**Joint Master's Programme in Political Science**

**Approved at the Coordinators Board in Salzburg on**

*version after JoPScip Quality Week 2024-05-20-22 with updated § 5*

This document details the content and procedures of the *Joint Master's Programme in Political Science*, as a shared academic ambition and cooperation between the following university consortium:

- University of Salzburg (PLUS)
- Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (UKIM)
- European University of Tirana (UET)
- University of Tirana (UTIR)
- University of Business and Technology (UBT) - Pristina
- University of Sarajevo (UNSA)
- Sarajevo School of Science Technology (SSST)
- University of Trieste (UNITS)
- University of Prishtina (UP)
- University of Montenegro (UMO)
- University of Belgrade (UBG)
- Tbilisi State University (TSU)
- Georgian Institute for Public Affairs (GIPA)
- Yerevan State University (YSU)
- Eurasia International University (EIU)

The implementation of this curriculum is regulated by a declaration about the installation of the Joint Master´s Programme Political Science – Integration & Governance signed by these consortium members.

The *Joint Master's Programme in Political Science* is based on international standards and benchmarks of teaching political science in accordance with level 7 of the European Qualification Framework. The consortium member contributes by joining their specific academic profiles in Comparative Politics, European Integration, International Relations, Public Policy & Administration, and Political Theory. In addition to this contribution the Western Balkan and South Caucasus

consortium members additionally deliver specific academic competencies regarding political developments in those regions.

PoSIG qualifies its graduates for academic careers in all fields of political science, and additionally offers a background in the transition and Europeanisation of the Western Balkan and South Caucasus region.

**§ 1 General Provision**

(1)    The language of instruction in all courses of the MA Programme is English. Applicants must demonstrate a profound knowledge of the English language (Level B2), as a condition of registration in the Programme.

(2)    This MA Programme refers to level 7 of the European Qualification Framework, as defined by the European Parliament and the EU Council.

(3)    The number of ECTS credits necessary to complete the degree in the *Joint Master's Programme in Political Science – Integration and Governance* is 120. This corresponds to four semesters of study.

(4)    Depending on the institution awarding the degree, graduates of this programme will be awarded a joint Master of Arts (MA).

(5)    In order to be admitted to the *Joint Master's Programme in Political Science – Integration and Governance*, students must hold a bachelor's degree in Political Science from a POSIG consortium member, or in a related field or from another accredited institution of higher education. Students with BA degrees following these curricula but with fewer than 15 ECTS in explicit methods training and scientific work practices have to compensate by taking additional relevant courses in those areas.

(6)    If a student's bachelor's degree is not sufficiently equivalent to be acceptable, the student may be required to complete academic work for up to 30 ECTS credits. These requirements must be fulfilled by the end of the programme. The determination of equivalency and the required academic work is decided by the Coordinators Board (composed of the authorized POSIG consortium member university  representatives). Students who have to complete the additional work for up to 30 ECTS credits must demonstrate B2 language competence in the local teaching language of the respective POSIG consortium member  where this work is undertaken (at University of Salzburg: German).

(7)    All graduation requirements to be fulfilled by students have been assigned ECTS credits. One ECTS credit equals 25-30 hours of study, which corresponds to the average number of hours required to achieve the expected learning objectives. An academic year consists of 1500-1800 hours, corresponding to 60 ECTS credits.

(8)    Students with disabilities or chronic illnesses must not be discriminated against in their studies. All POSIG consortium member universities are committed to the basic principles laid out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as subject to local non-discrimination laws and policies of positive action.

## § 2 Overview of the Degree Programme and Professional Skills

**(1) Overview of the Degree Programme**

(a) The *Joint Master's Programme in Political Science – Integration and Governance* offers five modules, from which students will need to select two in order to pursue their fields of specialization.

| | |
|---|---|
| Module 1: | **Political Theory** |
| Module 2: | **Comparative Politics** |
| Module 3: | **Public Policy and Administration** |
| Module 4: | **International Relations** |
| Module 5: | **European Integration** |

The modules of the programme are described in detail in Appendix A (module descriptions). The specific course programme for each semester will be published via www.posig.info.

(b) Advanced methodological and applied courses will complement the substantive orientation of the programmes modules. This will enable students to independently carry out rigorous social science research, and develop innovative research strategies and solutions for problems of societal importance.

