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Master's degree

Global Communication
University of Erfurt • Erfurt

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Languages

The core curriculum will be taught in English. Therefore, very good English proficiency is required in order to successfully follow the programme. Students from abroad who are unable to speak German should study German before and during their studies so that they can benefit from additional courses that are taught in German and complement the core curriculum. Participants can choose to write their exams, term papers, and Master's theses in either English or German.

Programme duration

4 semesters

Beginning

Winter semester

Application deadline

The application period for the following winter semester starts on 1 April and ends on 15 July. Applications will be continually processed during this period.

Please note that because of time-consuming visa application procedures, international applicants can already submit their application to the International starting on 1 November.

Tuition fees per semester in EUR

None

Combined Master’s degree / PhD programme

No

Joint degree / double degree programme

No

Description/content

The Master’s programme “Global Communication: Politics and Society” is a predominantly English language consecutive degree dealing with media systems and communication cultures in international comparison.

Classical fields of research in social and political communication as well as media communication are framed in a global perspective. The Master’s programme is innovative in that it considers global communication through international comparison rather than as isolated national processes.
Moreover, international cross-border communication, foreign news reporting, and the globalisation of everyday environments are analysed. As a result, sensitivity for the common communicative challenges of the world is growing.

Exemplary issues and fields of application are:

- the role of media in democracies, political transitions, wars, and conflicts in different regions of the world (i.e., foreign reporting, war and crisis communication)
- the interplay between media and globalisation (i.e., information society, global entertainment culture, global public sphere)
- media developments in Asia, Africa, Middle East, and Latin America
- migration and the public sphere (i.e., hate speech, racism, intercultural communication)
- globalisation and everyday communication (i.e., communication and tourism)
- communication in Islamic-Western relations (i.e., media and stereotypes, diplomacy communication, terrorism as a communication strategy)
- global business communication (i.e., corporation networks, marketing, and culture)
- contemporary changes in media production and usage in international comparison (i.e., journalism and ethics in global perspective)

While the programme is primarily oriented towards the social sciences, it also takes approaches from the field of cultural studies into account. Besides developing academic research skills and learning quantitative and qualitative empirical methods, students will acquire knowledge of academic communication consultancy in dedicated teaching units.

The Master’s programme "Global Communication: Politics and Society" prepares students to work in the professional fields of academic or commercial social research, market analysis, and media research. Moreover, students will be qualified to work in various professions in the fields of journalism, public relations, and academic communication consultancy for politics and society, for example, in government bodies, foundations, and NGOs. Due to the research-oriented specialisation, students may also choose to pursue an academic career. For this purpose, the programme provides an optional “fast track” programme for PhD students. Owing to the focus on global comparative research perspectives and consultancy skills in international contexts, the programme opens up further professional fields at home and abroad.

**Course Details**

**Course organisation**

The Master’s programme "Global Communication: Politics and Society" consists of one mandatory introductory module in the first semester that covers both the theories and methods of global comparative media and communication research. In the second and third semesters, students choose four optional compulsory modules in the fields of a) politics, b) society, and c) media as well as two optional modules in empirical methods. An accompanying multi-semester module introduces communication consultancy, including an internship at home or abroad. The fourth semester will be devoted to the Master’s thesis, which will be presented in a colloquium.

**Types of assessment**

Assessments will generally take the form of written and/or oral examinations and/or term papers.

**A Diploma supplement will be issued**

Yes

**International elements**

- Integrated study abroad unit(s)
- International comparisons and thematic reference to the international context
- Content-related regional focus
- Study trips
- Projects with partners in Germany and abroad
It is advisable to spend one semester abroad. The third semester offers an ideal optional window of mobility. University partnerships exist with both European and non-European countries, for example, with Spain, Estonia, Lithuania, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Italy, Indonesia, and the USA. Individual consultations will be offered by the programme staff.

The programme includes an internship in an internationally oriented political, commercial, or civic institution. The internship provides students with the opportunity to learn and apply academic communication consultancy skills in practice. The search for appropriate internship positions will be supported by the programme staff.

The prerequisite for admission to the programme is a relevant Bachelor’s degree in the area of media and communication studies or journalism studies. If students have a degree in another subject area within the social sciences, proof of basic knowledge of media and communication subjects and issues is required. Furthermore, prior knowledge of empirical methods is necessary (12 ECTS). Admission to study in the programme requires successful participation in the selection procedure, which includes a personal interview.

Very good English proficiency is required:

- TOEFL iBT: 80 or above,
- IELTS 6.5 or above,
- C1 (GER).

Equally accepted standards are:

- a Bachelor’s degree in an English language programme or
- six months of English language higher education experience in an English-speaking country.
**Application deadline**

The application period for the following winter semester starts on 1 April and ends on 15 July. Applications will be continually processed during this period.

Please note that because of time-consuming visa application procedures, international applicants can already submit their application to the International starting on 1 November.

