods in Political Science
 - Tutorial: Methods in Political Science
- **P2:** Basic Module Democracy Research and Governance
 - Seminar : Challenges to Democracy in Modern Contemporary Societies
- **P3:** Basic Module International Relations and European Studies
 - Seminar: Debates in International Relations and European Studies
- **P4:** Basic Module Public Policy and Public Administration
 - Seminar: Fundamentals of Public Policy and Public Administration

Organization of Studies

- **Enrolment for all courses is mandatory**, 1-2 weeks before the start of term via [LSF](#).
6th – 8th Oktober 2025
- **Registration for exams is mandatory**, 7th-8th week of the lecture period via [LSF](#) (applies to exams, presentations, term papers and graded exercises).
5th – 7th January 2026

Important documents

- [Curriculum](#)
- [Studien- und Prüfungsordnung](#) (Study and examination regulations)

Examinations during your studies

- **P1:** Lecture and tutorial are examined together in a written exam.
- **P2-P4:** In each module, **one** of the following performances is required: Presentation, written exam, term paper or exercise portfolio.
- **Elective modules:** The elective modules consist of two seminars each, in which a total of two partial performances must be achieved: A term paper as well as a presentation or written exam or an exercise portfolio.
- Each examination can be repeated **once** if the student fails.

Examinations during your studies

- The final grade is calculated from the individual grades weighted according to the ECTS points; all performances are included in the final grade.
- Modules can be shifted in the course of study, but only in the annual cycle. Example: From the 1st to the 3rd semester. Keep in mind the maximum duration of study.
- Regular attendance is not checked, but is essential for passing exams.
- Good grades are important for [scholarship](#) applications (e.g. Deutschlandstipendium, Studienstiftung).



Course Recognition

- Courses completed in a master's degree program **BEFORE** the start of the program: Recognition possible only during the first term of study.
- Courses completed **DURING** the course of study: Recognition only possible during the following term.
- Please come to my office hours for recognition of your achievements.
- Send an email beforehand with the following information: Name and content of course, grade, examination type (i.e. essay, presentation, etc.)

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Examination Office

Tasks

- Registration for exams
- Withdrawal from exams with a certificate
- Issuance of the transcript, the final MA documents as well as the BAföG certificate

Contact

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Study abroad

1. **ERASMUS** (EU exchange program)
Numerous partner universities in various European countries,
ideally in the third semester with leave of absence
Application in the 1st term: January 15, 2025
Contact: Benedikt Kastner, M.A.
2. **LMUexchange scholarships**
e.g. USA, Canada, China, Mexico, Thailand, Ecuador
Application in the 1st semester: November 15, 2024
Contact: Benedikt Kastner, M.A.
3. **„On your own“**
e.g. with DAAD scholarship, information at the International Office

Internships

- No mandatory internships are provided.
- Voluntary internships during your studies are strongly encouraged.
- Contact us if you need confirmation for endorsement and support of voluntary internships (e.g. for leave of absence at LMU).
- Further information can be found in the internship guide.
- Contact person: [Dr. Tanja Zinterer](#)

Important Resources

- **Moodle**
 - [Moodle for MA Political Science Students](#) (Password: MAPoISci)
 - [Moodle für Arbeitstechniken](#) (Password: GSI)
- **Twitter/X** [@GSI_Muenchen](#)

Extracurricular activities

- [NMUN](#)
- [Environmental Studies Certificate Program](#)
- [Intercultural Communication Certificate Programme](#)

Other support options

- [Ment15](#): Mentoring program for female undergraduate and graduate students in Faculty 15.
- [Protestant Student Community](#)

Questions?

QUESTIONS NOT EVEN 5+ YEARS OF GRAD SCHOOL WILL HELP YOU ANSWER



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ENVIRONMENTAL
ENGINEERING



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