**(2) Professional Skills and Competences (Learning Outcomes)**

Upon completion of this master's programme, students will have developed the following skills and competences:

| **Competence in the field of study**, in particular: |
|---|
| - comprehensive knowledge of theories of political science, political concepts, actors, institutions, processes, norms and central policy fields; |
| - the ability to understand, assess and apply political science research with high methodological standards to other modules; |
| - the ability to analyse political and societal problems, based on social science concepts and theories. |
| **Methods competences**, in particular: |
| - the ability and knowledge to thoughtfully and critically apply the methodological instruments of empirical-analytical political science research, including the ability to use statistical software, and to plan and carry out independent research; |
| - the ability to cooperate with others (interdisciplinarily and/or in groups), to carry out research collectively; |
| - the ability to present complex research and research findings convincingly in front of an audience. |
| **Competence in sound reasoning and judgement**, in particular: |
| - the ability to understand scientific social and political science literature and to critically analyse and assess it by drawing on the insights of neighbouring disciplines (such as law, economics, sociology, history); |
| - the ability to assess the presentation of scientific research outcomes, to make comparisons |

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| | and to give self-reflecting feedback; |
| - | the ability to debate and compare one's own insights and positions with those of others and to modify them, if necessary. |
| **Competence in responsive action**, in particular: | |
| - | the ability to grasp political and social problems, to develop practical strategies, policy reform contributions and to present them in public debates; |
| - | the ability to connect science and political practice; |
| - | the ability to engage in politics effectively on the basis of scientific insights. |
| - | the ability to work within the scope of the standards of academic and professional integrity and ethics; |

### (3)   Importance and Relevance of the Degree for Society, the Scientific Community and the Labour Market

Alumni of this programme will have a unique academic profile. This profile draws on the fields of specialisation, the international body of students and teachers and an individual mobility path between EU and Western Balkan and South Caucasus POSIG consortium members. A compulsory internship will provide students with practical experience in an organisational setting. In this context, alumni will acquire specific expertise about the conditions for social, economic and political processes in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus.

Through their Master's thesis projects, students are encouraged to carry out innovative research relevant for the social, economic and political development of the regions. With the acquired graduates will be able to contribute to the  processes related to Europeanisation, and the political debates surrounding them.

The typical professional fields of graduates of the *Joint Master's Programme in Political Science – Integration and Governance* are:

- employment at local and national level in public administration, parliaments and political parties, non-governmental organisations, interest groups and trade unions, the business sector, media and public relations;
- employment in international organisations, foreign services (careers in diplomacy), in institutions of the European Union and in international profit and non-profit organizations, development agencies and NGOs;
- employment in the field of civic and political education (foundations, academies, educational institutes, think thanks etc.);
- academic careers (PhD, teaching and research at universities and research institutions);

The participating institutions support their students and alumni in identifying placements for internships and developing a PoSIG alumni network via www.posig.info and social media activities.
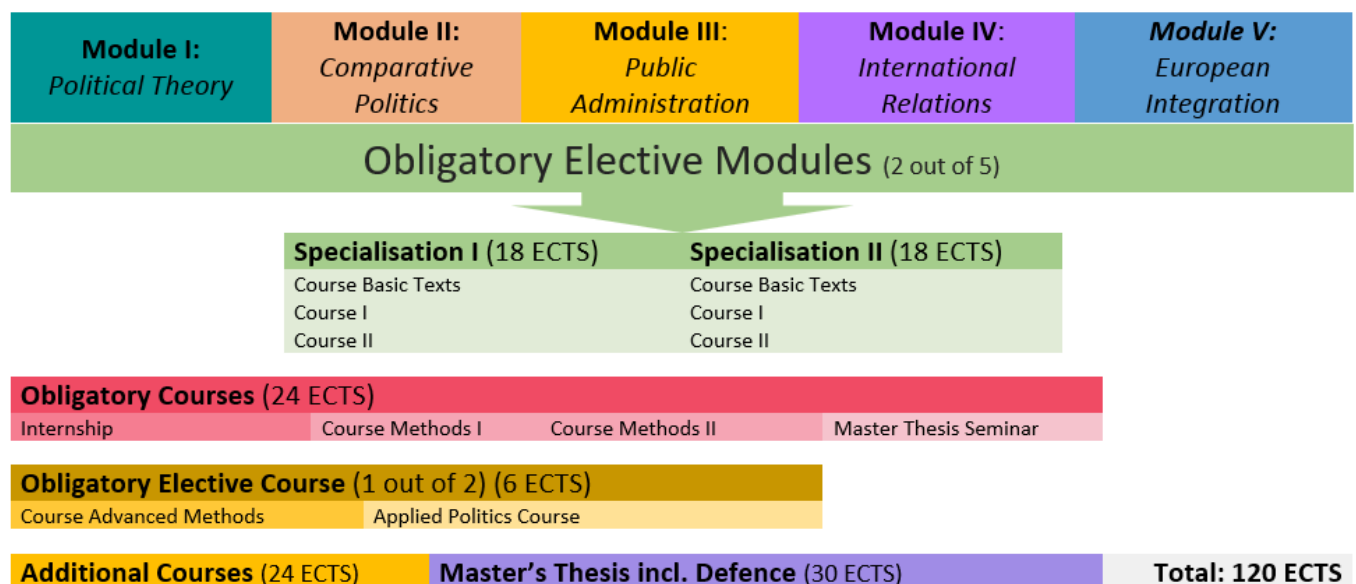
### § 3 Structure of the Programme

The Master's Programme consists of 10 obligatory courses, 1 internship, 24 ECTS of additional courses (including methodology if required following §1(5)), and a Master's thesis, with a total number of 120 ECTS credits.