**Submit application to**

For applications coming from outside of Germany:

Universität Erfurt
International Office
Nordhäuser Straße 63
99089 Erfurt
Germany

For applications coming from Germany:

Universität Erfurt
Dezernat 1: Studium und Lehre
Postfach 90 02 21
99105 Erfurt
Deutschland

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**Services**

**Possibility of finding part-time employment**

**Legal Regulations**

International students, who are staying in Erfurt for at least two semesters, are legally allowed to work up to 120 full days or 240 half days per year, mainly during the semester break. The authorisation is provided directly by the Foreigners’ Registration Authority, so you do not need a work permit from the job centre. If you have received a scholarship for your studies and want to earn extra money during your stay in Erfurt, you will need permission from the body providing you with the scholarship. You do not need permission for a job as a student assistant at the university.

For further information, see "General Information for Studying and Living in Erfurt", which is provided by the International Office of the University of Erfurt.

**Accommodation**

1) The student residence halls are managed by the university’s Studierendenwerk Thüringen (student services organisation).

2) You can also look for a room in a shared flat on your own. Quite a few German degree-seeking students partake in exchange programmes for a semester or two and offer their rooms for sublet.

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

- Welcome event
- Buddy programme
- Tutors
- Other

**Support programmes for international students**

Individual consultation will be offered on a regular basis.

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University of Erfurt
The University of Erfurt is a campus university with more than 100 chairs and nearly 5,715 students. The reform university for the arts and humanities with a particular focus on cultural and social sciences offers an inspiring atmosphere for studying and conducting academic work. The close ties between the Faculty of Humanities; Faculty of Education; Faculty of Economics, Law, and Social Sciences; Faculty of Catholic Theology; and the Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies help the university as a whole to forge new paths in teaching and research.

Forward-looking academic programmes that combine subject-specific knowledge and professionalisation, modern forms of teacher training, and the interdisciplinary general education programme are particular distinctions of the University of Erfurt. Our mentoring programme and excellent student-faculty ratio guarantee a high-quality education. Refounded in 1994, the University of Erfurt is one of the youngest public universities in Germany and stands out for not charging tuition fees and for having a certified family-friendly policy.

The campus is close to Erfurt’s downtown area, making the University of Erfurt a lively part of the Thuringian capital with its low cost of living and its wide range of cultural and recreational activities.

Research
The University of Erfurt has a unique academic profile with a focus on the cultural and social sciences. This is reflected both in its research activities and its core subject clusters: “Education, School, and Behaviour”, “Religion, Society, and World Relations”, and “Knowledge, Spaces, and Media”.

The university is committed to tackling the major social challenges of our time. It believes in international academic collaboration and global participation in the pursuit of knowledge and science. It sets new standards in basic research and endeavours to share its academic insights with the wider society. Its four faculties, the Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, and the research facilities in Gotha all contribute their diverse structures and purposes to the overall concept to facilitate interdisciplinary, international and collaborative research. The university highly values academic freedom and support for young academics. In 2018, it established the Christoph Martin Wieland Graduates’ Forum as a service structure for early-career researchers.

University Location
The City of Erfurt

A whole host of unique characteristics make Erfurt what it is. One of the oldest cities in Central Germany, it looks back on a long history spanning more than 1,250 eventful years. Its fortunate location at the crossroads of many European trading routes allowed the city grow into an economical, political, cultural and intellectual hub at a very early stage. Many important figures helped to write the history of Erfurt: Martin Luther, Ulrich von Hutten, Adam Ries, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Friedrich Schiller and Wilhelm von Humboldt are just a few.

Erfurt is situated at the centre of Germany, conveniently accessible from all corners of the country. It is two hours away from Frankfurt/Main, a little under two hours from Berlin, two and a half hours from Munich and just 40 minutes from Leipzig on the high-speed ICE train. Weimar, Jena, Gotha and Eisenach — cities that are famous far beyond the national borders of Germany — are a mere stone’s
throw away. Even the Thuringian Forest, just 30 kilometres from Erfurt, is within easy reach.

With a population of 210,000 people, Erfurt is a student town that boasts a great atmosphere and plenty of character. Students of the university and of the University of Applied Sciences get to enjoy a well-preserved medieval old town with lovingly restored patrician townhouses, picturesque alleys and cobbled squares. The charm of the student metropolis of the Middle Ages still reverberates in the Andreasviertel district and the university quarter, home to Collegium Maius (the reconstructed main building of the old university), the international guest house on Michaelisstraße and the student dormitories on Kreuzsand.

Cosy cafés, pubs, parks, museums, art galleries and the new, modern opera shape the cultural landscape of the city. Erfurt is also an administrative centre and media hub at the heart of Germany. Over the course of the past years, the city’s old freight yard has been turned into a creative venue that hosts innovative live shows and other events.

Contact

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https://www.facebook.com/MAGlobalCommunication/
https://twitter.com/unierfurt
https://www.instagram.com/unierfurt/

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