



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



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Master's degree



National and Transnational Studies (MA)

University of Münster • Münster



Overview

Degree	Master of Arts in National and Transnational Studies
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English
Languages	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.
Full-time / part-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">full-time
Mode of study	Less than 50% online
Programme duration	4 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Application deadline	<p>Deadlines: Early May (early bird phase 1) Early June (early bird phase 2) Mid-July</p> <p>The application portal will open at the beginning of May, and there will be three evaluation periods. The earlier you apply, the earlier you will be notified: successful candidates who apply within a week of the portal opening will be offered a place by mid-May, and those who apply by early June will be notified in the middle of June. Applications received between early June and 15 July will be processed at the end of July. For the exact dates, please consult the website listed below.</p> <p>The final application deadline for both EU and non-EU residents alike is 15 July. Especially applicants from outside the EU are strongly advised to apply early – by early June at the latest. In this way, successful applicants maximise their time to obtain visas (which can be time-consuming) and to arrange funding, travel, and accommodation before the start of the MA NTS Orientation Week in October.</p> <p>Please check http://www.wvu.de/MA_transnational/Admissions/ for potential updates.</p>
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None

Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	No
Description/content	<p>The international, research-led Master of Arts in National and Transnational Studies (MA NTS) is a well-established programme exploring the sociocultural dynamics of an increasingly globalised world beyond national frameworks at one of Germany's largest universities. The MA NTS is inspired by the so-called transnational turn in social science and the humanities. Its flexible syllabus enables students to curate their specific academic and professional profiles according to their own research interests and career goals — both within the core areas of the MA and beyond English studies. All MA NTS classes are taught in English, and students work in small, highly international seminar groups, in which they are offered close supervision. Münster is a beautiful, historical city with a vibrant and welcoming student life.</p> <p>Tracing interdisciplinary developments within transnational literatures and cultures, key topics include colonialism and postcolonialism, (trans-)migration and diaspora, book studies, world Englishes, and (socio-)linguistics of globalisation.</p> <p>During this two-year programme, students of National and Transnational Studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reflect on nationalism and nationality as cultural and political phenomena that are constructed through literature, language, print culture, and other forms of cultural expression. Core topics include the evolution and transformation of national identities through print and online media, cultural memory, minoritisation, canon development, and the publishing sector. • study a wide range of literatures, cultures, and varieties of English (e.g. Africa, Asia, Australia, British Isles, Indian subcontinent, New Zealand, North America, South Pacific). • engage with different cultural productions (including books, film, and other media formats), cultural theory, and linguistics, and draw on scholarship from other fields such as sociology or political science. <p>Since the core of the MA NTS lies in anglophone literatures and cultures, book studies, and the varieties of English, students are primarily based in the English Department. Its staff possess a wide scope of expertise, ranging from Adam Smith to Zadie Smith, from Bollywood to Shakespeare, and from Black studies to queer studies. Our research in transnational literary and cultural studies focuses on complicating and methodologically transgressing the geographical and ideological framework defining conventional approaches to the study of cultural representations and identifications. In book studies, we focus on book history and publishing studies, including book production, distribution, and reception. Our linguistic research ranges from socio- and corpus linguistics to phonetics and pragmatics. Students can also select courses from other modern literatures and languages, film and media studies, history, sociology, anthropology, and related fields.</p> <p>Given the programme's high academic standards and its focus on research and practical experience (internship, study abroad, independent study), NTS graduates successfully pursue (inter)national careers in both academic and non-academic sectors, including media and publishing, advertising and public relations, museums, festival organisation, and NGOs dealing with e.g. migration, language policy, and international cultural relations.</p>

Course Details

Course organisation	<p>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.</p> <p>The first semester begins with an orientation week, followed by the module “Foundations of</p>
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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 an excellent student-teacher ratio and first-rate mentoring options. Students receive individualised advice and support with regard to the planning of their personal study and research programme.

