

Master of Arts programme “Roads to Democracy(ies)”

- General Information, Modules and Study Plan -

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General Information about the Study Programme

Roads to Democracy(ies) is a research-oriented, international and interdisciplinary Master of Arts programme which is offered by the Departments of History, Political Science and Sociology at Siegen University in cooperation with the Universities of Uppsala (Sweden) and Coimbra (Portugal).

Integrating methods and approaches from History and Social Science the programme aims to provide students with knowledge of and insights into the development of democracies. The interdisciplinary curriculum focuses on political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of democratic ideas, institutions and structures both in and outside of Europe.

Students of the programme shall develop a broad, comparative understanding of the mechanisms behind democratic transitions from a historical and social scientific perspective and will acquire the competence to assess present-day democratic developments on a national and supra-national level.

Each of the participating universities contributes to the programme with a special focus:

- *Democratization, Political Cultures and Media (Siegen)*
- *Democratization and Globalisation (Coimbra)*
- *Democratization and Welfare (Uppsala)*

The duration of the Master's programme, including the writing of the Master's Thesis and the Master's Thesis Presentation, is two years (four semesters). The core language of the study programme is English. The programme includes an integrated study period abroad of at least one semester at one of the two partner universities. This study period abroad aims to facilitate academic and personal exchange on an international level and allows students to get into contact with new content, methodologies and approaches. Students can choose to spend their semester abroad either at Uppsala University or at the University of Coimbra. Siegen students who choose to spend their study abroad period in Uppsala study there in the second semester (Summer Semester), students choosing to go to Coimbra study there in the third semester (Winter Semester). Additionally, if the Master's thesis requires further studies at one of the partner universities, students may choose to extend their study abroad period to two semesters or study at both partner universities.

The Master's programme "Roads to Democracy(ies)" is organized in such a way as to help students to develop individual study plans which are directed towards their Master's thesis.

The study programme is divided into the following modules: one Theory and Methods Module (MM), four Thematic Modules (TM), one Integrated Master Thesis Module (IM) which consists of the sub-modules IM 1 and IM 2 as well as elective modules comprising an Internship Module (WM 1), one Transferable Skills Module (WM 2), and one Additional Special Studies Module (WM 3). By successful completion of the programme students will have accumulated 120 credit points.

Modules and Content

The study programme is organized into different modules and module elements as described below.

Theory and Methods Module, MM

The module consists of the two module elements MM 1 (Blended-Learning Course "Democracy in Theory and Practice", 15 cp) and MM 2 (Blended-Learning Course "Theory and Methods of History and Social Sciences", 7, 5 cp). Both introductory courses are attended by students from Siegen, Uppsala and Coimbra at the same time in the first semester (Winter Semester).

Thematic Modules, TM

The study programme includes four thematic modules that reflect the different focus areas of the three universities:

Democratisation, Political Cultures and Media (Siegen) (TM 1 and TM 2)

Democratisation and Welfare (Uppsala) (TM 4)

Democratisation and Globalisation (Coimbra) (TM 3)

Students attend two of the four Thematic Modules. The choice of the Thematic Modules depends on which partner university the students choose for their semester abroad. Students going to Uppsala (Sweden) for one semester attend TM 4 in the 2nd semester (Summer Semester) in Uppsala and TM 2 in the 3rd semester (Winter Semester) in Siegen. Students choosing to spend their semester abroad at the University of Coimbra (Portugal) attend TM 1 in the 2nd semester in Siegen and TM 3 in the 3rd semester in Coimbra. In the two chosen Thematic Modules 30 credit points must be accumulated in total.

Thematic Module TM 1:

The title of the Module is „Democratization, Political Cultures and Media I.“ The complete module is offered only in the 2nd semester in Siegen (Summer Semester) and is attended by students going to Coimbra in the 3rd semester (Winter Semester). The module consists of the three module elements “Society, Culture and Politics in History” (1.1) with a historical focus, “Democracy and Public Sphere” (1.2) with a political science focus and “Political Cultures in Comparative Perspective” (1.3) with a sociological focus. Students must complete each of the three seminars. In each seminar 2-10 cp may be accumulated. It is recommended that students accumulate at least 5 credit points in the seminar that is related to the prospective field of their Master Thesis (History, Political Science or Sociology). Students should acquire 15 cp in this module. The difference to 30 credit points must be acquired by completing TM 3 during the semester abroad at the University of Coimbra.

