



How to obtain a Master degree in Global Political Economy

A short outline....

How to reach the 120 Credits – a short glance

5 Master Core Courses (MCC), 9 credits (270 hours) each	45
4 Master Special Option Courses (MSOC), 6 credits (180 hours) each	24
Other Courses, credits vary	6
Advanced Writing Skills and Research Methods	5
Internship – 8 weeks	10
Master Thesis + oral exam	30
Sum	120

Important: 120 credits are required for the degree Master of Arts in GPE.

Recommended distribution of courses throughout the 2 year program

The following time table represents one possibility to structure the Master Course. Do not "overload" your time table, every single course needs time to prepare and to fulfill the requirements.

	1 st semester	2 nd semester	3 rd semester	4 th semester
Core Courses	2	2	1	-
Special Option Courses + Others	2	1	2	-
Special Skills		1	1	
Internship		During the semester break		
Master Thesis				X
Credits	30	30	30	30



Obligatory Courses

5 Master Core Courses (MCC)		
MCC I	Introduction to Globalization	9
MCC II	Introduction to International Economics	9
MCC III	Governance of the World Market: Institutions, Instruments, and Experiences	9
MCC IV	Introduction to Theories of International Political Economy	9
MCC V	Europe's Role in the Globalization Process	9
Skills	Advanced Writing Skills and Research Methods	5
		50

Special Option Courses

You need to sign up for at least four different Special Option Courses from the following list. The titles of the courses offered in each semester may differ from this list, so please check for the code (MSOC):

Master Special Option Courses (MSOC)		
MSOC 1	Advanced Theories of International Political Economy	6
MSOC 2	Advanced International Economics	6
MSOC 3	The Impact of Globalization on National and Local Governments	6
MSOC 4	European Integration	6
MSOC 5	Global Environmental Politics	6
MSOC 6	Migration and Global Labor Markets	6
MSOC 7	The Politics of Development and North–South Relations	6
MSOC 8	Gender and Globalization	6
MSOC 9	Issues of Global Governance	6
MSOC 10	Cultural Aspects of Globalization	6
		24

Other Courses

You may also take courses outside the GPE program, e.g. in history or in any other field you might choose. But note:

1. If credits are given officially, full credits can be granted (not all departments have switched to the ECTS credit system).



2. Otherwise, if no credits are given for the elected course, 3 credits will be granted.
3. Graduate courses completed at other universities may be accepted for credit, upon approval of the Board of Examiners. The following restrictions apply:
 - No more than 18 credits of graduate-level course work may be applied to the MA GPE.
 - Transfer credits may not be applied to required core courses.
 - Grades will only be transferred, if the grading system of the respective institution is deemed comparable.
4. Language courses: The ECTS-credits granted by our Language Centre for the participation in one of their language courses will be accepted. Altogether up to 7 credits can be granted for all language courses taken during the MA program.

Registration for courses

Within the first two weeks of each semester you have to register officially for those courses that should count for your degree. This is important because in case you fail a course, you are allowed to repeat that course only twice.

In case of a "Block" seminar you register after the first block.

The registration form will be sent to you via email. Fill it out and hand it in at the "Prüfungsamt", (Frau Möller NP1 2302).

Requirements for courses – work load

The course-specific examinations vary from course to course. The instructor will announce the requirements at the beginning of the respective course. Since core courses count for 9 credits, be prepared for a heavy workload: 9 credits are 270 hours, minus 45 hours class room participation leaves 215 hours for reading and writing.

You are expected to attend every class. In case you have to miss one class, please notify the instructor via email.

While writing essays, term papers, or research papers leave sufficient margins for corrections.

Take the deadlines for handing in your papers serious: An examination is marked "fail" if a written examination is not finished within the prescribed time limit.

Plagiarism: You are expected to write your own papers©. Do not engage in cut and paste operations with downloaded internet materials. If you attempt to influence the result of your examination through deception or by using non-permissible aids, the examination is marked "fail". In serious cases the board of examiners can bar you from future examinations. Thus, learn to cite correctly.

