

**Note:**

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**Complete version from 1 October 2019**

Curriculum for the

**Master's Programme Political Science: European and International Studies**  
at the School of Political Science and Sociology University of Innsbruck**Table of Contents**

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## **§ 1 Categorisation of programme**

According to §54 para. 1 of the Universities Act of 2002, the Master's Programme Political Science: European and International Studies at the University of Innsbruck is grouped among the social and economic sciences.

## **§ 2 Qualification profile**

- (1) Graduates of the master's programme are proficient in the theories, methods and instruments of the social sciences and are able to conduct social scientific investigations of political organizations, institutions, actors and processes on national, regional, European and global levels, with proper attention to methodology and content. Graduates possess analytic and problem-solving abilities that are firmly grounded in scientific theories and methods. These abilities enable them to:
  - Treat scientific problems independently, evaluate scientific knowledge and apply it in new research-relevant contexts;
  - Treat problems in professional contexts, with attention to scientific accuracy and practical relevance;
  - Understand recent findings in gender research as intersectional material and apply it in all research-relevant contexts.
- (2) Graduates possess interdisciplinary skills in addition to their subject-specific skills. They are able to clearly communicate the knowledge acquired during the master's programme to both expert and lay audiences. Within and beyond the areas of European and international politics, graduates can reflect on the ethical and social consequences and conditions of the application of their knowledge. They are able to successfully deal with complex and unpredictable working or learning contexts.
- (3) The master's programme prepares participants for activities in scientific facilities and institutions and/or for activities involving leadership, analysis and consultation in public administration, public and non-public organizations (e.g. the European Union, United Nations, etc.) and in transnational political associations and unions.
- (4) The master's programme provides in-depth, pre-professional training for students who have completed a bachelor's degree in a relevant field. Graduates are able to pursue a doctoral degree.

## **§ 3 Scope and duration**

The Master's Programme covers 120 ECTS credit points; this corresponds to a duration of four semesters. One ECTS credit point (henceforth "ECTS-Credit") is equivalent to a workload of 25 hours.

## **§ 4 Admission**

- (1) Admission to the Master's Programme Political Science: European and International Studies requires a completed bachelor's degree in an appropriate subject or completion of a comparable programme of study in an appropriate subject at a recognized national or international post-secondary educational institution.
- (2) The completed Bachelor's Programme Political Science at the University of Innsbruck is always sufficient for this purpose. In accordance with the provisions of the Universities Act, the Rectorate is responsible for determining whether a given programme of study from an Austrian or international institution is considered equivalent for admission to this master's programme.
- (3) If equivalence has been established in principle but with certain qualifications missing for full equivalence, the Rectorate may require that supplemental examinations be completed during the course of the master's programme.

## § 5 Courses and numbers of participants

- (1) Courses without continuous assessment: Lectures (VO) are courses in which subject matter is primarily conveyed in lecture format. They introduce students to research, methods and schools of thought of a given subject. Maximum number of participants: 200.
- (2) Continuous assessment courses: Seminars (SE) are for in-depth treatment of issues, structured around presentations and discussion of student contributions.  
Maximum number of participants: 30.

## § 6 Procedures for the allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

1. In courses with a limited number of participants, course places are allocated as follows: Students for whom non-admission would demonstrably result in a prolonged duration of studies are given priority.
2. If the criterion in 1 does not suffice for the regulation of course admission, priority should be given first to students for whom this is a mandatory module and second to those for whom this is an elective module.
3. If the criteria in 1 and 2 do not suffice for the regulation of course admission, remaining course places are allocated by random draw.

## § 7 Compulsory and elective modules

- (1) The following compulsory modules, amounting to a total of 85 ECTS-Credits, are to be completed:

1.	Compulsory module: Political Science Research Methods	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Political Science Research Methods	2	3.5
b.	SE Political Science Research Methods	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students are proficient in important methods of empirical research in political science and can apply these methods to various case studies.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