The Master's thesis is worth 30 ECTS credits, incl. the preparation for the Master's Thesis Defense (worth 2 ECTS credits):

| | ECTS |
|---|---|
| **Obligatory Elective Modules** (2 of 5) | **36** |
| Political Theory | (18) |
| Comparative Politics | (18) |
| Public Policy & Administration | (18) |
| International Relations | (18) |
| European Integration | (18) |
| **Obligatory Courses** | **24** |
| Internship | (6) |
| Course Methods I | (6) |
| Course Methods II | (6) |
| Master's Thesis Seminar | (6) |
| **Obligatory Elective Courses** (1 of 2) | **6** |
| Advanced Methods in Political Science | (6) |
| Applied Course | (6) |
| **Additional Courses** | **24** |
| **Master's Thesis** | **28** |
| **Master's Thesis Defense** | **2** |
| **Total** | **120** |

**To be specified as formulation: Space for interdisciplinary qualification: 24 ECTS optional courses, 6 ECTS Internship, MA Thesis.**

| Module I:<br>*Political Theory* | Module II:<br>*Comparative Politics* | Module III:<br>*Public Administration* | Module IV:<br>*International Relations* | *Module V:<br>European Integration* |
|---|---|---|---|---|

Obligatory Elective Modules (2 out of 5)

**Specialisation I** (18 ECTS)
Course Basic Texts
Course I
Course II

**Specialisation II** (18 ECTS)
Course Basic Texts
Course I
Course II

**Obligatory Courses** (24 ECTS)

| Internship | Course Methods I | Course Methods II | Master Thesis Seminar |
|---|---|---|---|

**Obligatory Elective Course** (1 out of 2) (6 ECTS)

| Course Advanced Methods | Applied Politics Course |
|---|---|

**Additional Courses** (24 ECTS) | **Master's Thesis incl. Defence** (30 ECTS) | **Total: 120 ECTS**

## § 4    Course Types

The programme offers different types of courses, which are defined by the different HEI regulation systems pertaining to each POSIG consortium member. These courses provide in-depth knowledge, skills, and competences in the respective areas and encourage discussion and reflection on scientific topics through the active participation of students. In all courses, student performance is assessed indirectly through obligatory participation, as well as on the basis of written exams and seminar papers.

The ECTS workload of courses is described in the course descriptions.

The ECTS workload of courses is 6 or 4 ECTS.

The programme contains the following course types:

- Proseminar (PS) is a scientifically oriented (lower-level seminar-style) course and the prerequisite for seminars. Based on their accomplished theoretical and practical work, students will acquire foundational knowledge and abilities to engage in scientific work and research and thereby contribute actively to the class. Student performance is assessed continuously throughout the course and attendance is mandatory.

- Seminar (SE) is an academically advanced course. It provides in-depth knowledge in the respective subject area and encourages discussion and reflection on scientific themes through the active participation of students. Students' performance is assessed continuously throughout the course and attendance is mandatory.

- Exercise Course with Lecture (UV) connects the theoretical introduction to a field by teaching practical skills and drawing especially on the use of exercises. Students' performance is assessed continuously throughout the course and attendance is mandatory.


## § 5 Course Content and Plan of Study

-The present section contains a list of modules and courses. The division into semesters serves as a recommendation designed to ensure that the order in which the courses are taken builds on the knowledge, skills and competences acquired successively, and that the workload of 60 ECTS credits in an academic year is not exceeded. If there are no prerequisites, modules and courses can also be completed by following a different order in accordance with § 11.