» [PDF Download](#)

A Diploma supplement will be issued	Yes
International elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International guest lecturers • Integrated study abroad unit(s) • Language training provided • International comparisons and thematic reference to the international context • Content-related regional focus
Integrated study abroad unit(s)	<p>It is possible to spend one semester abroad, studying thematically relevant subjects at another academic institution. Credits acquired during this period will be accepted. It is recommended that the study abroad period takes place during the second or third semester, although it is also possible to choose the fourth semester.</p> <p>The module in "Work Experience" can likewise be completed abroad.</p>
Integrated internships	<p>In the compulsory module in “Work Experience”, students gain practical experience in professional fields especially relevant to the thematic and international focus of this Master’s programme. The module covers a minimum of 150 working hours. It can be completed on a part-time basis during the semester or on a full-time basis for a minimum of four weeks in the semester break (either in Germany or abroad). Students choose one of the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A) Students can choose to participate in internships inrelevant businesses and organisations of their choice, such as museums, festival organisations, media and publishing, advertising and PR, consulting, national and international organisations dealing with migration, language policy or international cultural relations, as well as multinational private businesses in various sectors. • Option B) Students can choose to acquire work experience in the academic sector as student assistants, conference assistants, editorial assistants, or by teaching tutorials for BA students at Münster University’s English Department. Each tutor teaches one tutorial (approx. 30 hours) and spends a further 120 hours preparing lessons, attending compulsory mentoring sessions for tutors (offered by the academic staff). • Option C) Students can choose to organise academic events such as a one-day postgraduate conference, guest lectures, readings by literary authors, exhibitions, or a one-day university film festival. Depending on the workload involved, students will organise these events in groups or individually.
Course-specific, integrated German language courses	No
Course-specific, integrated	Yes

Online learning

Pace of course	Mixed (e.g. fixed exam dates and duration, study content can be studied at any time)
Phase(s) of attendance in Germany (applies to the entire programme)	Yes, compulsory
Types of online learning elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to databases with study material • Chats (with lecturers and other students) • Discussion forums and / or groups • Flipped Classroom • Online sessions • Video learning (Pre-recorded videos, Vlogs, Video-Podcasts)

Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Semester contribution	<p>Students must pay a semester contribution fee of 316.98 EUR per semester. This includes a "semester ticket" covering public transportation in the greater Münster area as well as the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia.</p> <p>You can find more information here: https://www.uni-muenster.de/studieninteressierte/en/einschreibung/semesterbeitrag.shtml </p>
Costs of living	We recommend that students budget at least 900 EUR per month to cover personal expenses (accommodation, living expenses, health insurance).
Funding opportunities within the university	No

Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements	<p>Admission to the Master of Arts programme in "Books - Literature - Culture - Language: National and Transnational Studies (MA)" is offered for each autumn semester. It 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 inter-departmental admissions committee.</p> <p>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.</p>
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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 processes. 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.

Detailed information on the application requirements and the selection of applicants can be found in the latest amendment ("Änderungsordnung") to the general programme regulations for this Master's programme ("Prüfungsordnung"): [PDF: Amendment of regulations \[de\]](#).

Language requirements

Excellent English language skills are mandatory. Admission to the programme requires a minimum language proficiency level of C2 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). **Please note that we will consider you a native speaker if English is an official language in your country.** For non-native speakers, skills can be 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 required. 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

Deadlines:

Early May (early bird phase 1)

Early June (early bird phase 2)

Mid-July

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Services

Accommodation

As in all popular university cities in Germany, accommodation is in high demand and is not easy to find in Münster – but it's not impossible either!

Please contact the International Office (Bachelor's and Master's students) or the WWU Graduate Centre (doctoral candidates) for advice. Please also note that the University of Münster (like most German public universities) does not have its own student halls of residence.

Support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Welcome event

University of Münster

With about 45,000 students and 5,500 academics, the University of Münster is one of the largest universities in Germany. It enjoys an outstanding reputation in the region and far beyond for its excellent research opportunities, high-quality teaching and promotion of junior researchers. Fifteen faculties with 120 degree programmes and some 30 research centres comprise the institutional backbone of the university. Besides its academic opportunities, the University of Münster offers a wide and varied range of extracurricular activities. Pursue your interests by participating in student societies, university theatre, choirs, orchestras, bands, and sports courses. Additionally, make sure to visit the university's museums and gardens to further enrich your experience.



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. 316,400 inhabitants, over 61,800 are students at the different universities. Münster is a thriving centre of science and academia. It is a great place to live, learn and teach.

Contact

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English Department

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48143 Münster

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🌐 Course website: <https://go.wwu.de/nts>

📘 <https://www.facebook.com/MANTSMuenster/>

🐦 https://twitter.com/ptts_muenster

🌐 <https://de.linkedin.com/company/ma-nts-wwu>

📷 https://www.instagram.com/ma_trans_national/

📺 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJDU9dAOeZvWMYMaKClncwA>

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Disclaimer

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