

Unofficial reading version

Programme-specific annex for the Master's degree programme Comparative Democracy, 'Master of Arts' (M.Sc.) offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, dated 10 January 2022

Approved by the Presiding Committee on 5 April 2022

On 10 January 2022, the Faculty Council for the Faculty of Social Sciences at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main ratified the following programme-specific annex for the Master's degree programme Comparative Democracy (M.Sc.), based on §§ 25, 50 para. 1, no. 1 of the Higher Education Act of the State of Hesse in the version of 14 December 2021, passed as Article 1 of the Act on the Reorganisation and Amendment of Higher Education Regulations and on the Adaptation of Other Legal Provisions of 14 December 2021 (GVBl. P. 931, in German: Gesetz zur Neuregelung und Änderung hochschulrechtlicher Vorschriften und zur Anpassung weiterer Rechtsvorschriften). This annex was approved by the Presiding Committee of the Goethe University in accordance with § 43 para. 5 of the Higher Education Act of the State of Hesse on 5 April 2022. It is hereby made public.

Table of contents

Part I: General information; programme objectives, commencement of studies and admissions requirements

I.1. General information

- I.1.1 Scope of the programme-specific annex
- I.1.2 Subjects and objectives of the Master's programme; career prospects
- I.2. Admissions criteria, commencement of studies, and programme-specific guidance
 - I.2.1 Admissions criteria
 - I.2.2 Commencement of studies
 - I.2.3 Programme-specific guidance and orientation days

Part II: Structure and organisation of the programme

II.1. Programme structure, modules, and credit points

- II.1.1 Programme structure
- II.1.2 Allocation of credit points (CP)
- II.1.3 Study abroad
- II.1.4 Practice modules

II.2. Regulations for programme-specific modes of study and teaching, assessments, and modes of assessment

- II.2.1 Programme-specific regulations concerning modes of study and teaching

II.2.2 Programme-specific regulations concerning assessment and modes of assessment

Part III: Admission to and procedure of examination and assessment; Master's examination; overall grade

III.1 Admission to Master's examination; registration for the Master's thesis

III.2 Master's Thesis

III.3 Calculation of the overall grade

Part IV: Closing provisions

IV.1 Entry into force

Appendix 1: Module description

Appendix 2: Example study schedule

Part I: General information; programme objectives, commencement of studies and admissions requirements

I.1. General information

I.1.1 Scope of the programme-specific annex

This programme-specific annex contains the programme-specific regulations for the Master's degree programme Comparative Democracy. It takes effect in conjunction with the Regulations for the Master's degree programmes offered by the Faculty of Social Sciences (RO-MA-FB03, in effect from 10 January 2022) and with the Framework Regulations for tiered and modularised degree programmes offered by the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main (hereafter 'Goethe University') (in German: "Rahmenordnung", hereafter referred to as RO-GU), in effect from 30 April 2014 and as amended in the version dated 15 July 2020, published in "UniReport Satzungen und Ordnungen" dated 22 December 2020 and as amended from time to time.

I.1.2 Subjects and objectives of the Master's programme; career prospects

(1) The MA Comparative Democracy is a research-oriented programme with four primary goals:

1. for students to gain a broad understanding of the conceptual, behavioural, institutional, and structural foundations of modern democracy, taking into account various contextual preconditions and challenges;
2. to provide students with the theoretical, analytical, and methodological skills necessary to effectively carry out empirical research into issues of contemporary democracy;
3. to prepare students for a successful career in academic research or in research-oriented positions in governmental or non-governmental organisations;
4. to introduce students to the field of academic research, and to collaboration in an international environment.

(2) Graduates will enhance their competencies in preparation for future occupation in a wide range of professional sectors that require a solid academic education with specialisation in the field of comparative democracy. The programme trains graduates preparatory to employment in various areas of research of the highest international standard. This includes the university sector, but also research departments in private-sector and public institutions outside higher education, as well as government agencies and representative bodies. The Master's degree programme can also potentially serve as preparation for a subsequent doctorate.

I.2. Admissions criteria, commencement of studies, and programme-specific guidance

I.2.1 Admissions criteria

(1) Admission to the Master's degree programme is conditional on having the following:

- a) a Bachelor's degree in politics or a comparable degree in an area of social sciences with an equivalent standard period of study, or
- b) an equivalent degree from a German university or a German university of applied sciences in the same subject or a related discipline with a standard period of study of at least six semesters, or at least 180 credit points (CP).
- c) an equivalent degree from a foreign institution in the same subject or a related discipline with a standard period of study of at least six semesters, or at least 180 credit points (CP).

