Table of Contents

Master's degree ......................................................................................................................... 2

National and Transnational Studies (MA) • University of Münster • Münster .......................... 2

University of Münster • University location .............................................................................. 6
# Master's degree

**National and Transnational Studies (MA)**  
*University of Münster • Münster*

## Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Degree</strong></th>
<th>Master of Arts in National and Transnational Studies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course location</strong></td>
<td>Münster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teaching language</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Languages</strong></td>
<td>All courses are held in English. Other departments offer courses that students may choose as part of the external module, and these courses may be taught in other languages as well.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programme duration</strong></td>
<td>4 semesters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning</strong></td>
<td>Winter semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application deadline</strong></td>
<td>Please see: <a href="https://www.uni-muenster.de/studieninteressierte/en/bewerbung/fristenundtermine.shtml">https://www.uni-muenster.de/studieninteressierte/en/bewerbung/fristenundtermine.shtml</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuition fees per semester in EUR</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Combined Master’s degree / PhD programme</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Joint degree / double degree programme</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description/content**

This two-year MA programme explores complex sociocultural dynamics of an increasingly globalised world beyond national frameworks, tracing transdisciplinary developments within transnational literatures and cultures. Key topics include colonialism and postcolonialism, migration and diaspora, transmigration and transculturalism, World Englishes and the sociolinguistics of globalisation. The programme is based in the English department and is open to courses from other modern literatures and languages, film and media studies, history, social anthropology, and related fields. All mandatory classes are taught in English. Students work in small, highly international seminar groups, and they are offered close supervision.

Participants of the two-year (four-semester) "National and Transnational Studies: Literature, Culture, Language" programme will:

- reflect on nationalism and nationality as cultural (rather than merely political) phenomena
that are **constructed through literature, language, and other forms of cultural expression**. Core topics include the evolution and transformation of national identities, minority cultures, cultural memory, and canon development.

- explore complex **cultural dynamics beyond national frameworks** of our increasingly globalised world. Foci include cultural contacts and conflicts, colonialism, postcolonialism, migration, diaspora, transculturalism, English as a world language, and the sociolinguistics of globalisation.

- study a wide range of literatures, cultures, and varieties of English (e.g., from the British Isles, North America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and the South Pacific).

- engage with a wide range of cultural productions (including literature, film and other media formats), cultural theory, and English linguistics, and draw on scholarship from other fields such as sociology or political science.

As the focus of the MA NTS programme is on anglophone literatures and cultures, on varieties of English, and on book studies, students will mainly be based in the **English Department**. Our **staff** possess a broad range of specialisations, ranging from Shakespeare to Bollywood and from Adam Smith to Zadie Smith. Linguistic research foci range from socio- and corpus linguistics to phonetics and pragmatics. This gives students a wide scope for developing their own research projects.

**Interdisciplinary components** can be chosen from a number of related fields and departments, such as other literatures and languages, history, or social anthropology. Beyond our established co-operations, our students have also taken classes in fields like sociology and political science.

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**Course Details**

**Course organisation**

This programme draws on the transnational turn in the humanities and social sciences as well as the critique of methodological nationalism in literary and cultural studies in particular. It comprises a variety of course types, including lectures, seminars, postgraduate research classes, and practical skills courses (including language tuition) as well as independent study and research. Most modules and courses take place over one semester, with the exception of the Research Modules, each of which takes place over two semesters.

The first semester begins with an orientation week, followed by the module “Foundations of National and Transnational Studies: History, Theory, Methods”, which includes an introductory class with components from literary and cultural studies, as well as classes on linguistics and book studies. “Research Module I”, in which students begin to engage with possible topics for their MA theses, runs throughout the first and second semesters. The second semester also includes modules in “Nationalism, Transnationalism, Transculturalism: Literary, Cultural and Linguistic Manifestations” and “Minorities and Migration”. The third semester comprises the module in “Culture Contact, Culture Conflict” and the interdisciplinary “External Module”, which allows students to attend relevant courses in other departments and disciplines. It is also recommended that the module in “Work Experience” be completed in this semester. “Research Module II” runs throughout the third and fourth semesters, offering succinct advice on your Master’s thesis. Most of the fourth semester is dedicated to the completion of the thesis and preparation for the disputation.

