A COMPETITIVE EDGE ON THE JOB MARKET

In the wake of globalisation, a critical understanding of the global political and economic dynamics, timeless aspects as well as good language skills give graduates a competitive edge on the job market. Correspondingly, the master's programme aims at facilitating learning on how to interpret and analyse transnational economic and political processes, and how to cooperate with peers from all over the world in the process. In so doing, it prepares graduates for careers in areas concerned with globalisation and development, for example in international organisations, NGOs, consultancies, journalism and academia. Thanks to its focus on both theory and empirical research, it provides rigorous training for students who are interested in pursuing a PhD after graduation.

HOW TO APPLY

Prof. Dr. Christoph Scherrer
– MA GPED –
Norteckstr. 1
34127 Kassel, Germany
E-Mail: magp@gwu.kassd.de

If you are interested in the programme, please visit our homepage for further information and admission procedures:
www.unikassel.de/gp/gped

STRUCTURE OF THE CURRICULUM

The Master’s degree requirements are as follows:
A. Seminars of three types: Core courses, special options courses, and special skills courses
B. A written Master’s thesis to conclude the program
C. An oral presentation of the Master’s thesis
D. An internship of at least eight weeks

COUPLES

The following Core Courses are offered:
- Introduction to Globalisation and Development
- International Economics
- Governance of the World Market
- Institutions, Instruments and Experience
- Development and International Policies
- GPED: Theories and Evidence
- Advanced Research Methods / Writing Skills

Special Options Courses are offered in the following fields (among others):
- Global Environmental Policies
- Gender & Globalisation / Gender & Development
- International Financial Institutions
- Development Cooperation
- Post-Development and Postcolonial Studies

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

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

»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

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

M.A. program conducted in English
No tuition fees at a public university
Situated in the middle of Germany
Enrolment of more than 25 students a year
PROGRAMME PROFILE

The two-year master’s programme «Global Political Economy and Developments» is a research-oriented graduate programme that leads to the degree of «Master of Arts in Global Political Economy and Development». It introduces students to the institutions, actors and processes characterising globalised capitalism, North-South relations and development cooperation. It focuses on the global level, but also looks at regional and national settings from a comparative perspective. The Kassel curriculum stands out because it approaches political economy from a North-South perspective that is informed by development theory and practice and postcolonial perspectives.

INTERNATIONAL SCOPE

The student body is truly international up to 75 percent of the students come from around the world, from Albania to Vietnam. Lecturers from partner universities such as Universidad Estadual de Campinas in Brazil, the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in India and the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa regularly offer classes. Field research in preparation of the MA thesis can be supported by a limited number of research grants.

The International Study Centre Language Centre offers not only German courses for international students, but advice and support in all aspects of learning German and intercultural exchange and interaction.

INTERDISCIPLINARY DESIGN

The programme is interdisciplinary in character and is taught by scholars with a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, among them political science, sociology, and economics. The curriculum is based on a pluralist understanding of political economy and covers both mainstream and critical perspectives. It stresses the importance of an integrated approach to research, which links empirical analysis with methodological and theoretical considerations. Moreover, there is a practical component to GPED: Students are expected to complete a two-month internship at NGOs, international organisations, research centres etc.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A few work-study scholarships are available for students from countries on the DAC List of ODA Recipients. 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.

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 full-time 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.unikassel.de/grad/gaed

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 rule-making 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 290 € per semester. These fees cover public transportation, subsidised 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.

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