



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



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Master's degree



MA Development Studies

University of Passau • Passau

Overview

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| Degree | Master of Arts in Development Studies |
| Teaching language | <ul style="list-style-type: none">English |
| Languages | This degree programme is taught entirely in English. |
| Full-time / part-time | <ul style="list-style-type: none">full-time |
| Programme duration | 4 semesters |
| Beginning | Winter semester |
| Application deadline | The application round starts in early April. As the application deadlines can change on short notice, we ask that you check our application pages closer to the time for the specific dates (and what documents you need to submit). |
| Tuition fees per semester in EUR | None |
| Combined Master's degree / PhD programme | No |
| Joint degree / double degree programme | No |
| Description/content | <p>The MA Development Studies programme enables students to develop the advanced knowledge, analytical skills, and conceptual frameworks required to understand and navigate the complexities of economic and social development.</p> <p>Students enrolled in the programme gain insights into the economic, social, ethical, and cultural contexts and constraints of development. The programme provides outstanding opportunities to put theory into practice through international field research, with a strong focus on integrating quantitative and qualitative methods.</p> <p>The programme addresses the worldwide need for experts in the expanding field of development research as well as for project managers in international development cooperation.</p> <p>Who should study in this degree programme?</p> <p>This programme is particularly suitable for students with a first degree in social science and mid-career professionals in any development-related field. Qualified students from developing and emerging countries are particularly welcome.</p> |

Course Details

Course organisation

Module area A: Foundation (15 ECTS credits)

The "Foundation Modules" module group consists of two examination modules that must be completed by all students:

- Methods and theories of development research
- Interdisciplinary development seminar

Module area B: Research (at least 25 ECTS credits)

The "Research Methods" module group consists of modules about research methods as well as a research seminar and two research colloquia. Students must earn a minimum of 25 ECTS credits in this module group to proceed. Completion of the research seminar and the colloquia is compulsory for all students on the programme. Apart from the colloquia, all modules in this group are examination modules.

- Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods
- Research Seminar
- Development Studies Colloquia

Module area C: Specialisation (at least 45 ECTS credits)

You are required to complete **at least one module each from three of the five module groups** forming the core subject areas. You will specialise in a field or further consolidate your knowledge by completing additional modules. All modules in this module area are examination modules. The module groups forming the core subject areas are:

- Economics
- South-East Asian Studies
- Sociology and Politics
- Sustainability and Resources
- Geographies of Development

Module area D: Transfer (15 ECTS credits)

While you can choose most of the modules in this area, the Applied Development Studies module is compulsory for all students. You can complete this module either as an **individual research project** supervised by an examiner from Module Area C: Specialisation or as an **internship** supervised by the chairperson of the Board of Examiners.

The modules available in this group are:

- Applied Development Studies
- Foreign language module
- Development Studies in Perspective
- Development Studies in Perspective I
- Development Studies in Perspective II

Master's thesis (25 ECTS credits)

You will write a Master's thesis in English in one of the module groups chosen in Module Area C: Specialisation.

Study focus

You have the option of placing a study focus on one of the following areas by accumulating a sufficient number of ECTS credits in specific modules. For details, refer to the information sheet or the study and examination regulations. Upon completion of the programme, your study focus will

be indicated in your final transcript.

Available study focus areas:

- South-East Asian Studies
- Economics
- Sustainability

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| A Diploma supplement will be issued | Yes |
| International elements | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Language training provided• Content-related regional focus• International guest lecturers• Integrated study abroad unit(s)• Specialist literature in other languages• Training in intercultural skills• Study trips• International comparisons and thematic reference to the international context |
| Integrated study abroad unit(s) | If you wish to study abroad, assistance in selecting scholarship programmes as well as consultation and information is offered by the International Office . |
| Integrated internships | There is no formal internship requirement for this degree programme. Nevertheless, we recommend that you go to the effort of completing one or more voluntary internships as you study towards your degree. |
| Course-specific, integrated German language courses | Yes |
| Course-specific, integrated English language courses | Yes |