Thematic Module TM 2:

The title of the Module is „Democratization, Political Cultures and Media II.“ The complete module is offered only in the 3rd semester in Siegen and is attended by students who have spent their 2nd semester at Uppsala University. The module consists of three module elements: “Globalisation in History” (2.1) with a historical focus, “Globalisation, Democracy and Media” (2.2) with a political science focus and “World Society, World Culture, World

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Politics" (2.3) with a sociological focus. Students must complete each of the three seminars. In each seminar 2-10 cp may be accumulated. It is recommended that students accumulate at least 5 credit points in the seminar that is related to the prospective field of their Master Thesis (History, Political Science or Sociology). In Thematic Module TM 4 (Uppsala) students should achieve a minimum of 15 cp. Therefore, in TM 2 15 cp must be acquired.

Thematic Module TM 3:

The title of the Module is "Democratization and Globalisation". The complete module is offered at the University of Coimbra and is attended in the 3rd semester (Winter Semester) by students spending their semester abroad in Coimbra. The module consists of two module elements, usually the two seminars "Democracy and Globalisation" (7, 5 cp) and "Studies in Contemporary Culture and Democracy" (7, 5 cp). Students must complete each of the module elements offered in this module. In each seminar usually 7, 5 cp are acquired and 15 cp are accumulated in the overall module. In total the number of cp acquired by students in this Thematic Module and the number of cp acquired in Thematic Module 1 must sum up to 30. In Thematic Module TM 1 (Siegen) students should achieve a minimum of 15 cp. Therefore, in TM 3 usually 15 cp must be acquired.

Thematic Module TM 4:

The title of the Module is „Democratization and Welfare“. The complete module is offered at Uppsala University and is attended in the 2nd semester (Summer Semester) by students spending their semester abroad in Uppsala. The module consists of two module elements, usually the seminars "The Legacies of the Holocaust on the Development of Democracy in the EU" (4.1) and "The Twisted Roads to Democracy: Neutrality and the Welfare State" (4.2). Students must complete each of the seminars. In each seminar usually 7, 5 cp are acquired and 15 cp are accumulated in the overall module. In total the number of cp acquired by students in this Thematic Module and the number of cp acquired in Thematic Module 2 must sum up to 30. The difference to 30 credit points must be acquired after the semester abroad in TM 2 at the University of Siegen.

Integrated Master Thesis Module, IM

The Integrated Master Thesis Module consists of the sub-modules IM 1 *Thesis Forum* and IM 2 *Master Exam*.

In sub-module IM 1 students will receive support from academic supervisors and the opportunity for individual and academic exchange with regards to the Master thesis during the 3 Thesis Forums (IM 1.1-1.3) taking place during the first three semesters. In sub-module IM 1 a total sum of 15 credit points must be accumulated, 5 cp in each Thesis Forum.

The second sub-module IM 2 is the *Master Exam*, comprising the Master Thesis (IM 2.1, 25 cp) and the Master Thesis Presentation (IM 2.2, 5 cp).

Elective modules, WM

The elective area comprises three modules: the Internship Module (WM 1), the „Transferable Skills“-Module (WM 2) and the „Additional Special Studies“-Module (WM 3).

Depending on the duration of the internship, students can acquire either 7,5 credit points (four week internship) or 10 credit points (six week internship) in module WM 1.

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In the “Transferable Skills”-Module WM 2 students can attend different optional “transferable skills”- (e.g. presentation skills, IT-skills or intercultural competence) and language courses of their choice from the course catalogues of the three participating partner universities. Students can acquire a maximum of 7, 5 cp in module WM 2.

The “Additional Special Studies”-Module WM 3 comprises further optional subject-specific seminars of relevance for the topic of the Master Thesis. In Module WM 3 a maximum of 15 cp can be accumulated.

In total students must accumulate 22, 5 credit points in the elective area. These credit points are acquired through activities in at least two of the different Modules. Students are free in the choice of the modules but have to take into account the maximum of achievable credit points in each module.

For example:

1. The student completes a four week internship (7, 5 credit points), acquires 5 credit points in the “Transferable Skills”-Module and 10 credit points in the Additional Special Studies“-Module.
2. The student acquires 22, 5 credit points in the Modules „Transferable Skills“ (7,5 KP) and “Additional Special Studies“ (15 KP).
3. The student completes a six week internship (10 credit points) and acquires 12, 5 credit points by attending seminars in the "Additional Special Studies“ area.