In particular, the candidate must still be entitled to take the examination in the Master's programme in question; for example, they may not have definitely failed the examination in the Master's programme in question or an examination in a programme or course that covers a closely related subject. This must be evidenced by statements pursuant to § 22, para. 1 RO-MA-FB03. § 22, para. 2 RO-MA-FB03 applies.

(2) Admission may be granted in the cases 1 b) and/or c) above under the condition of additional academic achievements and module assessments from the Bachelor's programme worth up to 30 credit points (CP). Basic knowledge of statistics and methodological approaches in social sciences are recommended and may, where appropriate, be included in the documentation to be submitted. These achievements are not included in the Master's examination. Failure to submit the required documentation before the deadline set by the Examination Committee will result in the recall of admission to the Master's examination.

(3) As the Master's programme Comparative Democracy is an English language programme, candidates must have a very good command of the English language to the level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (Gemeinsamer europäischer Referenzrahmen für Sprachen). This is to be substantiated by submitting the following documentation:

- a) a stage 3 UNiCert-certificate or
- b) a TOEFL test (with a minimum score of 95 if taken online) or
- c) International English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum grade of 7.0 or
- d) Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) (10-990 points) with a minimum of 945 points or
- e) some other certification deemed by the Examination Committee to hold equivalent value.

(4) DSH examination certification is not required. Candidates are, however, strongly advised to ensure they hold knowledge of the German language to the level of DSH-1. To this end, students can avail themselves of the courses offered by the Goethe University.

(5) If the candidate has not yet received the final results of the Bachelor's degree programme at the time of application to the Master's degree programme, the application may instead be supported by proof of enrolment and a special statement of reference. The latter must be produced by the office responsible for providing the official final marks and transcripts at the institute of higher education where the Bachelor's degree has been undertaken; it must indicate a record of performance in completed assessments and examinations that count for at least 80% of the CP required for the Bachelor's degree, and must contain a provisional average grade calculated from this record of performance and in accordance with the applicable study regulations. The application process will proceed under the assumption of this provisional average grade, provided no final grade is available before completion of the process. Admission to the programme granted on the basis of this special statement of reference will proceed conditional to the prompt delivery of the final results of the Bachelor's programme immediately once they are obtained, at the latest at the end of the first semester. Should these results not be submitted within this time limit, both the offered place on the programme and enrolment will be rescinded.

(6) The Examination Committee retains ultimate authority in deciding matters relating to the admission requirements and, where applicable, the provisional admission granted in the case of para. 5. An Admissions Committee may be appointed to carry out such affairs.

(7) The requirements for admission to the Master's examination are outlined in § 22 of the Framework Regulations (RO) for Master's Degree Programmes of the Faculty of Social Sciences (hereafter referred to as FB 03).

(8) Admission to the Master's degree programme Comparative Democracy is limited. Allocation of spaces on the programme is carried out in accordance with the regulations on the allocation of places in higher education of the state of Hesse. The Examination Committee is responsible for carrying out these allocation procedures. The Examination Committee may delegate such tasks to an Admissions Committee, whose members are to be determined by the Examination Committee.

I.2.2 Commencement of studies

Studies in this programme may only be commenced in the winter semester.

I.2.3 Programme-specific guidance and orientation days

The general regulations regarding programme-specific guidance and orientation days as outlined in § 17 of the Framework Regulations (RO) for Master's Degree Programmes of the FB 03 apply.

Part II: Structure and organisation of the programme

II.1. Programme structure, modules, and credit points

II.1.1 Programme structure

(1) The Master's degree programme Comparative Democracy is structured as a modular programme. The programme is divided into nine compulsory modules and is typically completed over the course of 4 semesters. Modules A through C serve to develop foundational skills and a uniform standard of general knowledge among students. Modules D1 through D3 are dedicated to three key themes and to research practices in comparative democracy. Modules E1 and E2 form the practical phase of study. The practice module E1 offers students the chance to gain work experience in a field of their choice, while the practice module E2 offers students the chance to experience and participate in research projects in a professional, research-oriented area, either in an academic or a non-academic context. The programme is structured as follows:

Module	Compulsory (PF, <i>Pflichtfach</i> *) or Compulsory Elective (WP, <i>Wahlpflichtfach</i> *)	Credit Points	Comments
Module A: Introduction to Comparative Democracy	PF	8	This module introduces students to the seminal intellectual and historical developments on the topic of democratic government.
Module B: Concepts of Democracy – Past, present, future	PF	11	This module focuses on normative and empirical concepts of democracy.
Module C: Designing Democracy Research	PF	11	This module introduces students to the methodological approaches to research in comparative democracy.
Module D1: Citizens: Perceptions, Preferences, & Behaviour	PF	11	This module introduces students to research on the social preconditions for democracy and on the “inputs” of policymaking.
Module D2: Interest Aggregation and Representation	PF	11	This module examines interest aggregation and representation in the context of a democratic system.
Module D3: Public Policy-Making	PF	11	This module examines the “outputs” of democratic systems.
Module E1: Practicing research on democracy: Internship (work experience)	PF	11	This module aims to offer students the chance for professional development and to further their practical education.
Module E2: Practicing research on democracy: Research seminar (research internship)	PF	14	Students will learn advanced practical research skills in the planning, conception, and execution of a relevant research project.

Module F: Colloquium, Thesis, and Defence	PF	32	The last module is comprised of participation in a colloquium, the Master's Thesis, and the defence thereof.
--	----	----	--

Details of the module structures as well as subjects, assessments, and descriptions of the modules can be found in Appendix 1.

(2) All modules - with the exception of the work experience module E1 - are formally assessed, and the results of these assessments are included in the calculation of a final overall grade. The module assessment may consist of either a single assessment or examination concluding the entire module, or may be taken cumulatively as the results of multiple assessments and/or examinations undertaken as part of the module. Further information can be found in the module descriptions in Appendix 1. Module Assessments may take any of the forms of assessment outlined in §§ 31 through 36 of the Framework Regulations (RO) for Master's Degree Programmes of the FB 03.

(3) The annotated course catalogue (online) contains information regarding which lectures, seminars, and classes within a given module must be attended. Individual lectures, seminars, or other classes may be relevant to multiple different areas of study and may therefore appear in multiple different programmes. Credit points gained in attending such lectures, seminars or classes only count once, towards one module.

(4) The language of instruction and assessment is English. Further information can be found in the module description.

II.1.2 Allocation of credit points (CP)

(1) As outlined in § 4 of the Framework Regulations (RO) for Master's Degree Programmes of the FB 03, students must undertake and complete a total of 120 CP for the Master's programme Comparative Democracy (if undertaken in the standard period of study of 4 semesters). 95 CP of this consist of compulsory modules and 25 CP come from the Master's Thesis.

II.1.3 Study abroad

(1) It is recommended that students undertake at least one semester at a university abroad in the course of their Master's and to plan for an equivalent period staying abroad. Students may utilise the Goethe University's international network with universities abroad to make such arrangements; information is available from the programme-specific guidance and in the departments "faculty management" and "study and teaching management" of the FB 03.

(2) If the student wishes to undertake a period of study abroad, it is recommended that they do so in their second semester of study.

II.1.4 Practice modules

(1) The Master's degree programme Comparative Democracy contains an internal practice module in the form of a research project in module E2. Further information can be found in the module description.

(2) The Master's degree programme Comparative Democracy also contains an external practice module in module E1. Further information can be found in the module description.

(3) Students are expected to independently apply for and obtain a placement to fulfil their work experience module (E1). Students will have support and advice from the designated work experience manager (module manager) or programme-specific guidance in their search for a suitable placement as well as throughout their entire work experience.

II.2. Regulations for programme-specific modes of study and teaching, assessments, and modes of assessment

II.2.1 Programme-specific regulations concerning modes of study and teaching

Modes of study and teaching for the Master's degree programme Comparative Democracy are regulated in accordance with the provisions outlined in § 14 of the Framework Regulations (RO) for Master's Degree Programmes of the FB 03.

II.2.2 Programme-specific regulations concerning assessment and modes of assessment

Modes of assessment for the Master's degree programme Comparative Democracy are regulated in accordance with the provisions outlined in § 31-37 of the Framework Regulations (RO) for Master's Degree Programmes of the FB 03.

Part III: Admission to and procedure of examination and assessment; Master's examination; overall grade

III.1 Admission to Master's examination; registration for the Master's thesis

Admission to the Master's examination is conditional on provision of the declarations and documentation outlined in § 22 Framework Regulations (RO) for Master's Degree Programmes of the Faculty 03.

III.2 Master's Thesis

(1) The Master's thesis (25 CP) is a compulsory element of the Master's degree programme and part of the module F. The Master's thesis should be about 20,000 words in length and must be completed independently within a 5-month timeframe. The topic of the thesis is to be chosen by the student and approved by their supervisor.