Costs / Funding

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| Tuition fees per semester in EUR | None |
| Semester contribution | The semester contribution fee is 104 EUR per semester. This covers the student services association and bus pass fees. |
| Costs of living | You should budget a minimum of 934 EUR per month for your living expenses. If you need a visa to come to Germany, this is the amount you must have available to you (e.g. paid into a blocked account) for each month. Nevertheless, your actual cost of living will vary depending on your lifestyle, and so you should treat this figure as an absolute minimum. |
| Funding opportunities within the university | Yes |
| Description of the above-mentioned funding | The International Office awards a small number of scholarships to international degree-seeking students who have been enrolled in a Bachelor's programme for at least two semesters or in a |

Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements

Applicants are required to have a first (Bachelor's or equivalent) university degree in a social science, i.e. economics, anthropology, demography, empirical social or human geography, sociology, political science, administrative science or any other equivalent degree with a minimum of 60 ECTS credits in one or several of these disciplines.

Any past achievements and qualifications gained in "Wirtschaftswissenschaften" (combined business and economics programmes) must be derived specifically from economics ("Volkswirtschaftslehre") modules.

This first degree must have been obtained as part of a programme of study with a minimum standard duration of three years' full-time study.

Out of the 60 ECTS credits referenced above, 10 ECTS credits (or a minimum of 300 hours of coursework) must come from empirical research methods, such as data collection, data analysis, mathematics and/or statistics. A general course in research methods is not enough and does not count in this case.

The final grade of your undergraduate degree should be equivalent to 2.5 or better according to the [German marking scale](#), or you must have ranked among the best 50% of your cohort.

Language requirements

If English is not your first language or the language of instruction for your first degree, you will need to prove that you have adequate English skills by means of a recognised English language test at level B2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

To help you go about your daily life in Germany, it is advantageous to have at least basic German language skills. Therefore, if you have a German language certificate at level A1 CEFR (i.e. beginner's level), you should enclose a certified copy of it when you apply. Do not worry if you do not have basic German skills or cannot provide a certificate, as you will take a free beginner's German language course during the first year of studies in Passau.

Application deadline

The application round starts in early April. As the application deadlines can change on short notice, we ask that you check [our application pages](#) closer to the time for the specific dates (and what documents you need to submit).

Submit application to

Please visit [our application pages](#) for details on how to apply and what documents to submit.

Services

Possibility of finding part-time employment

For international students, a dedicated career adviser is on hand: the "iStudi Coach" will help you with all your questions about finding work or placements in Germany.

Please note that students from non-EU countries must apply for a work permit at the national job centre if they work more than 240 half-days per year. Students from EU member countries do not require a work permit.

Accommodation

The International Office has set up an accommodation service, which assists international students in finding accommodation.

Rooms in the **halls of residence** cost between **270 EUR and 525 EUR per month** and are fully furnished. Kitchen and bathroom facilities are usually shared, although some rooms have en-suite bathroom facilities. However, please note that the demand for the rooms in the student halls is very high, and there is no guarantee that you will be able to rent one.

Luckily, there is a large number of flats and flatshares available on the open housing market. On average, you should expect to pay somewhere in the vicinity of **350 EUR to 550 EUR a month** for these. Landlords usually require a two-month or three-month **deposit** when you move in, which will be returned to you at the end of the rental period, provided you leave your accommodation in good condition.

- [Further details on housing in Passau](#)
- [Accommodation service for international students](#)

Career advisory service

The university provides advice on job hunting, jobs and career-entry positions at German and international companies, here and abroad. These include personal interviews, advice, and training courses on how to apply as well as intercultural and soft skills training.

International students have access to a dedicated career adviser – the "iStudi Coach" – who helps students find internships and apply for student jobs and career-entry positions at German companies. The iStudi Coach also coaches international students on German labour market practices, how to write applications, and so on.

Related links:

- [Future: Careers and Competencies Section](#)
- [iStudi Coach](#)

Support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Welcome event
- Buddy programme
- Accompanying programme
- Tutors
- Specialist counselling
- Cultural and linguistic preparation



©University of Passau

Andrés David Castro Lotero Development Studies Student

This Master's programme helps me to gain a better perspective on the world. I also like the internationality of my fellow students. The professors are very responsive to my enquiries, and I can choose an individual focus for my programme.



