



## Table of Contents

<b>Master's degree .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Roads to Democracies (MA) • University of Siegen • Siegen.....</b>	<b>2</b>

# Master's degree



## Roads to Democracies (MA)

University of Siegen • Siegen

### Overview

Degree	Master of Arts
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>English</li></ul>
Languages	All courses are taught in English
Full-time / part-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>full-time</li></ul>
Programme duration	4 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Application deadline	First application deadline: 15 May for the following winter semester (strongly recommended for non-EU students to allow sufficient time for visa procedures)  Second application deadline: 15 July for the following winter semester
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	No

#### Description/content

The Roads to Democracies programme is an international, interdisciplinary, and research-oriented Master of Arts programme integrating the subjects of history, political science, and sociology. The full-time programme has a duration of two years (four semesters).

The programme aims to provide students with analytical tools and theoretical knowledge that help to understand and explain the interrelation between institutional structures, political processes, and the social and cultural foundations of democracy. Students shall develop a broad, comparative understanding of the mechanisms behind democratic processes from a historical and social scientific perspective. Thus, students will acquire the competence to assess present-day democratic developments on a national and supranational level. They will obtain theoretical knowledge and gain advanced insights into comparative research methods in history and the social sciences. The interdisciplinary curriculum focuses on political, economic, historical, social and cultural aspects of democratic ideas, institutions, and structures within and outside Europe. In elective courses, students have the possibility to attend lectures in economic and environmental law. Furthermore, students can choose from a variety of language courses (including German) offered by the university's Language Centre, and they can acquire important soft skills through courses offered in intercultural communication, academic writing and more. In addition, the House

of Young Talents, the Career Service and the Alumni Association offer a wide range of extracurricular activities to prepare students for their future careers.

International academic exchange is an important aspect of the programme. It is strongly recommended that students spend a semester abroad with an Erasmus+ scholarship at one of the participating partner universities, e.g., the University of the Azores, the University of Bologna, the University of Coimbra, the Pedagogical University of Krakow, the University of Lucerne, Marmara University, the University of Palermo, the University of Piraeus, and others. The language of instruction and examination is English. Furthermore, international academic exchange is strengthened through the organisation of joint summer schools and guest lectures in Siegen and abroad. International cooperation in the students' research activities is encouraged through the possibility of involving professors from the participating partner universities as second supervisors of the Master's theses.

The Roads to Democracies Master of Arts degree programme qualifies successful candidates for admission to doctoral studies / PhD studies.

The Master's programme provides a good basis for management positions at, e.g.: international organisations and NGOs, international aid and development agencies, research institutions and institutes of higher education in the public and private sectors, cultural agencies and cultural heritage institutions, publishing houses, journalism and media agencies concerned with international and intercultural communication, political parties, associations, foundations, and international and internationally operating companies.

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## Course Details

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### Course organisation

The programme comprises compulsory core modules as well as elective courses:

#### First semester

- Introductory module
- Actors and Institutions in Historical and Contemporary Perspective

#### Second semester

- Empirical Research on Democracy
- Political Cultures and the Public Sphere: Past and Present

#### Third semester

- Global and Transnational Processes: Past and Present
- Democracies in Comparative Perspective
- Thematic module abroad - optional

#### Fourth semester

- Master's thesis and Master's presentation (Master's examination)

#### Flexible elements that can be completed every semester

- Additional special studies module
- Master's thesis module
- One compulsory internship (eight weeks) – substitution for modules upon request and in exceptional cases
- "Studium Generale Module"

Modes of teaching are seminars, blended-learning courses, workshops, projects, conferences, and lectures. Students are expected to obtain an average of 30 credit points per semester and must acquire 120 credit points over the entire programme.

A Diploma supplement will be issued	Yes
International elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International guest lecturers</li> </ul>
Description of other international elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer schools</li> <li>• International/national conferences</li> <li>• Model United Nations (each year in New York; extracurricular, recognition on request)</li> <li>• SiegMUN (each year with the local Model United Nations; extracurricular, recognition on request)</li> </ul>
Integrated internships	Internships are an integrated part within the study programme and are scheduled for the second semester (eight weeks/nine credit points). Students will receive assistance from the study course advisers in finding a suitable institution.
Course-specific, integrated German language courses	No
Course-specific, integrated English language courses	No

## Costs / Funding

Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Semester contribution	Students have to pay a semester contribution of approximately 320 EUR, which is due before the start of each semester, as part of (re-)registration. This fee covers the cost of a public transport ticket (valid for six months in all of Germany), a social services contribution, and student activities.
Costs of living	<p>The city of Siegen has very moderate costs for accommodation, offering attractive living conditions for students. Living expenses range from only 800 EUR to 950 EUR per month, including rent, health insurance, food, clothing, learning materials, phone/Internet, travel expenses, entertainment, and sports. This estimated cost of living can vary depending on lifestyle, type of accommodation, budget, and spending habits.</p> <p>It is important that students plan and manage their finances throughout the duration of the degree programme to ensure they have enough funds to cover semester contributions and living costs.</p>
Funding opportunities within the university	Yes
Description of the above-mentioned funding opportunities within the university	Students at the University of Siegen can apply for the <a href="#">‘Deutschlandstipendium / Studienförderfonds’</a> , which can cover part of the students' cost of living. <a href="#">Scholarships for doctoral students</a> are available at the House of Young Talents of the University of Siegen.