(2) Admission to the Master's thesis is conditional on the successful completion of modules A and C. In line with the regulations set forth in §38 of the Framework Regulations (RO) for Master's Degree Programmes of the FB 03, students must have completed 56 CP worth of studies.

(3) The regulations regarding the Master's thesis found in § 38 of the Framework Regulations (RO) for Master's Degree Programmes of the FB 03 apply.

III.3 Calculation of the overall grade

(1) The final overall grade for the Master's examination is a composite grade calculated as an average from modules A, B, C, D1, D2, D3, E2 (all weighted singly) and module F (weighted triple).

(2) The regulations found in § 39 of the Framework Regulations (RO) for Master's Degree Programmes of the Faculty FB apply.

Part IV: Closing provisions

IV.1 Entry into force

This programme-specific annex comes into force the day after its publication in the UniReport Satzung und Ordnungen of the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University Frankfurt am Main.

Frankfurt am Main, 6 April 2022
Professor Dr Brigitte Geißel
Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences

Appendix 1: Module description

Translator's Note: To avoid confusion between the German and English language versions, the following abbreviations have been kept from the German version:

S = Seminar = seminar

SWS = Semester-Wochenstunden = lessons per week in a given semester

KMP = kumulative Modulprüfung = cumulative module assessment/examination

MA = Master = Master's

F P = Forschungspraktikum = research internship

P = Praktikum = work experience

AG = Arbeitsgruppe = working group

Module A CD-MA-A	Introduction to Comparative Democracy	Compulsory module	8 CP = 240h	
			Contact hours	30 h
			Independent study	210 h
Module allocation (Degree programme/Faculty)		MA Comparative Democracy, Faculty of Social Sciences		
Module transferrable to other courses		no		
Content				
Master's level introduction to research in comparative democracy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and overview of course content for the degree MA Comparative Democracy • Historical and intellectual development of democracies • Democracy and autocracy as political systems • Variations in different forms of democracy, and the roots and consequences thereof • Paradigms of political science, key approaches and debates in the field, subject history 				
Learning outcomes and skills				
Students will gain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the various epistemological paradigms and historical schools of thought in political sciences; • The capacity to compare and critically analyse different paradigms of political science, and to contextualise, compare and critically reflect on the various approaches such paradigms gave rise to; • The tools to critically reflect on systematic, normative, and methodological problems in the field of political sciences; • The capacity to contextualise academic and scholarly literature within the broader field of political sciences with respect to theoretical and methodological approaches; • A comprehensive and systematic understanding of democracy, its various types, the differences between democracy and autocracy, and the pivotal elements of democratic governance. Students will gain the ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise and analyse competing theoretical approaches and their meaning; • Critically analyse complex scientific/academic (English-language) texts; • Independently establish connections between and cross-referencing concepts among texts, and situate these in their scientific/academic and social contexts; • Identify, recognise, and describe key elements of both democracy and autocracy, and analyse their foundations and consequences 				
Admissions requirements/ Notes on module allocation				
Conditions for participation in the module/notes for module allocation:		Participants must attend the class "Introduction to Comparative Democracy"		
Recommended prior knowledge:		none		
Module delivery				
Language of teaching and instruction		English		
duration		1 semester		

	Module offered	every winter semester								
Course requirements for credits										
	Participation record	Regular and active participation								
	Coursework	none								
Module assessment										
	Final module assessment	120-minute written examination in class after completion of the seminar								
Class overview										
	Classes	Mode of teaching/study	SWS	CP	Semester					
					1	2	3	4	5	6
	Introduction to Comparative Democracy	S	2	3	X					
	Module assessment	MP	-	5	X					

Module B CD-MA-B	Concepts of Democracy - Past, present, future	Compulsory module	11 CP = 330h							
			Contact hours			60 h				
			Independent study			270 h				
Module allocation (Degree programme/Faculty)		MA Comparative Democracy, Faculty of Social Sciences								
Module transferrable to other courses		no								
Content										
Attendance of 2 classes in the area "Concepts of Democracy – Past, present, future"										
Learning outcomes and skills										
<p>Students will deepen their understanding relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A variety of normative and empirical concepts in democracy • Analysis of the key actors and institutions involved in the process of political determination and decision-making in a variety of different models of democracy • The categorisation and evaluation of various concepts of democracy in their respective historical and contextual circumstances • The different processes of change and transformation found in democracy and within democratic concepts, as well as how such things occur in non-democratic or hybrid forms of government • Discourse examining future-oriented models of democracy and democratic innovation <p>Students will gain the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically examine, analyse, and formulate responses to scientific texts • Independently establish connections between and cross-reference concepts among texts, and situate these in their scientific and social contexts; • Understand and critically analyse complex academic texts • Practice a variety of forms of work in political science • Independently compose presentations of research results • Independently research information, structure and elaborate, and then present it 										
Admissions requirements/ Notes on module allocation										
Conditions for participation in the module/notes for module allocation:		none								
Recommended prior knowledge:		none								
Module delivery										
Language of teaching and instruction		English								
Duration		1-2 semester								
Module offered		every semester								
Course requirements for credits										
Participation record		Regular and active participation in all seminars								
Coursework		none								
Module assessment										
Final module assessment		120-minute written examination in class or longer written assessment (150 hours) in connection with one of the seminars								
Class overview										
Classes	Mode of teaching/study	SWS	CP	Semester						
				1	2	3	4	5	6	
	Seminar	S	2	3	X					
	Seminar	S	2	3	X					
Module assessment	MP	-	5	X						