The Academic Integrity Tutorial:

http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/index.html

Writing a Research Paper by Sarah Hamid:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/ResearchW/index.html>

Grades

Grades are numbers, the best grade is a 1, next is 1,3 (1-); 1,7 (2+); 2; 2,3 ... until 4. A 5 is failed. There is no grade inflation, a grade 3 is not unusual.



Internship (10 Credits)

An internship has to be of at least eight weeks' duration and an internship report has to be submitted. Previous professional activity or internships can be counted as the internship. The student has to furnish appropriate documentation and an internship report as well. Reports from previous GPE students can be read at the GPE coordinator's office.

If your internship takes longer, you can earn up to 5 credits (= 1 month) more.

Master's Examination

The Master Examination consists of three parts

1. The course-specific examinations (like described before)
2. Master's thesis
3. Presentation of the master's thesis with oral examination

Master Thesis

Application Procedure for the Master's Thesis:

1. Find either a professor or a lecturer with a PhD to advise you and present that person a short outline on your research question and research design. You can also join together with other students (up to 3 students can work together; the individual contribution must be clearly identifiable).
2. If your advisor has approved your research project, inform the Board of Examiners (BoE) of the title of your master's thesis and the name of your advisor. The formal application has to include a CV and at least 84 credits (i.e., the required course work minus one special option course). The 6 missing credits need to be acquired before the oral examination.
3. The BoE will notify you of your assigned thesis topic, the assignment date, and the second examiner.
4. Submit before deadline three bound copies including a correct citation declaration to the office of examinations (at the moment this is Mrs. Möller NP1 2302).

During writing your Master Thesis you are recommended to participate in the Master's students colloquium, if offered, or organize your own discussion group.

Important details:

- You have to finish your Master's thesis within 5 months
- The thesis is usually 60-70 pages in length (12 font, 1 ½, normal margins)

Oral Exam

The oral exam takes place after having completed the Master's thesis – usually at the end of September/beginning of October. It consists of two parts: first you have to present your Master's thesis within 20 min. and then a 25 min. discussion follows in which you have to answer specific queries on the Master's thesis.



Final Grade

The overall grade of the Master's examination is calculated from the average of:

- the grades of the course-specific examinations (**60%**)
- the grades of the Master's thesis (**30%**)
- the grades of the oral examination (**10%**)

This computation includes the first decimal figure after the decimal point. All further decimal figures are dropped without rounding.

The overall grade is determined by the following averages:

< 1,5	very good (<i>sehr gut</i>)
≥ 1,5	good (<i>gut</i>)
≥ 2,5	satisfactory (<i>befriedigend</i>)
≥ 3,5	sufficient (<i>ausreichend</i>)
≥ 4,0	(<i>nicht ausreichend</i>)

If all three grades (course-specific examinations, thesis, oral examination) are “very good”, the overall grade will be “excellent” (mit Auszeichnung bestanden).

Student representation

In December you will vote on a spokesperson for your class. The vote takes place within the MCC I course.

There is one student representative on the Board of Examiners. Currently this is Lukas Graf (class of 2007). The period of office for students is one year and can be prolonged. The student member is elected by the department council, on the suggestion of the student members within the department council. These members will listen to your suggestions.

All students of the department of social sciences elect every two years their representatives in departmental and university-wide affairs (Fachschaft). These representatives welcome any student who wants to be active in student affairs (NP1 room 1206).

When do you need to contact the Board of Examiners?

- For all kind of previous work you would like to get credits for (courses or internship)
- Credits from stays abroad during the MA GPE
- Courses taken at other universities during the MA GPE (e.g. abroad)
- Application for and admission to the final exams after the 3rd semester
- Sickness during your Master's thesis

Write to: Prüfungsausschuß Global Political Economy, Prof. Dr. Christoph Scherrer

(Drop this either in the letter box of Scherrer [NP1 room 2308] or with Nicole Magura in the secretarial office NP1 2208)