Detailed descriptions of the modules including the knowledge, skills and competences to be acquired can be found in *Annex I: Module Descriptions.*

According to § 9, courses can be completed at a minimum of 2 and maximum of 4 POSIG consortium member universities. The table below displays which courses POSIG consortium members offer during which term, and how students can plan their mobility track. How to read the table: The courses marked with PLUS in term 1+2 will be offered at the University of Salzburg and are specified as Proseminar (PS) or Seminar (SE) or Exercise Course with Lecture (UV).

| Obligatory Elective Modules (2 modules out of 5): | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 | Term 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Political Theory** | | | | |
| *Basic Texts in Political Theory: Democracy and Legitimacy* | GIPA, TSU, YSU, EIU | UNITS | | |
| *Courses* | GIPA, YSU, TSU, UKIM | UNITS, UKIM | UKIM, UNSA, UTIR, UET, UNITS, GIPA, TSU, YSU, EIU | UKIM, UTIR, UET, EIU |
| **Comparative Politics** | | | | |
| **Basic Texts Comparative Politics** | PLUS, UKIM, YSU, GIPA | UKIM | | |
| *Courses* | PLUS, UKIM, SSST, GIPA, YSU, EIU | PLUS, UKIM, YSU | UKIM, UTIR, UNSA, SSST, UET, PLUS, GIPA, YSU | UKIM, UTIR, SSST, UET, PLUS |
| **Public Policy & Administration** | | | | |
| *Basic Texts Public Policy & Administration* | UP, GIPA, TSU | YSU | | |
| *Courses* | UP, GIPA, TSU, UKIM | UKIM | UTIR, UKIM, UP, GIPA, TSU, YSU, EIU | UTIR, UKIM, EIU |
| **International Relations** | | | | |
| **Basic Texts International Relations** | SSST, PLUS, GIPA, YSU, TSU, EIU | | | |
| *Courses* | PLUS, UKIM, SSST, YSU, EIU, GIPA, TSU | PLUS, UKIM, UNITS, YSU, EIU | UKIM, UNSA, SSST, UTIR, UET, UBT, GIPA, TSU, YSU | UKIM, SSST, UTIR, UET, UBT |
| **European Integration** | | | | |
| *Basic Texts European Integration – Multilevel Politics* | PLUS, UKIM, EIU | UKIM, YSU | | |
| *Courses* | PLUS, SSST, UKIM, TSU | PLUS, UKIM, YSU | UTIR, UKIM, SSST, UNSA, PLUS, TSU | UTIR, UKIM, SSST, PLUS |
| **Obligatory Courses** | | | | |
| **Methods in Political Science I** | PLUS, UKIM, SSST, UP, GIPA, TSU, YSU, EIU | | | |
| **Methods in Political Science II** | | PLUS, UNITS, UKIM, YSU | | |
| **Thesis Seminar** | | | PLUS, UKIM, UTIR, SSST, UET, GIPA, TSU, YSU, EIU | PLUS, UKIM, UTIR, SSST, UET, YSU |
| **Obligatory Elective Courses** | | | | |
| **Advanced Methods in Political Science** | PLUS | UNITS | PLUS | |
| **Applied Politics** | SSST, YSU, GIPA, TSU | PLUS, YSU | UKIM, UET, UNSA, SSST, GIPA, EIU, TSU | UKIM, UET, SSST, PLUS, EIU |
| **Additional Courses** | | | | |

| Obligatory Elective Modules (2 modules out of 5): | Term 1 | Term 2 | Term 3 | Term 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Optional Courses | PLUS, UKIM, UP UBT SSST UNSA UNITS UTIR, UET, EIU, TSU, YSU | PLUS, UKIM, UNITS, YSU | PLUS, UKIM, UP UBT, SSST, UNSA, UNITS UTIR, UET, EIU TSU YSU UET | PLUS, UKIM, UP UBT, SSST, UNSA UNITS, UTIR, UET |

## § 6 Obligatory Elective Modules, Obligatory Courses and Obligatory Elective Courses

The MA PoSIG requires students to choose two out of the programme's five modules (see § 2 Paragraph 1, and *Annex I: Module Descriptions*).

All students have to complete three obligatory courses comprising Methods I, Methods II and the Thesis Seminar.

In addition, students have to choose either one course that offers advanced methods in political science, or one course in applied politics (obligatory elective course).

## § 7 Additional Courses

(1)	Students have to complete additional courses totalling 24 ECTS credits. These additional courses are designed to develop professional skills and strengthen individual areas of focus. They can be chosen from the elective modules, or from other courses of this curriculum, or from other areas as listed in (2).

(2)	The recommended areas from which students can choose additional courses are:
- EuropeanStudies
- Gender Studies
- Geography and Spatial Planning
- Communication Science
- Law (e.g., Public/Constitutional Law, International Law, European Law, Private Law)
- Regional Studies
- Sociology, Social Psychology and Educational Science
- Sustainability Studies
- Political Economy
- Contemporary History
- Psychology and Political Psychology
- Development Studies

## § 8 Master's Thesis

(1)	The Master's thesis serves to demonstrate that students have acquired the ability to perform independent academic research in the area of political science, according to rigorous academic research methods and standards.

The thesis is an individual research project, conducting the student's fields of specialisation. It is overseen by two supervisors and should be connected to their field of teaching and/or research.