2.	Compulsory module: Politics and Gender	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Politics and Gender	2	3.5
b.	SE Politics and Gender	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have a solid understanding of the key currents in gender studies in political science and are able to analyse the interdependence of gender and other categories – such as ethnicity, class, sexuality – with consideration of historical developments and the potential for change. Students can critically examine various types of political theories and empirical research in terms of their explicit and implicit gender norms. They can independently evaluate political strategies and gender policy in national, European and international contexts.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>3.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Governance and Political Leadership</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Governance and Political Leadership</b>	2	3.5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Governance and Political Leadership</b>	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students can discuss and explain the key theories and concepts of governance and political leadership, including the empirical conditions and manifestations of various political systems. Furthermore, they can compare and evaluate various forms and problems of governance and political leadership in diverse contexts.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>4.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Federalism and Federal Politics</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Federalism and Federal Politics</b>	2	3.5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Federalism and Federal Politics</b>	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students can analyse and evaluate the specific functional logic of federal systems in comparison to centralized states. They are able to critically examine and evaluate the distribution of tasks and responsibilities, the institutions and actors, as well as questions of governability in multi-level systems.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>5.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: European Integration I: Theories and Politics in Global Contexts</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO European Integration I: Theories and Politics in Global Contexts</b>	2	3.5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE European Integration I: Theories and Politics in Global Contexts</b>	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students are able to reconstruct, analyse and evaluate theoretical models and conceptual proposals concerning EU integration in order to promote an understanding of integration and cooperation processes. They know and are able to characterize the features of the political system of the EU, including inter-institutional negotiation and decision-making processes, functional specialization, the embedding of the EU in international contexts such as the WTO and the UN, and cooperation between the EU and other states and international organizations.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>6.</b>	<b>Compulsory module: European Integration II: Multi-Level Governance and European Democratic Society</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO European Integration II: Multi-Level Governance and European Democratic Society</b>	2	3.5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE European Integration II: Multi-Level Governance and European Democratic Society</b>	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>

	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students are able to reconstruct the embedding of EU bodies, member states, and non-governmental organizations in the multilevel system of the EU. They can describe and explain the complex interactions, interdependencies and cooperative efforts of institutions and processes. Students are able to analyse issues concerning the democratic legitimacy of European government.</p>
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> none</p>

7.	Compulsory module: Orders and Change in International Relations	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Orders and Change in International Relations	2	3.5
b.	SE Orders and Change in International Relations	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students discuss various concepts of political systems in terms of development, structure and change of international systems. Applying appropriate theory, they are able to analyse systems on regional and global scales and within various policy areas. In addition, students identify and discuss normative issues.</p>		
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> none</p>		

8.	Compulsory module: Actors and Agency in International Relations	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Actors and Agency in International Relations	2	3.5
b.	SE Actors and Agency in International Relations	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students are able to see actors in international relations from a pluralistic standpoint. In-depth analysis of theoretical approaches allows students to reconstruct, analyse and evaluate the logic and courses of action of nation states, international and transnational organizations, national committees and political decision makers.</p>		
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> none</p>		

9.	Compulsory module: Electoral Analysis	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Electoral Analysis	2	3.5
b.	SE Electoral Analysis	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students are able to evaluate and apply the theoretical and empirical instruments of electoral analysis, i.e. psephology. They can identify central theories and models of the behaviour of participants, on both the supply and demand side, and of the media. Students are able to analyse specific research questions.</p>		
	<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> none</p>		

10.	Compulsory module: Political Communication	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Political Communication	2	3.5
b.	SE Political Communication	2	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students are able to identify and evaluate fundamental structures, processes, developments and trends of the various media systems, country-specific communication cultures and their influence on public opinion. Using various theoretical approaches, students can analyse factors that alter communication systems. Moreover, they can connect political-cultural attitudes to country-specific patterns and various communication practices.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

11.	Compulsory Module: Preparation of the Master's Thesis	h	ECTS-Credits
	Agreement on the topic, the scope and the form of the Master's Thesis on the basis of a brief summary of the contents (abstract) as well as agreement on the work processes and the study progress. Planning of an appropriate time frame for the completion of the Master's Thesis.	-	7.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> After successful completion of this module, the students will be able to write a brief summary of the content of the planned Master's Thesis (abstract), to outline an anticipated schedule and to conclude a written Master's Thesis agreement.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

12.	Compulsory module: Master's Thesis Defence	h	ECTS-Credits
	Oral defence of the master's thesis ( <i>defensio</i> )		2.5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> To reflect on the master's thesis within the context of the entire degree programme. The primary focus is on theoretical understanding, methodology, communication of findings, and presentation skills.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> successful completion of all other modules and the master's thesis		

(2) The following elective modules, amounting to a total of 15 ECTS-Credits, are to be completed:

1.	Elective module: Political Science in Practice I	h	ECTS-Credits
	In order to evaluate and apply their knowledge and skills and to gain professional experience, students may complete a practical internship of 180 hours. Approval from the Director of Studies is required before beginning the internship. Following completion of the internship, students are to submit certification by the participating facility of the length, scope and content of the internship; students are also to write and submit a report on their internship experience.		7.5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students apply knowledge and skills from the master's programme in a professional context; after completion of this module, students are familiar with the conditions of professional and/or scientific practice.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

2.	Elective module: Political Science in Practice II	h	ECTS-Credits
	In order to evaluate and apply their knowledge and skills and to gain professional experience, students may complete a practical internship of 180 hours.  Approval from the Director of Studies is required before beginning the internship. Following completion of the internship, students are to submit certification from the participating facility of the length, scope and content of the internship; students are also to write and submit a report on their internship experience.		7.5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students apply knowledge and skills from the master's programme in a professional context; after completion of this module, students are familiar with the conditions of professional and/or scientific practice.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

3.	Elective module: Interdisciplinary Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Students may choose courses amounting to 7.5 ECTS-Credits from master's and diploma curricula offered at the University of Innsbruck, subject to available space.		7.5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>7.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> This module serves to broaden the study programme and to allow students to acquire additional skills.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> the course prerequisites of the respective curricula are to be fulfilled.		

(3) To allow individual focus, modules amounting to 15 ECTS-Credits may be chosen freely from master's and diploma curricula offered at the University of Innsbruck, as per § 54 para. 1 UA.

## **§ 8 Master's Thesis**

- (1) This master's programme requires the completion of a master's thesis. The master's thesis serves to demonstrate the ability to treat a scientific topic independently and with proper consideration of content and method. To enable the students to complete writing the Master's Thesis within 6 months (corresponds to 30 ECTS-Credits) acc. to §81 (2) Universities Act, the students must pass the "Preparation of the Master's Thesis" (corresponding to 7.5 ECTS-Credits) prior to working on their Master's Thesis (20 ECTS-Credits). The study programme is completed with the Master's Thesis Defence (corresponding to 2.5 ECTS-Credits).
- (2) The topic of the master's thesis is to be chosen from an area treated in one of the mandatory modules, as per § 7 para.1 nos. 1 to 10.
- (3) Students are entitled to propose the topic of the master's thesis or to choose from a list of topics. The topic may only be chosen after successful completion of the module from which it is taken.
- (4) The master's thesis corresponds to a workload of 20 ECTS-Credits.

## **§ 9 Examinations**

- (1) Modules, with the exception of the compulsory module "Master's Thesis Defence" and "Political Science in Practice I" and "Political Science in Practice II" and "Preparation of the Master's Thesis" – are evaluated by the course evaluations. Course evaluations are:
  1. Examinations that assess the knowledge and skills covered in an individual course in which assessment is based on a single examination at the end of the course. The course instructor is to announce the method of examination (written) and examination assessment criteria before the course begins.
  2. Courses with continuous assessment in which assessment is based on regular written and/or oral contributions by participants. The assessment criteria are to be announced by the instructor before the course begins.
- (2) Assessment of the modules "Political Science in Practice I" and "Political Science in Practice II" is conducted by the Director of Studies. Successful completion is graded as "successful participation"; unsuccessful participation is graded as "unsuccessful participation".
- (3) The compulsory module "Preparation of the Master's Thesis" is evaluated by the supervisor of the Master's Thesis based on an abstract. Positive evaluation reads "successfully completed", negative evaluation "unsuccessfully completed".
- (4) Assessment of the final module of the programme, "Master's Thesis Defence", is based on an oral examination held in front of a board consisting of three examiners, including the supervisor of the master's thesis.

## **§ 10 Academic Degree**

Graduates of the Master's Programme Political Science: European and International Studies are awarded the academic degree "Master of Arts", abbreviated "MA".

## **§ 11 Coming into force**

- (1) This curriculum is effective as of 1 October 2014.
- (2) The changes of the curriculum acc. to the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 28 June 2019, Issue 67, No. 592 come into effect on 1 October 2019 and are to be applied to all students.