Module C CD-MA-C	Designing Democracy Research	Compulsory module	11 CP = 330h							
			Contact hours			60 h				
			Independent study			270 h				
Module allocation (Degree programme/Faculty)		MA Comparative Democracy, Faculty of Social Sciences								
Module transferrable to other courses		no								
Content										
Attendance of 2 seminars in the area of "Research Design" (one with a focus on qualitative and one on quantitative designs)										
Learning outcomes and skills										
<p>Students will deepen their knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key components of qualitative and quantitative research design The traditions of methodology in research on democracy Insights into the conditionality of design, theory, and empirical findings Qualifications towards a methodologically informed research practice An overview of the state and nature of methodological debate. <p>Students will gain the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critically examine, analyse, and formulate responses to texts focused on research design; Independently establish connections between and cross-reference concepts among methodological texts; Independently describe and apply various forms of research design; Understand complex methodological texts (including foreign language ones) and apply their concepts to their own work; Identify and communicate their own research designs decisions and hypotheses, as well as their strengths and weaknesses; Independently put together presentations on methodological skills (as might come up, for example, in seminar talks or a written module assessment) 										
Admissions requirements/ Notes on module allocation										
Conditions for participation in the module/notes for module allocation:		none								
Recommended prior knowledge:		none								
Module delivery										
Language of teaching and instruction		English								
Duration		1-2 semester								
Module offered		annually (both seminars)								
Course requirements for credits										
Participation record		Regular and active participation in all seminars								
Coursework		none								
Module assessment										
Cumulative module assessment (incl. weighting of grades achieved)		Two partial module assessments following on from the seminars in the form of a written exam (60 minutes). Both assessments count equally towards the final module grade. Students must score at least a passing grade in each of these two assessments in order to pass the module.								
Class overview										
Classes		Mode of teaching/study	SWS	CP	Semester					
					1	2	3	4	5	6
Seminar on qualitative research design		S	2	3	X					
Assessment following on from the seminar on qualitative research design (50% of the final grade)		KMP I		2,5	X					
Seminar on quantitative research design		S	2	3	X					
Assessment following on from the seminar on quantitative research design (50% of the final grade)		KMP II	-	2,5	X					

Module D1 CD-MA-D1	Citizens: Perceptions, Preferences, & Behaviour	Compulsory module	11 CP = 330h							
			Contact hours				60 h			
			Independent study				270 h			
Module allocation (Degree programme/Faculty)		MA Comparative Democracy, Faculty of Social Sciences								
Module transferrable to other courses		no								
Content										
Attendance of 2 seminars in the area "D1 - Citizens: Perceptions, Preferences, & Behaviour"										
Learning outcomes and skills										
<p>Students will broaden and deepen their understanding of various different aspects of political sociology and political behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broad overview of the various aspects of "citizens and democracy" • Students will explore a variety of different theoretical and empirical perspectives on citizens' perceptions, preferences, and behaviour. • Students will learn to independently formulate and present research contributions to the discipline^[1] <p>Students will gain the ability to and/or deepen their skills in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing, reproducing, and critically reflecting on debates in contemporary political sociology • Identify and apply their methodological knowledge to the field of political sociology • Critically examine, analyse, and formulate responses to academic texts • Independently establish connections between and cross-reference concepts among texts, and situate these in their scientific and social contexts; • Practice a variety of forms of work in political science • Independently put together presentations on research results (as might come up, for example, in a presentation or a written module assessment) • Independently research information and then structure and present it 										
Admissions requirements/ Notes on module allocation										
Conditions for participation in the module/notes for module allocation:		none								
Recommended prior knowledge:		Modules A and C to have been previously completed.								
Module delivery										
Language of teaching and instruction		English								
Duration		1-2 semester								
Module offered		every semester								
Course requirements for credits										
Participation record		Regular and active participation in all seminars								
Coursework		none								
Module assessment										
Final module assessment		120-minute written examination in class or longer written assessment (150 hours) following on from one of the seminars								
Class overview										
Classes		Mode of teaching/study	SWS	CP	Semester					
					1	2	3	4	5	6
Seminar		S	2	3		X				
Seminar		S	2	3		X				
Modul assessment		MP	-	5		X				