(2)	The topic of the Master's thesis has to be connected with one or two of the obligatory elective modules according to § 2. The student may suggest a topic or choose from several topics provided by one of the available thesis advisors.

(3)	The length of the Master's thesis should range between 25,000 and 30,000 words (not counting annexes and tables and bibliography).

(4) Students have to attend a thesis seminar. The purpose of this seminar is to support students with the development of their theses.

The supervision of a student's Master's thesis is the shared responsibility of two supervisors, from two PoSIG consortium member schools where a candidate was enrolled during the PoSIG programme. The supervisors also act as examiners during the MA examination, according to §13. The requirements and the formal and procedural aspects regarding the supervision of the master's thesis are defined in the syllabus of the thesis seminar.

(5) The supervision of the Master's thesis is documented in the student's ePortfolio. This documentation includes at least the following elements:

- An exposé with the research question and the methodological approach.
- The supervisor's statements on the student´s exposé.
- The Master's thesis.
- Thesis evaluation statements of two supervisors.

**§ 9 International Mobility**

Students of this programme have to undertake their studies at least at two, and at most at four POSIG consortium members. The international mobility of students has to cover academic studies at two to four POSIG consortium members.

The duration of an international mobility stay is at least one academic term. Students must submit a plan for their international mobility when applying to the programme. Each application has to specify the selected fields of specialisation (2 modules out of 5, as defined in § 2 and § 5), and the universities the student plans to attend for the first and the second semester. Students also need to declare at which institution they intend to spend the third and fourth semester; the latter choice may be changed before the end of the second semester.

Where the international legal conditions for the recognition of documents by consortium members are not existing, mobilities are not possible.

The internship in accordance with § 10 is not counted as international mobility as defined in the present paragraph.

The recognition of courses for the PoSIG curriculum is granted in accordance with the PoSIG course programme published via www.posig.info. The recognition of a course not listed in the PoSIG course programme needs the affirmative vote of all coordinators of the POSIG consortim members attended by the student.

Students have to comply with the following conditions during their international mobility activities:

- At least 30 ECTS credits must be achieved in each semester of study.
- Courses completed at one POSIG consortium member must not be identical to courses already completed at another POSIG consortium member.

In addition to field-specific knowledge, skills, and competences students are expected to gain the following qualifications as part of their academic international mobility:

- acquisition and consolidation of field-specific knowledge in a foreign language;
- acquisition and consolidation of organisational skills gained by independently navigating

through the bureaucracy and organisational structure of a university abroad, as well as daily challenges of student life abroad;
- broadening one's perspectives in one's own field of study;
- acquisition and consolidation of intercultural communication skills.

Students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses will be assisted in organizing their international mobility by the relevant support units of the single PoSIG consortium member.

### § 10 Obligatory Internship

According to the ECTS workload of 6 ECTS, the internship has to represent a 4-week full time work placement experience. This workload can be done with a full-time internship contract, or with a part-time internship contract with an equivalent longer duration of the placement.

The internship can be completed with at most two different places of employment.

The recognition of an internship requires for the student to complete a report on the work experience, reflecting the relevance of the conducted work and acquired experience in terms of the academic objectives and learning outcomes of the PoSIG curriculum. The report has to include also a timetable of work presence, a confirmation of the work time, and a statement about the student's performance by the employer. This report has to be accepted by a supervising lecturer of a PoSIG consortium members in order for the student to complete the internship. A form for the internship confirmation is available at www.posig.info.

Students are encouraged to complete their internship at institutions as listed in § 2 (3) (local, national or international institutions). The internship should allow for a reflection on the PoSIG study experience but can also be used to develop and qualify the research interests for the student´s thesis project.

The PoSIG consortium members support the students in their internship by providing a list of contact addresses of possible employers and sources for financial support (national or others, such as Erasmus+ internship grants).

### § 11 Admission Requirements for Exams

It is recommended to follow the suggested plan of study in accordance to §5, with regard to the following courses:

- the completion of the *Methods I* before the *Methods II* course,
- the completion of the course *Basic Texts* and one other course in the two obligatory elective modules during the first two terms of the programme (to be confronted with a variety of possible topics for the master's thesis),
- the completion of the master's thesis seminar during the third or fourth semester, to develop a research proposal for the master's thesis. The seminar will allow faculty to additionally supervise the student's research work during the thesis project.

### § 12 Examination Regulations and Grading Scale

(1)     In all courses, student performance is assessed directly. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed via written and/or oral assignments.

(2)     The total grade of a module is calculated as a weighted average of the courses within this module.

(3)     POSIG consortium members apply their local examination and grading regulations.

(4)     For students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses, alternative examination regulations suitable for each individual case will be offered in cooperation with the relevant support units of the relevant POSIG consortium member.

