REQUIREMENTS & APPLICATION

You should have a strong interest in the theoretical and empirical study of comparative politics and a willingness to engage in self-organized learning.

All information on the application procedure, deadlines and formal requirements, the documents to be submitted and the link to the application portal (Uni-Assist) can be found here:

FURTHER QUESTIONS?

More Information about the Study Program ’Comparative Democracy M.A.’

Please feel free to contact our student counselling service at:

studienfachberatung.fb03@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

Or just drop by! You can find the office hours and further information here:

A service of the Department of Social Sciences at Goethe University. As of February 2023. For up-to-date information, please visit the websites linked via QR code. Picture credits: Outside f.l.t.r.: Cover photo: Pixabay, CC0; Uwe Dettmar, Goethe-Universität; Uwe Dettmar, Goethe-Universität; (c) Kyle Glenn; (c) Kristin Langholz.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

Module A: Introduction to Comparative Democracy: History, Approaches, and Debates

Module B: Concepts of Democracy – Past, Present, Future

Module C: Designing Democracy Research

Module D1: Citizens: Perceptions, Preferences, & Behavior

Module D2: Interest Aggregation & Representation

Module D3: Public Policy-Making

Module E1: Practicing Research on Democracy: Internship

Module E2: Practicing research on Democracy: Research Seminar

Module F: Colloquium, Thesis, and Defense

QUICK OVERVIEW

Degree Master of Arts
Duration 4 Semesters
Start Only Winter Semester
Restricted Admission Yes
The degree program aims at four main goals: to teach theoretical, analytical, methodological and empirical skills in a pluralistic and structured manner. The degree program aims to further an active and creative learning environment that helps students to develop an open minded and critical approach to academic learning and democracy as the program’s main subject. The introductory phase of the program (Modules A, B, C) provide you with a broad Master-level introduction to the study of comparative democracy. It equips you with the theoretical, methodological, and practical skills to analyze politics and lays the foundation for your entire study program. We strive to facilitate close contact between you and your teachers in order to closely supervise your academic development during this phase of your studies.

The three mandatory modules D1, D2, D3 are designed to equip you with a broad Master-level introduction to the study of comparative democracy. It equips you with the theoretical, methodological, and practical skills to analyze politics and lays the foundation for your entire study program. The curriculum of the Master program evolves on the basis of nine intertwined modules. With these modules, the program aims to advance cumulative learning. Furthermore, it aims to blend training in basic research skills with problem-oriented perspectives on the issue of democratic governance. With its problem-oriented approach the program aims to further an active and creative learning environment described above.

Gaining practical experience in an internship

With module E1: “Internship” we enable you to gain first insights into later professional fields. The internship can be completed e.g. in public institutions, associations, non-governmental organizations or private companies - also abroad. In order to share your experiences with your fellow students, the internship concludes with a study day. Here you have the opportunity to talk about your experiences and possible career prospects.

Independent research through research internship

A special feature of the Master Comparative Democracy is the integration of research-based learning in Module E2: „Practicing Research on Democracy: Research Seminar“. Here you learn to apply methods of empirical social research in practice under professional guidance, to make independent decisions in developing your own research design and to present and defend your results appropriately.

Innernationally connected

The Master programme Comparative Democracy is - like political science in general - internationally oriented. We offer a large number of courses in English and you have the opportunity to spend a semester abroad at one of the faculty’s more than 80 partner universities worldwide. Therefore you can take advantage of the extensive Erasmus+ programme offered by the Department of International Relations at the Faculty of Social Sciences as well as numerous university-wide exchange opportunities of Goethe University. It is also possible to do the internship module abroad. The department offers a flexible recognition procedure with the so-called „application for prior recognition of academic achievements taken abroad“ as well as study counselling.

PERSPECTIVES

Based on the professional qualifications and competencies acquired in your studies, a wide range of occupational fields are open to you. As this MA-program is research-oriented, you will be equipped with all necessary skills to pursue an academic career or research-focused career in non-academic contexts. Additional occupational fields could be

• Offices and authorities,
• associations and foundations,
• press and public relations,
• ministries or political consulting.

Following the master programme, a PhD is also possible.