Module D2 CD-MA-D2	Interest Aggregation and Representation	Compulsory module	11 CP = 330h							
			Contact hours				60 h			
			Independent study				270 h			
Module allocation (Degree programme/Faculty)			MA Comparative Democracy, Faculty of Social Sciences							
Module transferrable to other courses			no							
Content										
Attendance of 2 classes in the area "D2 - Interest Aggregation and Representation"										
Learning outcomes and skills										
<p>Students will gain an overview over various different forms of representation and interest aggregation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will deepen their understanding of topics relating to representation, interest aggregation, and interest-based negotiation. • Students will gain specialised knowledge and methodological skills relevant and applicable to the topics of representation, interest aggregation, and interest-based negotiation. • A broad overview of the various aspects of representation, interest articulation, and interest-based negotiation. • Students will explore a variety of different theoretical and empirical perspectives on representation, interest articulation, and interest-based negotiation. • Students will learn to independently formulate and present research contributions to the discipline. <p>Students will increase their skills in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critically examining, analysing, and formulating responses to academic texts • Independently establishing connections between and cross-referencing concepts among texts, and situating these in their scientific and social contexts; • Independently identifying and applying different methodological approaches • Understanding and critically analysing complex academic texts (including foreign language ones); • Practicing a variety of forms of work in political science; • Independently putting together presentations on research results (as might come up, for example, in a topic presentation or a written module assessment); • Independently researching information and then formulating and presenting it. 										
Admissions requirements/ Notes on module allocation										
Conditions for participation in the module/notes for module allocation:			none							
Recommended prior knowledge:			Modules A and C to have been previously completed.							
Module delivery										
Language of teaching and instruction			English							
Duration			1-2 semester							
Module offered			every semester							
Course requirements for credits										
Participation record			Regular and active participation in all seminars							
Coursework			none							
Module assessment										
Final module assessment			120-minute written examination in class or longer written assessment (completed in 150 hours) following on from one of the seminars							
Class overview										
Classes		Mode of teaching/study	SWS	CP	Semester					
					1	2	3	4	5	6
Seminar		S	2	3		X				
Seminar		S	2	3		X				
Module assessment		MP	-	5		X				

Module D3 CD-MA-D3	Public Policy-Making	Compulsory module	11 CP = 330h							
			Contact hours			60 h				
			Independent study			270 h				
Module allocation (Degree programme/Faculty)		MA Comparative Democracy, Faculty of Social Sciences								
Module transferrable to other courses		no								
Content										
Attendance of 2 classes in the area "D3 - Public Policy-Making"										
Learning outcomes and skills										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will deepen their understanding of topics relating to public policy-making <p>Students will extend their skills and gain new skills in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying, describing, and analysing various different kind of public policies; Analysing policy processes, their root causes, and their consequences Critically examining, analysing, and formulating responses to academic texts Independently establishing connections between and cross-referencing concepts among texts, and situating these in their scientific and social contexts; Independently identifying and applying different methodological approaches Understanding and critically analysing complex (English-language) academic texts; Practicing a variety of forms of work in political science Independently putting together presentations on research results (as might come up, for example, in a topic presentation or a written module assessment) Independently researching information and then formulating and presenting it 										
Admissions requirements/ Notes on module allocation										
Conditions for participation in the module/notes for module allocation:		none								
Recommended prior knowledge:		Modules A and C to have been previously completed.								
Module delivery										
Language of teaching and instruction		English								
Duration		1-2 semester								
Module offered		every semester								
Course requirements for credits										
Participation record		Regular and active participation in all seminars								
Coursework		none								
Module assessment										
Final module assessment		120-minute examination or essay/written assessment (completed in 150 hours) following on from one of the seminars								
Class overview										
Classes		Mode of teaching/study	SWS	CP	Semester					
					1	2	3	4	5	6
Seminar		S	2	3		X				
Seminar		S	2	3		X				
Module assessment		MP	-	5		X				