## § 13 Master's Thesis Defence

(1)     The PoSIG MA finishes with a Master's thesis defense.

(5)     This defense is a public examination before an examination board.

(6)     The examination board consists of at least (depending on local regulations) one instructor from each university the student has attended during their study (min. 2 and max. 4 instructors), teaching in the elected fields of the student's specialization, and is headed by the PoSIG coordinator of the POSIG consortium member where the student finished their study. The grade for the master's thesis and defense has to be decided by the examination board by consensus. If it is not possible to reach a consensus, PoSIG coordinators of the other POSIG consortium members where the student took courses during the international mobility decide together with the examination board, by a 2/3 majority decision.

(7)     The defense lasts for a maximum of 60 minutes.

(8)     The defense at POSIG consortium members in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus can be organized with the participation of examiners and coordinators via video conference.

(9)     Students must have successfully completed all of the required courses and the Master's thesis in order to be eligible for the master's defense.

(10)    The defense is part of the 30 ECTS credits assigned to the Master thesis. In countries where Master's thesis and its defense are graded separately:

-    the defense corresponds to 2 ECTS credits out of the 30 ECTS credits for the master thesis.
-    the examination board decides both on the grade of the master's thesis and the grade of the defense according to the regulation as defined in § 13 (3).

## § 14 Selection of Students

Students shall be selected and registered as joint degree candidates by the Coordinators Board, based on shared admission criteria: academic performance (final grade, exam grades), motivation, letters of reference, results of a personal interview (as part of the selection process), English language level.

In their application for the programme, candidates must select:

-    their modules of specialisation, and
-    the POSIG consortium member they will attend during their first year of studies (both semesters).

**§ 15 Effective Date**

The curriculum comes into force 1 October 2024.

**Annex: Module Descriptions**

**Module Description: Political Theory**

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|---|---|
| **Module name** | Political Theory |
| **Module code** | MI |
| **Total workload** | 18 ECTS credit points |
| | |
| **Intended learning outcomes** | Within this module, students acquire … <br><br> **Knowledge:** <br> • comprehensive knowledge about contemporary and historical normative debates on legitimacy, power and democracy; <br> • knowledge of empirical political theories concerning power, democracy and contemporary political movements; <br> • specific knowledge on approaches critical to modern political ideology. <br><br> **Competence:** <br> • the ability to critically read and assess theoretical approaches concerning questions of legitimacy, power and democracy; <br> • the ability to interpret political reality in the light of normative/empirical theories; <br> • the ability to analyse recent political movements and ideologies on the basis of normative political concepts; <br> • the ability to understand different aspects of social critique and to apply such criticism to current political issues. <br><br> **Skills:** <br> • the ability to conduct independent and innovative research in the field of political theory and the history of political ideas; <br> • the ability to follow current political developments from the perspective of normative/empirical political theory; <br> • the ability to critically examine political ideologies and to understand them in their social and historical contexts; <br> • the ability of offer alternatives to mainstream political philosophies/theories. |
| **Type of assessment** | All courses in the module **MI - Political Theory** continuously evaluate student performance. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed through written and/or oral assignments. |
| **Teaching approaches/ methods** | The course Basic Texts and theme-specific course in MI Political Theory will include various teaching approaches and methods, primarily lectures/seminars, with a focus on the active participation of students (presentations, group discussion, teamwork, simulations, case studies, etc.). |
| **Module content** | The module MI Political Theory covers: <br> • normative political theories (both contemporary and historical), especially on fundamental questions of political legitimacy, power and democracy (e.g. representation and political participation; democracy and its critics); <br> • empirical political theories, especially those concerning state power, democracy and contemporary political movements (e.g. populism and |

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|  | nationalism); <br> • modern political ideologies and approaches critical to ideology (e.g. critical theory on crucial questions of political anthropology and identity politics). |
|  |  |
| **Courses** | [MI.1 Basic Texts "Democracy and legitimacy" (6 ECTS)] <br> [MI.2 Theme-specific seminar I (6 ECTS)] <br> [MI.3 Theme-specific seminar II (6 ECTS)] |