This MA programme offers excellent teacher-to-student ratios and intense mentoring. Throughout the four semesters, each student receives individual advice and support with regard to the planning of his or her personal study and research programme.

**Types of assessment**

- Presentations
- Research papers
- Written exams
- Oral exams

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost / Funding</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuition fees per semester in EUR</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Semester contribution</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social semester fee of 295 EUR per semester, including a semester ticket covering public transport for the greater Münster area and the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Costs of living</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approx. 800 EUR per month to cover accommodation, insurance and personal expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Funding opportunities within the university</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements

Admission to the Master of Arts programme in "National and Transnational Studies: Literature, Culture, Language" is offered for each autumn semester. This is a very selective programme that admits only those applicants who can prove that their interests and previous qualifications make them especially suitable for this degree course. Applicants are selected by an intra-departmental admissions committee.

Prospective students must have completed a first academic degree (Bachelor’s or equivalent) with a standard period of study of at least six semesters (three years). This first degree must be in a field which is thematically relevant to this Master’s programme: literature, linguistics, cultural studies, book studies, media studies, communication studies, history, political science, sociology, social anthropology, ethnology, philosophy, theology, educational science, art history or psychology.

Applicants must prove a special qualification and suitability for this programme, which is assessed through the grades attained in MA-relevant focal subjects during their BA studies (or equivalent) as certified by their BA diploma (or equivalent) and transcript of student records, through the CV, evidence of previous international and professional experience (where applicable), and a short essay task: Applicants will be asked to submit an essay of approximately 2,000 words that meets accepted standards of academic writing with regard to both form and referencing. Essays containing plagiarism will be disqualified. The topic of the essay changes every year and can be found on the admissions page of the programme from early March until the end of the application period for EU students in July:

https://www.wwu.de/MA_transnational/Admissions

All prospective students should have a strong interest in literary and cultural studies and linguistics as well as in the study of national and transnational identities. Applicants who have already dealt with national and transnational studies as undergraduates are especially welcome. Students previously unfamiliar with the methodologies of literary studies, cultural studies and linguistics should be prepared to familiarise themselves with these fields during their first semester on the MA programme.

It is desirable but not obligatory that prospective students have spent several months abroad or have done internships relevant to the programme.

Language requirements

Excellent English language skills are required. For non-native speakers, this is proven by one of the following tests:

- CPE
- TOEFL PBT 620+
- TOEFL iBT 109+
- IELTS 7.5+

German language skills are desirable (e.g., to facilitate everyday life), but these skills are not mandatory. Hence, it is not necessary to submit a German language certificate like DaF or DSH. However, those students who wish to learn German while they are here can attend German language courses at different levels at the university’s language centre.

Application deadline

Please see: https://www.uni-muenster.de/studieninteressierte/en/bewerbung/fristenundtermine.shtml

Submit application to

See: https://www.wwu.de/MA_transnational/Admissions/
Services

### Accommodation

The University of Münster does not provide accommodation to students, but it gives information on where and how accommodation in Münster can be found.

### Specific specialist or non-specialist support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Welcome event

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**University of Münster**

With about 44,000 students, the University of Münster is one of the leading universities in Germany with a long teaching tradition. In German, it is known as the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, or WWU. It offers a full range of academic fields: all natural sciences, humanities, law, medicine, economics, etc. With its many institutes and faculties, the WWU is spread all over the town. However, there is a science campus at which most of the natural sciences are concentrated for the purpose of interdisciplinary cooperation.

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**University location**

Münster is located in north-west Germany close to the border with the Netherlands. The city is a lively student town, famous for its bicycle-friendly atmosphere and student pubs. Of Münster’s total population of approx. 300,000 inhabitants, 60,000 are university students at the University of Münster and other colleges. Münster is a thriving centre of science and academia. It is a great place to live, learn and teach.

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**Contact**

**University of Münster**

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https://www.facebook.com/MANTSMuenster/

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