Module E1 CD-MA-E1	Practicing research on democracy: Internship (work experience)	Compulsory module	11 CP = 330h						
			Contact hours			14 h			
			Independent study			316 h			
Module allocation (Degree programme/Faculty)		MA Comparative Democracy, Faculty of Social Sciences							
Module transferrable to other courses		no							
Content									
<p>Students will gain insights into the procedures and organisations of the institution where they have their internship, and will actively contribute to the work carried out by the institution. This internship is to be undertaken in an institution involved in work relevant (in the broadest sense) to politics and policy processes, such as a public body, association, non-governmental organisation, private sector businesses etc. Students are expected to find a suitable work placement for themselves; teachers and administration are available to provide support to students in their efforts to find such a placement. Students may carry out their internship either alongside their studies or in their holidays, in either part-time or full-time working patterns.</p>									
Learning outcomes and skills									
<p>Students have an opportunity to apply and put the knowledge and skills they have gained in the course of their studies to the test in a professional setting. They also have a chance to familiarise themselves with areas of potential future occupation and gain new skills and abilities relevant to professional practice in their field.</p> <p>Students will learn to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply and deepen their understanding of the knowledge and skills gained in the course of their academic studies in a professional practice setting; • Analyse the processes and organisation of the institution where they carry out their work experience; • Critically reflect on the conditions under which the subjects and methodologies they have learned about in their studies are applied in a professional context. 									
Admissions requirements/ Notes on module allocation									
Conditions for participation in the module/notes for module allocation:		The experience gained in the course of students' work experience is incorporated into their academic study through "Studenttage" (AG) — "study days (working groups)".							
Recommended prior knowledge:		none							
Module delivery									
Language of teaching and instruction		Not specified							
Duration		330 hours							
Module offered		every semester							
Course requirements for credits									
Participation record		Written confirmation from the institution where the internship was carried out indicating successful completion of 300 hours (8 weeks in full-time hours) of work							
Coursework		Coursework to be prepared as part of the "study day", such as, for example, a presentation poster or a reflective report.							
Module assessment									
Final module assessment		none							
Class overview									
Classes	Mode of teaching/study	SWS	CP	Semester					
				1	2	3	4	5	6
				Work experience	P	-	10	X	
Study day	AG	1	1	X					

Module E2 CD-MA-E2	Practicing research on democracy: Research seminar (research internship)	Compulsory module	14 CP = 420 h							
			Contact hours	60 h						
			Independent study	360 h						
Module allocation (Degree programme/Faculty)		MA Comparative Democracy, Faculty of Social Sciences								
Module transferrable to other courses		no								
Content										
This research internship relates to the topics of comparative democracy research.										
Learning outcomes and skills										
<p>Students will gain knowledge and understanding relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent and didactic selection and application of methodologies in empirical democracy research; Autonomous formulation of research questions in democracy research; The conversion of research questions into practicable research designs; Deepening their empirical knowledge and skills in a field of their choosing. <p>Students will acquire capabilities in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working as part of a team to answer research questions in the fields of political science and democracy on an advanced level; Independently developing research projects (complete with research design and research question) within a fixed time frame, and carrying out the project collaboratively in a group Working at an advanced level towards the formulation of research questions in political science and democracy research; Selecting and executing a methodology suitable for the research design in question; Recognising the significance of various different methodological paradigms for application to their own research projects; Presenting and defending their own research projects; Strengthening their abilities to work in a team through working collaboratively towards scientific outputs; Independent exploration of sources of information in the context of international research and critical examination of such sources. 										
Admissions requirements/ Notes on module allocation										
Conditions for participation in the module/notes for module allocation:		none								
Recommended prior knowledge:		Modules A , B, C, and D to have been previously completed.								
Module delivery										
Language of teaching and instruction		English								
Duration		1-2 semester								
Module offered		every semester								
Course requirements for credits										
Participation record		Regular and active participation in the research internship								
Coursework		none								
Module assessment										
Final module assessment		An empirical research report (typically 30-50 pages; to be completed in 240 hours)								
Class overview										
Classes	Mode of teaching/study	SWS	CP	Semester						
				1	2	3	4	5	6	
				Research internship	FP	4	6			X
Modul assessment	MP	-	8			X				