## Module Description: Comparative Politics

| Module name | Comparative Politics |
|---|---|
| **Module code** | MII |
| **Total workload** | 18 ECTS credit points |
| | |
| **Intended learning outcomes** | Within this module, students acquire … <br> **Knowledge:** <br> - comprehensive knowledge on political institutions, political actors and decision-making processes in a comparative perspective; <br> - knowledge about the specific theories and theoretical debates concerning comparative political systems, comparative political processes and interactions across different levels; <br> - practical knowledge about the political processes of South-East Europe and the post-Sovjet region. <br> **Competence:** <br> - detailed understanding of research, analytical methods and theories in the thematic area of comparative politics; <br> - the ability to summarize and assess highly specialized literature in the thematic area of comparative politics; <br> - ability to analyse complex scientific and policy problems and draw correct conclusions by employing qualitative and/or quantitative methods and analyses; <br> - the ability to develop independently innovative research questions, communicate own ideas clearly and convincingly, and write scientific papers. <br> **Skills:** <br> - the ability to connect research and practice and to implement practice-oriented research projects <br> - the ability to analyse theoretic approaches critically and apply it to new political developments <br> - the ability to follow current political developments from a comparative perspective <br> - the competence to apply the knowledge acquired throughout the programme concerning the processes within institutions and the competences of different actors, and to work with or within these institutions <br> - the ability to participate in and conduct complex decision-making procedures. |
| **Type of assessment** | All courses in module **MII Comparative Politics** continuously evaluate student performance. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed through written and/or oral assignments. |
| **Teaching approaches/** | The core course and theme-specific courses in MII Comparative Politics will |

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| **methods** | include various teaching approaches and methods, primarily lectures/seminars, with a focus on the active participation of students (presentations, group discussions, team work, simulations, case studies, etc.). |
| **Module content** | The module MII Comparative Politics covers:<br>- the functioning and effects of political institutions, especially electoral systems and government structures;<br>- the functioning of parliaments, especially with regard to questions of representation and representativeness;<br>- characteristics of political parties and party systems;<br>- aspects of political participation and new forms of participation;<br>- characteristics and differences of regional and local governments;<br>- analyses of civil society, public opinion, electoral behaviour and elections;<br>- differences in the structure of states and constitutional design;<br>- nationalism and their influence on regional and global politics;<br>- specific characteristics of authoritarian regimes, development;<br>- democratization, political violence and regime changes;<br>- analyses of gender-specific and economic inequality;<br>- approaches and characteristics of human rights policies in different political environments;<br>- analyses of specific public policies (i.e. comparative social policies). |
| **Courses** | [MII.1 Core Course "Foundations of Comparative Politics" (6 ECTS)]<br>[MII.2 Theme-specific course I (6 ECTS)]<br>[MII.3 Theme-specific course II (6 ECTS)] |

## Module description: Public Policy and Administration

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|---|---|
| **Module name** | Public Policy and Administration |
| **Module code** | MIII |
| **Total workload** | 18 ECTS credit points |
| **Intended learning outcomes** | Within this module, students acquire …<br>**Knowledge:**<br>- comprehensive knowledge on political and administrative institutions, political and administrative actors and decision-making processes;<br>- knowledge about the specific theories and theoretic debates concerning public policy and administrative system at a national and supra-national perspective;<br>- practical knowledge about public policy and administrative processes in a comparative perspective.<br>**Competence:**<br>- a detailed understanding of research, analytical methods and theories in the thematic areas of public policy and public administration;<br>- the competence to summarize and assess highly specialized literature in the thematic areas of public policy and public administration;<br>- the ability to analyse complex scientific problems and draw correct conclusions by employing qualitative and/or quantitative methods and analyses;<br>- the ability to develop independently innovative research questions, communicate the own ideas clearly and convincingly, and to write scientific papers.<br>**Skills:**<br>- the ability to connect research and practice and to implement practice-oriented research projects; |

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| | - the ability to analyse theoretic approaches critically and apply them to new political and/or policy developments; <br> - the ability to follow current policy and/or administrative developments; <br> - the ability to apply the knowledge acquired throughout the programme concerning the processes within political and administrative institutions and the competences of different actors, and work with or within these institutions; <br> - the ability to participate in and conduct complex political and/or administrative decision-making procedures. |
| **Type of assessment** | All courses in the module **MIII Public Policy and Administration** continuously evaluate student performance. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed through written and/or oral assignments. |
| **Teaching approaches/ methods** | The core course and theme-specific courses in MIII Public Policy and Administration will include various teaching approaches and methods, primarily lectures/seminars, with a focus on the active participation of students (presentations, group discussion, teamwork, simulations, case studies, etc.). |
| **Module content** | The Public Policy and Administration module covers: <br> - the functioning and effects of administrative institutions, especially core administrative systems (state administration, public services, civil service); <br> - an understanding of leadership concepts, different approaches and abilities to apply them to actual organisational contexts; <br> - characteristics of policy cycles and their importance in the system of public administration; <br> - the significance and impact of administrative procedures in the functioning of the government; <br> - differences in the structure of constitutional design regarding public policy and public administration; <br> - an analysis of specific public policies. |
| **Courses** | [MIII.1 Core course "Contemporary Approaches to Public Policy and Administration" (6 ECTS)] <br> [MIII.2 Theme-specific course I (6 ECTS)] <br> [MIII.3 Theme-specific course II (6 ECTS)] |