## Requirements / Registration

## Academic admission requirements

A first academic degree (a Bachelor's degree from a programme with a minimum duration of three years or equivalent) in history, political science, sociology or an appropriate related subject with an overall final grade of at least 2.5 (according to the German grading system). Admission to the Master's programme requires a proof of a study-related special qualification.

A study-related special qualification is ascertained when the submitted documents, in particular, the transcript of records, the letter of motivation and the exposé, show that the student has the ability to conduct independent scientific work and has the relevant methodological competencies that enable him/her to successfully complete the Master's programme.

The assessment of the study-related special qualification is part of the application procedure. It is based on the submitted application documents (see application documents below).

Applicants must submit the following documents:

- CV in English
- Certified copies of the university entrance certificate
- Certified copies of university certificates, university diplomas with transcript of records and certified translations in German or English, if applicable
- Language certificates (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS, CAE, CPE, or certificate issued by university showing that the language of instruction during the BA studies was English)
- Each applicant must submit a letter of motivation (750 to 1,000 words) in English containing information on professional qualifications and personal motivation for the course of study described from a professional-scientific perspective. The letter should also elaborate on professional goals.
- Each applicant must also submit an exposé of research ideas for his or her potential Master's thesis of 2,000 to 2,500 words in English, and this must meet scientific standards and include references to the current state of research. A confirmation of authorship needs to be signed and attached to the document.
- One letter of recommendation from a university professor in English

Applicants from the PR China and Vietnam must include a certificate of the Academic Evaluation Centre (APS), which should be filed together with their application documents or, at the latest, at the time of enrolment. Applicants from India must pass the APS in order to get a visa granted for Germany.

Please check the programme's website for further information on the application process.

## Language requirements

Applicants for the MA Roads to Democracies must have a very good command of English (equivalent to Level C1 of the Common European Framework).  
Language proficiency can be proved by certificates of internationally recognised English language tests, e.g. TOEFL min. 95 (Internet-based), IELTS: min. 7, Cambridge Certificate CAE: min. grade B, Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): min. grade C  
Further proof of English may be an academic degree in which English was the language of instruction and examination.

## Application deadline

First application deadline: 15 May for the following winter semester (strongly recommended for non-EU students to allow sufficient time for visa procedures)

Second application deadline: 15 July for the following winter semester

## Submit application to

Online application process: <https://unisono.uni-siegen.de/qjserver/pages/cs/sys/portal/hisinoneStartPage.faces?chco=y&noDBAction=y&init=y>

## Services

### Possibility of finding part-

Students can easily find part-time jobs with the help of the [job placement service](#) of the university.

## time employment

Siegen and the surrounding area are home to a large number of medium-sized industrial enterprises (SMEs), or so-called hidden champions in electrical and mechanical engineering. Some bigger examples include the companies [SMS](#) and [Achenbach Buschhütten](#). A lot of smaller, yet very successful and quickly growing high-tech companies are located here as well, for instance, [PMD Technologies](#) and [Asentics](#), which are spin-off companies of the university. As a result, employment opportunities are very good, especially for jobs during the semester breaks and after graduation.

## Accommodation

There are student residences (dormitories) of the "[Studierendenwerk](#)" (student services) close to the university. The rent for a room is between 270 EUR and 450 EUR. Please be aware that German universities do not usually have campus systems like universities in some other countries where all students can find accommodation directly on the university property. Therefore, some students might have to find rooms on their own. The private accommodation costs per room are 400 EUR on average. Detailed information concerning general accommodation can be found [here](#).

Early application/search is advisable.

## Career advisory service

The [career services](#) team helps with all questions regarding career entry and career planning. It offers information on occupational fields, helps with the career-related structuring of studies and provides direct support with individual coaching and consulting services when it comes to finding a good career start after graduation.

Furthermore, the programme [SieguVer](#) specifically supports international students in preparing for the regional job market. Additionally, the offers of the "[Alumniverbund](#)" provide a good opportunity to network and to benefit from the experiences of former students.

## Support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Welcome event
- Buddy programme

# Contact

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# International Programmes in Germany - Database

[www.daad.de/international-programmes](http://www.daad.de/international-programmes)  
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