## Appendix 1: Recognition of Examinations

Successfully completed examinations in the courses listed below for the Master's Programme European Politics and Society at the University of Innsbruck (published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 19 February 2008, Issue 20, No. 187) are recognized, as per § 78, para. 1 of the Universities Act 2002 ("Universitätsgesetz 2002"), as equivalent for the Master's Programme Political Science: European and International Studies as follows:

Successfully completed examinations according to the curriculum published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 19 February 2008, Issue 20, No. 187		Recognized as equivalent according to the curriculum published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 27 June 2014, Issue 34, No. 538.	
§ 6, 1. a.	VO Theories of European Integration (2 / 4)	§ 7 (1) 5. a.	VO European Integration I: Theories and Politics in Global Contexts (2 / 3.5)
§ 6, 1. b.	SE Theories of European Integration (2 / 3.5)	§ 7 (1) 5. b.	SE European Integration I: Theories and Politics in Global Contexts (2 / 4)
§ 6, 2. a.	VO The Political System of the European Union (2 / 4)	§ 7 (1) 6. a.	VO European Integration II: Multi-Level Governance and European Democratic Society (2 / 3.5)
§ 6, 2. b.	SE The Political System of the European Union (2 / 3.5)	§ 7 (1) 6. b.	SE European Integration II: Multi-Level Governance and European Democratic Society (2 / 4)
§ 6, 3. a.	VO Fields of Politics and Structural Change in the EU (2 / 4)	§ 7 (2) 3.	Interdisciplinary Skills (- / 4)
§ 6, 3. b.	SE Fields of Politics and Structural Change in the EU (2 / 3.5)	§ 7 (2) 3.	Interdisciplinary Skills (- / 3.5)
§ 6, 4. a.	VO European Law (2 / 4)	§ 7 (2) 3.	Interdisciplinary Skills (- / 4)
§ 6, 4. b.	SE European Law (2 / 3.5)	§ 7 (2) 3.	Interdisciplinary Skills (- / 3.5)
§ 6, 5. a.	VO Governments and Parliaments in Europe (2 / 4)	§ 7 (1) 3. a.	VO Governance and Political Leadership (2 / 3.5)
§ 6, 5. b.	SE Governments and Parliaments in Europe (2 / 3.5)	§ 7 (1) 3. b.	SE Governance and Political Leadership (2 / 4)
§ 6, 6. a.	VO Parties and Interest Groups in Europe (2 / 4)	§ 7(1) 4. a.	VO Federalism and Federal Politics (2 / 3.5)
§ 6, 6. b.	SE Parties and Interest Groups in Europe (2 / 3.5)	§ 7 (1) 4. b.	SE Federalism and Federal Politics (2 / 4)
§ 6, 7. a.	2 VO Foreign Policy, Security and Defence in the EU (2 / 4)	§ 7 (1) 7. a.	VO Orders and Change in International Relations (2 / 3.5)
§ 6, 7. b.	2 SE Foreign Policy, Security and Defence in the EU (2 / 3.5)	§ 7 (1) 7. b.	SE Orders and Change in International Relations (2 / 4)
§ 6, 8. a.	VO Methods of Comparative Analysis: Politics and Society (2 / 4)	§ 7 (1) 1. a.	VO Political Science Research Methods (2 / 3.5)
§ 6, 8. b.	SE Methods of Comparative Analysis: Politics and Society (2 / 3.5)	§ 7 (1) 1. b.	SE Political Science Research Methods (2 / 4)
§ 6, 9. a.	VO Political Communication and Public Opinion in Europe (2 / 4)	§ 7 (1) 10. a.	VO Political Communication (2 / 3.5)
§ 6, 9. b.	SE Political Communication and Public Opinion in Europe (2 / 3.5)	§ 7 (1) 10. b.	SE Political Communication (2 / 4)

§ 6, 10. a.	VO Electoral Analysis in Europe (2 / 4)	§ 7 (1) 9. a.	VO Electoral Analysis (2 / 3.5)
§ 6, 10. b.	SE Electoral Analysis in Europe (2 / 3.5)	§ 7 (1) 9. b.	VO Electoral Analysis (2 / 4)
§ 6, 11. a.	VO European Nations and the International System (2 / 4)	§ 7 (1) 8. a.	VO Actors and Agency in International Relations (2 / 3.5)
§ 6, 11. b.	SE European Nations and the International System (2 / 3.5)	§ 7 (1) 8. b.	SE Actors and Agency in International Relations (2 / 4)
§ 6, 12. a.	VO Civil Society, Gender Relations and Minorities (2 / 4)	§ 7 (1) 2. a.	VO Politics and Gender (2 / 3.5)
§ 6, 12. b.	SE Civil Society, Gender Relations and Minorities (2 / 3.5)	§ 7 (1) 2. b.	SE Politics and Gender (2 / 4)