## Module Description: International Relations

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| **Module name** | International Relations |
| **Module code** | MIV |
| **Total workload** | 18 ECTS credit points |
| **Intended learning outcomes** | Within this module, students acquire … <br> **Knowledge:** <br> - specialized empirical knowledge about international relations, for example, with regard to the functioning of international organisations or international trade policies; <br> - detailed knowledge of relevant theories in the field of international relations, and how to distinguish and critically evaluate them; <br> **Competence:** <br> - the ability to infer explanations from relevant theories to explain current political problems or new phenomena; <br> - an understanding of research design and methods in current research on international relations and an ability to challenge methodological approaches critically; |

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| | - an ability to assess the strengths and weaknesses of these methods;<br>**Skills:**<br>- the ability to develop interesting and innovative research questions in the field of International Relations, and the capacity to answer these questions using the appropriate research design;<br>- the ability to communicate their knowledge of international politics and argue in support of the conclusions they derive from their research on international relations clearly and convincingly. |
| **Type of assessment** | All courses in module ***MIV International Relations*** continuously evaluate student performance. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed through written and/or oral assignments. |
| **Teaching approaches/ methods** | The course Basic Texts and theme-specific courses in MIV International Relations will include various teaching approaches and methods, primarily lectures/seminars with a focus on the active participation of students (presentations, group discussion, team work, simulations, case studies, etc.). |
| **Module content** | The module MIV International Relations covers:<br>- theories of international relations, such as Realism and Neorealism; Institutionalism; liberal theory of International Relations; social constructivist approaches;<br>- the most important debates in international relations, including the functioning of international organisations, the design of international institutions, the role of public international law in international relations, and the role of transnational actors and the causes of war and peace;<br>- a selection of current research topics, for example on peace and conflict research, foreign policy analysis, international institutions, international environmental policy, international cooperation, diplomacy, international political economy, or transnational actors. |
| **Courses** | [MIV.1 Basic texts (6 ECTS)]<br>[MIV.2 Theme specific seminar IR I (6 ECTS)]<br>[MIV.3 Theme specific seminar IR II (6 ECTS)] |

## Module Description: European Integration

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| **Module name** | European Integration |
| **Module code** | MV |
| **Total workload** | 18 ECTS credit points |
| **Intended learning outcomes** | Within this module, students acquire …<br>**Knowledge:**<br>- a comprehensive knowledge on institutions, actors, decision-making processes, policy fields and norms of the European Union, including the functioning of the European multilevel system;<br>- a knowledge about the specific theories and theoretic debates concerning European integration, political processes and interactions across different levels, ability to analyse this critically and apply it to new political developments;<br>- the ability to understand current research and academic debate in the field of European integration, and to transfer their knowledge to other thematic areas;<br>- practical knowledge about the political processes at EU level (acquired e.g. in simulation games);<br>- understanding the research design and the methods of current research concerning European integration, and the multilevel system, and an |

|  | ability to assess them critically.<br><br>**Competence:**<br>- the ability to individually set up a research design and to conduct research within the area of European integration, and to apply the different methodological and theoretical approaches;<br>- the ability to write seminar papers according to academic standards and to give policy recommendations ("speaking to practice");<br>- the ability to cooperate with others (promoting a regional and international co-operation model), and to conduct research projects together;<br>- the ability to present complex research results, including the results of their own research projects.<br><br>**Skills:**<br>- the ability to connect research and practice, and to implement practice-oriented research projects;<br>- the ability to apply the knowledge acquired throughout the programme concerning the processes within institutions, and the competences of different actors, and to work with or within these institutions;<br>- the ability to participate in and conduct multi/bi-lateral negotiations (complex decision-making processes). |
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| **Type of assessment** | All courses in module *MV European Integration* continuously evaluate student performance. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed through written and/or oral assignments. |
| **Teaching approaches/ methods** | The course Basic Texts and theme-specific courses in MV European Integration will include various teaching approaches and methods, primarily lectures/seminars, with a focus on the active participation of students (presentations, group discussion, teamwork, simulations, case studies, etc.). |
| **Module content** | The module MV European Integration covers:<br>- European integration theories<br>- current research topics in European, regional and multi-level politics,<br>- (historic) development of European integration<br>- European Institutions, actors, and decision-making procedures<br>- governance in a multilevel system<br>- EU policies<br>- enlargement process<br>- EU and the wider world/ European Neighbourhood Policy |
| **Courses** | [MV.1 Basic Texts: "Multilevel politics- National politics and Europe" (6 ECTS)]<br>[MV.2 Theme-specific seminar I (6 ECTS)]<br>[MV.3 Theme-specific seminar II (6 ECTS)] |