Video Introducing the MA Development Studies Programme

Professor Michael Grimm gives an introduction to the degree programme offered by the University of Passau.

» more:
https://youtu.be/_9EybfEFDbl

University of Passau



View of the main entrance of the central library

© University of Passau

The University of Passau

More than 10,500 students from more than 100 countries are currently studying towards their degrees on our bright, modern campus next to the Inn River and a stone's throw from the town centre and the historical Old Town.

The four faculties of the university offer degrees at the undergraduate, Master's and doctoral levels. Currently, five Master's programmes – MSc Artificial Intelligence Engineering, MSc Computational Mathematics, MSc Computer Science, MA Development Studies and MSc International Economics and Business – [can be studied entirely in English](#).

A cosmopolitan university

No other Bavarian university has more of its students spending part of their programme abroad – to study, conduct research or gain work experience – than the University of Passau.

The range and depth of language tuition offered by our [language centre](#) probably has a role to play in this. Another reason is that our programmes are very international in their outlook – and with more than 250 international partner universities to choose from, it is difficult not to be tempted to go abroad for a semester or two or even to complete one of our 20 [double degree programmes](#) offered in cooperation with our global partner universities.

An unparalleled student experience

Passau's students benefit from a good staff-to-student ratio and from studying on an urban campus of manageable size that is located very close to the town centre.

The facilities on campus are of a high standard: There are bright, sunny seminar rooms, lecture theatres equipped with the latest technology, numerous computer rooms, Wi-Fi access exists throughout the campus, and our well-stocked [university library](#) stays open until midnight on most days.

Student satisfaction at the University of Passau is particularly high and our sought-after graduates typically occupy executive posts in business, social, and academic organisations in Germany, Europe, and indeed all over the world.

Student life

Throughout the semester, there are plenty of events of all sorts on campus and around town, often organised by our very active [student societies](#). Our [sports centre](#) has some 40 sports clubs, offering everything from acrobatics to Zumba.



University location

An ideal student town

Passau is situated near the Bavarian Forest at the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz rivers, and it is considered one of the most beautiful cities in Germany. After two fires that destroyed much of the town in the 17th century, the Old Town was rebuilt in the baroque style by Italian master builders, which is why you will notice a distinct Italian flair as you stroll through "Bavarian Venice", another name by which Passau is known.

With students accounting for one-quarter of its population, Passau is very much a student town with many galleries, art studios, bars, cafés, clubs and, of course, beer gardens; naturally, there is a modern multiplex cinema. A shopping centre and the nearby pedestrian zone offer a lot of excellent eateries and shops, just a short five-minute walk from campus.

Passau is home to a number of cultural institutions, such as the theatre and the "Scharfrichterhaus" – a restaurant, cinema and political cabaret/stand-up stage where many of Germany's most popular contemporary comedians started out. Both have productions and acts running throughout the year.

In addition to this, Passau plays host to numerous annual cultural events, including "Europäische Wochen Passau" – a cultural festival which brings international symphonic orchestras, classical ensembles, theatre companies and artists to Passau for about six weeks every year; the Eulenspiegel Festival with predominantly German comedy acts and rock bands; two Oktoberfest-style festivals in spring and autumn; and no list of festivals would be complete without the traditional Christmas Market in front of St. Stephen's Cathedral every December. Incidentally, did you know that St. Stephen's is home to the [world's largest cathedral organ](#)?

Outdoor enthusiasts will be delighted at the many opportunities for hiking, climbing, cycling, and alpine and cross-country skiing in the nearby Bavarian Forest. Additionally, Passau is not far from the Austrian and Bavarian Alps, with their famous skiing areas as well as their mountain biking and hiking trails.

Contact

University of Passau
Academic Advice Service

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🌐 Course website: <https://www.uni-passau.de/en/ma-devstudies/>

📘 <https://www.facebook.com/universitaetpassau>

🐦 <https://twitter.com/unipassau>

🌐 <https://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-passau>

📷 <https://www.instagram.com/universitaet.passau>

📺 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD9RBpW2Uaf0c0dJkGcoD5g>

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Disclaimer

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