

Master's Degree in

Global Political Economy

Winner of the »Excellence in Teaching« award 2007

M. A. program conducted in English
No tuition fees at a public university
Situated in the middle of Germany
Not more than 25 students a year

U N I K A S S E L
V E R S I T Ä T



What are the reasons for economic crises?

What role do IPE theories have for socio-economic analyses?

Can the Tobin tax prevent monetary crises?

How does IMF crisis management work?

Why is Southeast Asia but not Africa successful in the world economy?

RELEVANCE OF »GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY«

The globalization of economic, cultural, and political activities has been one of the central and controversial »mega« trends in societal development over the last decade. This vanishing of borders, which will likely continue for decades to come, presents a formidable challenge to a traditional thinking attached to the nation state.

A critical understanding of the forms, causes, effects, and avenues for governance of globalization is needed. The requisite knowledge of the dynamics of the world economy, international institutions, and transnational actors is offered by the Master's degree program in »Global Political Economy«.

INTERDISCIPLINARY DESIGN

Since 2003 the University of Kassel has offered a theory and research oriented graduate program in »Global Political Economy«. The two-year program leads to the degree »Master of Arts (M. A.) in Global Political Economy«.

The curriculum is oriented on the »International/Global Political Economy« program taught at American and British universities. According to the International Studies Association, this is one of the fastest growing branches of political science. In Germany, the University of Kassel was the first to offer a curriculum to cover this dynamic field.

The Master's program in »Global Political Economy« aims to help students to develop a critical understanding of the numerous theoretical approaches and themes, and the wide spectrum of actors and processes in the global political economy. It should also enable them to apply this knowledge in practice.

The Master's degree program is interdisciplinary in design; the faculties of Social Sciences (Politics and Sociology) play a prominent role and some courses from the Economics department are open for GPE students as well.

M. A. CANDIDATE PROFILE

The graduate program targets German and international candidates with a Bachelor's degree in social sciences, political science, law or a related field who have completed at least six semesters of fulltime study and earned at least a cumulative grade of »good« or »upper second« class honors (equivalent to 2.5 or below on German grading scale); or candidates who have an equivalent or higher degree. Proficiency in English is necessary for participation in the program. Please visit our website for up-to-date admission requirements:

www.uni-kassel.de/go/gpe

INTERNATIONAL SCOPE

The student body is truly international: up to 75 % of the students come from around the world, from Albania to Vietnam. Lecturers from partner universities (Universidade Estadual de Campinas in Brazil, Rutgers University Newark in the USA, Tata Institute of Social Sciences in India and University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa) periodically offer seminars.

For international students, the Kassel curriculum may be of special interest as it goes beyond the standard International Political Economy program by elaborating on the EU as an important region in the world economy. International students may also take courses at the Language Center to facilitate their studies. During their stay in Germany, international students can learn German in a four-week intensive course as well as four hours weekly during the semester. Normally the language courses cost between 20–120 €.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A few work-study scholarships are available for students from DAC countries. Students selected as scholarship holders will have the opportunity to work 40 hours per month in the International Center for Development and Decent Work (ICDD) and receive a grant of 750 € per month for up to twelve months. Scholarships are available for Masters' thesis field research in developing countries. DAAD Scholarships are available for German students (Bildungsinländer) for Rutgers University Newark (U. S.) and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (India).



INSTRUCTION IN ENGLISH

All required courses are taught in English. Students who master the German language can choose courses from the German taught Master's programs as electives as well.

PRACTICAL COMPONENT

An internship of at least eight weeks is required for a successful completion of the program. In addition, students have the possibility to join organized field trips to centers of international rulemaking such as Brussels or Geneva. The objective of our special skills courses is to develop key career skills, from language proficiency and presentation techniques to writing research project applications.

TUITION

The University of Kassel doesn't charge tuition fees. Students are required to pay registration fees amounting to about 235 € per semester. These fees cover public transportation, subsidized meals at the university's cafeterias and dining halls, and other services.

CREDIT TRANSFER SYSTEM

The Master's degree program implements the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). Students are advised to earn about 60 credits per year.

Semester	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Core Courses	2	2	1	-
Special Option Courses + Electives	2	1	2	-
Research Methods			1	
Internships		In Semester Break		
Master Thesis				X
Credits	30	34	26	30



A COMPETITIVE EDGE ON THE JOB MARKET

In the wake of globalization, a critical understanding of the global political and economic dynamics, the personal experience of a lengthy residence abroad, as well as good language skills give graduates a significant competitive edge on the job market. The Master's program prepares graduates for careers in areas directly affected by globalization (e. g. international companies, organizations, and NGOs), enables them to interpret social processes (e. g. in teaching or journalism) or to analyze transnational economic activities (e. g. in research, policy advising, financial analysis).

Thanks to its focuses on theory and independent empirical work, the M. A. program provides a good foundation for those students interested in studying for a doctorate.



HOW TO APPLY

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Please visit our homepage for further admission requirements and application procedures:

www.uni-kassel.de/go/gpe

STRUCTURE OF THE CURRICULUM

The Master's degree requirements are as follows:

1. Seminars of three types: Core courses, special options courses, and special skills courses
2. A written Master's thesis to conclude the program
3. An oral presentation of the Master's thesis
4. An internship of at least eight weeks

GRADUATE COURSES

The following core courses are offered:

- Introduction to Globalization
- International Economics
- Governance of the World Market: Institutions, Instruments, and Experiences
- Theories of International Political Economy
- Global Political Economy Issues: Theories and Evidence
- Advanced Research Methods / Writing Skills

Special options courses are offered in the following fields:

- Advanced Theories of International Political Economy
- Advanced International Economics
- European Integration
- Global Environmental Politics
- Finance
- Migration
- Politics of Development & North-South Relations
- Gender & Globalization
- Cultural Aspects of Globalization

»I gained a deep understanding of the ongoing political economic processes seen at the global level.« Tamilla, Uzbekistan

»The program creates a positive atmosphere in which we critically examine the issues that stand at the crossroads of political science and economics.« Ronny, Germany

»We all share a set of common values: respect for human rights, critical thinking, a sense of justice, and ambition.« Cristian, Romania

»The program gathers a variety of students from different cultures sharing one common feature, an interest in international political economy.« Matt, USA

