



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



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Master's degree



Executive Master of Public Administration (Executive MPA)

Hertie School • Berlin



Overview

Degree	Master of Public Administration
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English
Languages	English is the official language of instruction at the Hertie School. Students do not need to be able to speak German.
Full-time / part-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">part-time (study alongside work)full-time
Programme duration	2 semesters, 4 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Application deadline	<p>1 June 2025: priority deadline for scholarships*</p> <p>1 August 2025: final application deadline</p> <p>The programme starts in early September. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. The selection committee will invite pre-selected candidates to an online interview.</p> <p>*For those in need of financial assistance, early application is strongly encouraged in order to increase the chances of receiving a tuition waiver.</p> <p>Before submitting your application, remember to read our admission requirements carefully.</p>
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	9,375 EUR
Additional information on tuition fees	The tuition fee for the programme is 37,500 EUR, regardless of whether it is completed in one or two years (two-year programme: 9,375 EUR per semester; one-year programme: 18,750 EUR per semester).
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No

Joint degree / double degree programme No

Description/content

The **Executive MPA** at the Hertie School is designed for leaders who want to acquire the knowledge and tools needed to address the challenges of modern governance. The programme provides participants with a solid foundation in principles of governance, public policy, and management and empowers them to lead teams and organisations, shape decision-making, and manage change in the workplace.

A flexible programme

The programme accommodates the busy schedules of working professionals and can be studied **full-time in one year or part-time in two to four years**. The programme consists of 43 days of attendance.

The quality of the Executive MPA programme is rooted in two principles: interdisciplinarity and practical application. The programme combines economics and social sciences to further students' understanding of complex governance challenges and management solutions. The participants work on international case studies and discuss phenomena against the background of their own work experience. Experts from all sectors regularly share current issues and discuss challenges and possible solutions with the students.

Students choose five electives that allow them to specialise in an area of governance, policy, and management, or they can broaden their understanding of a different field of public policy, governance, or analytical tools.

All courses can also be booked individually as an executive training course or combined as a certificate programme. This allows participants to work their way up to a full Executive MPA degree step by step and accrue credits for the programme over time. All credits earned and fees paid for individual courses can be fully transferred to the Executive MPA.

Participants also complete skills courses in subjects, such as negotiation training, conflict management, consulting, or leading teams. They gain additional insights in a four-day workshop in a major European city and political hub.

Course Details

Course organisation

The Executive MPA can be studied **full-time in one year or part-time in two to four years**.

The programme consists of **43 days of attendance**. Courses take place in blocks of two or three days each. The block system makes it possible for professionals who live outside of Berlin, outside of Germany, or even outside of Europe to study part-time.

Core programme

In the module **Governance & Public Policy (three courses)**, students cultivate skills in understanding and analysing the challenges of modern governance and 21st century policy-making. Students will be introduced to academic debates, theoretical arguments, and methodological approaches from an interdisciplinary perspective, and they will gain an understanding of how collectively binding decisions are made, contested, and influenced across sectors and levels of governance.

Management: Challenges, Concepts, & Resources (three courses) gives students an overview of the key challenges faced in modern management, leadership, and decision-making and trains students to cope with these challenges in future leadership roles. Focusing on underlying theories, main concepts, and methodological tools, this module introduces the practicability and pitfalls of central tools and reforms in the context of public administration and, in particular, financial management.

Portfolio electives

Students choose five portfolio electives. Courses are clustered in four fields:

1. **Management and Leadership** electives focus on organisational design, change management, leadership skills, and management tools.
2. **Digitalisation and Governance of Artificial Intelligence** electives focus on digitalisation in various sectors, including questions regarding regulation and governance and the use and implications of artificial intelligence tools across sectors.
3. **Policy Analysis** electives focus on specific policy fields, including social policy, climate and sustainability, economics, and inequality, among other topics.
4. **Governance** electives focus on topical questions of governance, including concepts of multi-level governance, conflict and crisis management, and global governance challenges.

Professional development

Students will complete two **skill training courses** that strengthen competencies in disciplines such as negotiation training, conflict management, leadership, foresight analysis, or design thinking. Additionally, all students attend a **workshop in a major European city and political hub** to get behind-the-scenes policymaking insights.

Master's thesis

Students conclude their studies with an independent research project on a topic relevant to their current role or future career plans.

For more information on the [Executive MPA curriculum](#), please have a look at our website.

A Diploma supplement will be issued	Yes
International elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International guest lecturers • Specialist literature in other languages • Courses are led with foreign partners • Projects with partners in Germany and abroad • International comparisons and thematic reference to the international context • Content-related regional focus
Integrated internships	Internships are not an integral part of the programme, but we support students who are interested in an internship at the beginning or end of their studies.
Course-specific, integrated German language courses	No
Course-specific, integrated English language courses	No

Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR	9,375 EUR
Additional information on tuition fees	The tuition fee for the programme is 37,500 EUR, regardless of whether it is completed in one or two years (two-year programme: 9,375 EUR per semester; one-year programme: 18,750 EUR per semester).
Semester contribution	Approx. 300 EUR per semester for the public transportation ticket (only mandatory for one-year, full-time students)

Funding opportunities within the university

Yes

Description of the above-mentioned funding opportunities within the university

The Hertie School grants a limited number of [partial scholarships](#) to excellent Executive MPA candidates. Candidates who seek financial support are encouraged to apply by the priority deadline on 1 June.

Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements

The Executive Master of Public Administration is aimed at professionals from all sectors. Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- A good higher education degree in any discipline (typically, Executive MPA participants have a background in business/economics, law, social science, or natural sciences)
- At least three years of relevant work experience (average is nine years)
- Proficiency in English

Find detailed information on [admission requirements](#) on our website.

Language requirements

Unless you are a native speaker or you have completed your entire undergraduate degree at an English-language university, you will need to verify your language skills with an **official English test**.

The Hertie School recognises the Cambridge ESOL qualifications CPE (C), CAE (B), and the IELTS (with an overall score of at least 7.0) as well as the TOEFL test (PBT 577, CBT 233, iBT 90) and the online Duolingo exam (115).

Non-native speakers who can provide proof of substantial work or study experience in English may not have to provide language test results.

Application deadline

1 June 2025: priority deadline for scholarships*
1 August 2025: final application deadline

The programme starts in early September. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. The selection committee will invite pre-selected candidates to an online interview.

*For those in need of financial assistance, early application is strongly encouraged in order to increase the chances of receiving a tuition waiver.

Before submitting your application, remember to read our [admission requirements](#) carefully.

Submit application to

All applications need to be submitted via the Hertie School's online application portal: <https://application.hertie-school.org>

Services

Accommodation

All questions related to getting started as a student at the Hertie School and getting settled in Berlin can be directed to our [Student Life](#) team. They support admitted applicants with health insurance, visa applications, residency registration, and finding accommodation.

For more information on housing options in Berlin, have a look at our [website](#).

Career advisory service

Career planning is a lifelong matter. Be it a CV check, mock interviews, general orientation, or decision-making, our [Career Development](#) team at the Hertie School supports students and alumni in all matters of their professional development.

Support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Specialist counselling
- Visa matters
- Welcome event
- Accompanying programme



©Hertie School

Sandy Quimbaya
Resident Director for the
National Democratic
Institute (NDI), Tanzania

At the Hertie School, we were inspired to seek change. The courses provided the essential tools and ideas to guide us. The passion shown by professors was outstanding. I have no doubt that many lives of students have been touched, and many careers have been enriched.

Our Partners

CIVICA

GPPN
german public policy network



Alumni video: Sascha Al Dahouk (Executive MPA 2020)

Sascha Al Dahouk speaks about his experiences at the Hertie School and how this executive programme relates to his career. He shares insights into how both the courses he attended and his peers in the Master's programme have helped him further develop his leadership role and style, working in the civil sector at the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment.

» more:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdtDEPFUHQs&list=PLVyW-1uzF8DZaKcTp7udPhGxmE1FSQ_BE&index=25

Hertie School



The Hertie School is located in Berlin's Mitte neighbourhood, just around the corner from the Bundestag and many ministries.

© Hertie School

The Hertie School is a private university based in Berlin, Germany. Founded in 2003 by the Hertie Foundation, the Hertie School became Germany's first professional school for public policy and was granted official state recognition in 2005.

Interdisciplinary and practice-oriented teaching, first-class research and an extensive international network set the Hertie School apart. In preparing exceptional students for leadership positions in government, business, and civil society, the Hertie School is positioned as an ambassador of good governance and is characterised by public debate and engagement. "Understand today. Shape tomorrow." is our motto.

The Hertie School has four Master's programmes: the [Master of Public Policy](#) (since 2005), the [Executive Master of Public Administration](#) (since 2008), the [Master of International Affairs](#) (since 2015), and the [Master of Data Science for Public Policy](#) (since 2020).

Together with the Freie Universität Berlin and the Social Science Centre Berlin (WZB), the Hertie School formed the [Berlin Graduate School for Global and Transregional Studies \(BGTS\)](#) to offer doctoral training for the Contestations of the Liberal Script (SCRIPTS) Cluster of Excellence.



University location

Berlin is in the heart of Europe. And we are in the heart of Berlin.

Germany's capital is a hub for political and cultural events, and a crossroads for travel in Europe and beyond. Located in the city's "Mitte" neighbourhood, the Hertie School is just minutes away from the Reichstag, the Brandenburg Gate and other important political and historic landmarks.

Berlin is a political hub: diverse and international.

As the capital of Germany, Berlin is the epicentre for political decision-makers and policy debates. It is also a city where history is all around, a fascinating backdrop for studying public administration. Berlin draws young people from around the world, bringing with them a diverse set of cultures, skills and activities.

Berlin is affordable and easy to navigate

Among Berlin's many assets is its affordability. Housing and general expenses are relatively lower than in many major capitals worldwide. It is especially welcoming for students, with countless special discounts at many venues.

It is also known as a very bike-friendly city, thanks to a flat landscape and many cycling paths. Whether on foot, by bike or public transportation, life in Berlin is accessible and easy-going. Full-time Executive MPA students in Berlin also receive a semester ticket as part of

their student ID that is valid for all means of public transportation in the entire city.

Contact

Hertie School

Recruitment & Admissions

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🌐 Course website: https://www.hertie-school.org/en/empa/?utm_source=daad&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=degreedatabases

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

🐦 <https://twitter.com/thehertieschool/>

🌐 <https://www.linkedin.com/school/hertie-school/>

📷 <https://www.instagram.com/thehertieschool/>

📺 <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheHertieSchool>

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Disclaimer

The data used for this database was collected and analysed in good faith and with due diligence. The DAAD and the Content5 AG accept no liability for the correctness of the data contained in the "International Programmes in Germany" and "Language and Short Courses in Germany".

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