Module F CD-MA-F	Colloquium, thesis, and defense	Compulsory module	32 CP = 960 h									
			Contact hours	30 h								
			Independent study	960 h								
Module allocation (Degree programme/Faculty)		MA Comparative Democracy, Faculty of Social Sciences										
Module transferrable to other courses		no										
Content												
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are to produce a Master's thesis on a topic of their own choosing. Students will carry out a presentation, discussion, and reflection on their own research project in a colloquium, to take place either before or while they are completing their Master's thesis, and will undertake a defence of their thesis following its completion. 												
Learning outcomes and skills												
<p>Students will be called upon to prove their capacity to formulate, represent, and respond to critical arguments and assessments of a comprehensive research project of their own design. The Master's thesis is typically empirical-analytical in design.</p> <p>Students will acquire capabilities in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of a comprehensive scientific research question (relating to democracy research) on the basis of a complex research design formulated by the student themselves; The formulation, accurate representation, and ability to respond to critical arguments in a limited amount of time; Independent exploration and utilisation of information sources and resources; Carrying out and reflecting on all stages of a complex process of research; The oral presentation and defence of their own research results. 												
Admissions requirements/ Notes on module allocation												
Conditions for participation in the module/notes for module allocation:		Students must show evidence of completion of 56 CP, 19 CP of which must come from modules A and C. This means that modules A and C must have been completed.										
Recommended prior knowledge:		none										
Module delivery												
Language of teaching and instruction		English										
Duration		2 semester										
Module offered		every semester										
Course requirements for credits												
Participation record		Regular and active participation in the colloquium										
Coursework		none										
Module assessment												
Final module assessment		<p>The Master's thesis, about 20,000 words in length and to be completed within a timeframe of 5 months (weighted 4-fold).</p> <p>Oral assessment (defence) of the Master's thesis (30 minutes, weighted singly).</p>										
Class overview												
Classes	Mode of teaching/study	SWS	CP	Semester								
				1	2	3	4	5	6			
				Colloquium	K	2	3			X		
				Master's thesis	MA	-	26			X		
Oral defence	MP	-	3			X						

Appendix 2: Example study schedule

The following are two example study schedules. There are also many other possible variations that students may select for themselves.

Example 1:

Semester	Module	SWS	CP	Total CP per semester
1	Module A: Introduction to Comparative Democracy (seminar and final module assessment)	2	3 + 5	32.5
	A seminar from Module B: Concepts of Democracy: Past, present, future (one seminar)	2	3	
	A seminar from Module C: Research Design and Methods in Researching Democracy ^{SEP} (one seminar and the first partial assessment)	2	3 + 2.5	
	Module D1: Citizens: Perceptions, Preferences, & Behaviour (one seminar and final module assessment)	2	3 + 5	
	Module D2: Interest Aggregation and Representation (one seminar and final module assessment)	2	3 + 5	
2	A seminar from Module B: Concepts of Democracy: Past, present, future (one seminar and final module assessment)	2	3 + 5	30.5
	A seminar from Module C: Research Design and Methods in Researching Democracy ^{SEP} (one seminar)	2	3 + 2.5	
	Module D1: Citizens: Perceptions, Preferences, & Behaviour (one seminar)	2	3	
	Module D2: Interest Aggregation and Representation (one seminar)	2	3	
	Module D3: Public policy (two seminars, one of which includes the final module assessment)	4	3 + 3 + 5	
3	Module E1: Work experience with "study day"	330 hours	11	28
	Module E2: Research internship	4	6 + 8	
	Module F: Colloquium	2	3	
4	Module F: Master's thesis	-	26	29
	Module F: Defence	-	3	
Total				120

Example 2: If the student chooses to study abroad, it is recommended that they do so in the second semester. A list of partner universities can be found on the webpage for the specific degree programme.

Semester	Module	SWS	CP	Total CP per semester
1	Module A: Introduction to Comparative Democracy (seminar and final module assessment)	2	3 + 5	30
	Module B: Concepts of Democracy: Past, present, future (two seminars, one of which includes the final module assessment)	4	3 + 3 + 5	
	Module C: Research Design and Methods in Researching Democracy (two seminars with a cumulative final module assessment)	4	3 + 3 + 5	
2	Module D1: Citizens: Perceptions, Preferences, & Behaviour (two seminars, one of which includes the final module assessment)	4	3 + 3 + 5	33
	Module D2: Interest Aggregation and Representation (two seminars, one of which includes the final module assessment)	4	3 + 3 + 5	
	Module D3: Public policy (two seminars, one of which includes the final module assessment)	4	3 + 3 + 5	
3	Module E1: Work experience with "study day"	330 hours	11	25
	Module E2: Research internship	4	6 + 8	
4	Module F: Colloquium	2	3	32
	Module F: Master's thesis	-	26	
	Module F: Defence	-	3	
Total				120