Overview – Modules and Module elements in the Master of Arts programme “Roads to Democracy(ies)”

Module Area	Module	Module Title	Number and Title of Module Element		Credit points		
Compulsory Courses	MM	Theory and Methods Module	MM 1.1	Democracy in theory and practice	15	22,5	
			MM 1.2	Theory and Methods of History & Soc. Science	7,5		
	<i>Compulsory Thematic Module in Siegen for students going to Coimbra (Portugal)</i>						
	TM 1	Democratization, Political Cultures and Media I	TM 1.1	Society, culture and politics in history		15	
			TM 1.2	Democracy and public sphere			
			TM 1.3	Political cultures in comparative perspective			
	<i>Compulsory Thematic Module in Siegen for students going to Uppsala (Sweden)</i>						
	TM 2	Democratization, Political Cultures and Media II	TM 2.1	Globalisation in history		15	
			TM 2.2	Globalisation, democracy and media			
			TM 2.3	World society, world culture, world politics			
	<i>Compulsory Thematic Module in Coimbra</i>						
	TM 3	Democratization and Globalisation (2 module elements)				15	
	<i>Compulsory Thematic Module in Uppsala</i>						
	TM 4	Democratization and Welfare (3 module elements)				15	
IM 1	Thesis Forum/Thesis Work	IM 1.1	Thesis Forum I		5	15	
		IM 1.2	Thesis Forum II		5		
		IM 1.3	Thesis Forum III		5		
IM 2	Master exam	IM 2.1	Master Thesis		25	30	
		IM 2.2	Master Thesis Presentation		5		

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Compulsory electives (22,5 credit points must be accumulated)	WM 1	Internship (4 Weeks = 7,5 KP; 6 W = 10KP)	7,5 o. 10	22,5
	WM 2	Transferable skills courses (transferable skills and language courses)	Max. 7,5	
	WM 3	Additional special studies (additional seminars that are relevant for the development of the Master Thesis)	Max. 15	

Example Study Plan: Option A - Semester 1, 2, and 3 in Siegen, Semester 2 in Uppsala

1st Semester (Winter) – Siegen (30 cp)		
MM 1.1	Online Course „Democracy in Theory and Practice”	15 cp
MM 1.2	Course “Theory and Methods”	7,5 cp
IM 1.1	Thesis Forum I	5 cp
WM 1-3	Optional Course	2,5 cp
2nd Semester (Summer) - Uppsala (30 cp)		
TM 4	Democratization and Welfare (2 seminars)	15 cp
IM 1.2	Thesis Forum II	5 cp
WM 1-3	Optional Courses	10 cp
3rd Semester (Winter) – Siegen (30 cp)		
TM 2.1	Globalisation in History	15 cp
TM 2.2	Globalisation, Democracy and Media	
TM 2.3	World Society, World Culture, World	
IM 1.3	Thesis Forum III	5 cp
WM 1-3	Optional Courses / Internship	10 cp
4th Semester (Summer) – Siegen (30 cp)		
IM 2.1	Master Thesis	25 cp
IM 2.2	Master Thesis Presentation	5 cp

Example Study Plan: Option B - Semester 1, 2 and 4 in Siegen, Semester 3 in Coimbra

1st Semester (Winter) – Siegen (30 cp)		
MM 1.1	Online „Democracy in Theory and Practice”	15 cp
MM 1.2	Course “Theory and Methods”	7,5 cp
IM 1.1	Thesis Forum I	5 cp
WM 1-3	Optional Course	2,5 cp
2nd Semester (Summer) - Siegen (30 KP)		
TM 1.1	Society, Culture and Politics in History	15 cp
TM 1.2	Democracy and Public Sphere	
TM 1.3	Political Cultures in Comparative Perspective	
IM 1.2	Thesis Forum II	5 cp
WM 1-3	Optional Courses	10 cp
3rd Semester (Winter) – Coimbra (30 KP)		
TM 3	Democratization and Globalisation (2 seminars)	15 cp
IM 1.3	Thesis Forum III	5 cp
WM 1-3	Optional Courses / Internship	10 cp
4th Semester (Summer) – Siegen (30 KP)		
IM 2.1	Master Thesis	25 cp
IM 2.2	Master Thesis Presentation	5 cp

