



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



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# Master's degree



## Cognitive Systems: Language, Learning, and Reasoning

University of Potsdam • Potsdam

### Overview

Degree	Master of Science
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>English</li></ul>
Languages	Courses are taught exclusively in English.
Programme duration	4 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Application deadline	1 June
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	No
Description/content	<p>The MSc Cognitive Systems programme is a two-year Master's degree programme that covers the areas of computational linguistics, machine learning, and knowledge representation and reasoning. The programme is unique in bringing together all three fields in an interdisciplinary combination. The main focus is on developing intelligent computer systems; we also cover formal models of human cognitive processes.</p> <p>The programme teaches you how to build computer systems that process language and that learn, reason, and solve problems autonomously. It is a four-semester programme that is jointly taught by the Department of Computer Science and the computational linguistics and psycholinguistics groups within the Department of Linguistics. The programme provides students with strong foundations in computational linguistics, knowledge representation and reasoning, machine learning, and statistical modelling.</p>

### Course Details

Course organisation	The study programme starts off with lectures that teach you the basics of language, learning, and reasoning.
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Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the MSc Cognitive Systems programme, we assume that most students will have incomplete knowledge of one or two of the foundation areas (mathematics, computer science, and linguistics). These students must attend and pass the foundation modules for the respective areas in their first semester. All students are expected to pass three basic modules that will provide them with deeper knowledge of the foundation areas. As you progress through the programme, the responsibility of defining your own research problems will then shift more and more from us towards you. You can further extend your knowledge in the chosen areas via advanced elective modules, two project modules, and one individual research module. At the end, you will complete your first larger-scale research project in the form of your MSc thesis.

» [PDF Download](#)

<b>A Diploma supplement will be issued</b>	Yes
<b>International elements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated/optional study abroad unit(s)</li> </ul>
<b>Description of other international elements</b>	All courses in the MSc Cognitive Systems are taught in English.
<b>Integrated/optional study abroad unit(s)</b>	Students are expressly advised to spend time abroad during the programme. The individual module and the optional modules during the third semester are particularly suitable for this purpose, as is the Master's thesis during the fourth semester.
<b>Course-specific, integrated German language courses</b>	No
<b>Course-specific, integrated English language courses</b>	No

## Costs / Funding

<b>Tuition fees per semester in EUR</b>	None
<b>Semester contribution</b>	No tuition is charged for studying at the University of Potsdam (with the exception of a few continuing education courses). There is only an administrative fee, which is currently 292 EUR. This semester contribution includes the "Deutschland-Semester-Ticket", which entitles you to free use of local public transport all over Germany.
<b>Costs of living</b>	The average monthly living expenditures of students at the University of Potsdam are 935 EUR, but this can vary between 600 and 1,100 EUR, largely depending on accommodation. A more detailed list of the average monthly expenditures of our students can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Funding opportunities within the university</b>	No

## Requirements / Registration

<b>Academic admission</b>	Applicants need to demonstrate that they already have programming skills as well as background
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## requirements

knowledge in at least one of these areas: Foundations of Mathematics, Foundations of Computer Science, or Foundations of Linguistics. We accept students from a variety of backgrounds, such as computational linguistics, computer science, linguistics, or neighbouring disciplines, e.g. mathematics and psychology.

**Documentation of your background knowledge** in at least one of these areas: Foundations of Mathematics (calculus, linear algebra, statistics), Foundations of Computer Science (data structures and algorithms, formal languages and automata), or Foundations of Linguistics (syntax, semantics, phonology, pragmatics). It is possible to document your background knowledge by having taken at least 9 ECTS worth of classes.

**Documentation of your programming skills** The preferred way is that your transcript of records clearly lists at least 6 ECTS worth of programming classes. Alternatively, you can send in certificates regarding extracurricular programming courses that you have attended or documentation of programming projects that you have completed.

### Language requirements

Applicants need to provide proof of English language skills at level C1 or above (CEFR) with a certificate listed on the following page: [Required Language Skills for University Studies](#).

### Application deadline

1 June

### Submit application to

<https://www.uni-assist.de/>

## Services

### Possibility of finding part-time employment

Job opportunities for students alongside their studies are numerous. Depending on personal and professional skills, students can find jobs in the service sector (e.g. in restaurants, supermarkets, cinemas, museums, theatres, etc.) or work as student research assistants at the University of Potsdam or at one of the many non-university research institutions located in the area. Berlin, the capital city of Germany, is located just around the corner, and students can also find jobs there. Please see [this website](#) for further information.

### Accommodation

There are several student dormitories in Potsdam. These are administered exclusively by Potsdam's Association for Student Affairs ("Studentenwerk Potsdam"). You can apply for a room in one of these dormitories if you are under the age of 30. If you are a Master's student, you can only apply if the degree at the University of Potsdam is your first Master's programme. Additionally, there are also a few private dormitories in Potsdam, to which these conditions do not apply. However, many students prefer to find an apartment in Potsdam or Berlin, which they often share with fellow students. The housing market is very tight, so please start looking for an accommodation as early as possible.

For information on how to register for a dorm room or find accommodation elsewhere, please click [here](#).

### Career advisory service

The Career Service of the University of Potsdam supports students and graduates who want to actively shape their careers. The aim is to ensure comprehensive career orientation and to provide opportunities for the development of professional skills. The Career Service offers workshops, seminars, and individual counselling. There are information pages on a wide range of occupational fields as well as a database of internships and jobs. Many of the services are also available in English.

### Support for international students and doctoral

- Welcome event

## candidates

- Buddy programme
- Tutors
- Specialist counselling
- Visa matters

General services and support  
for international students  
and doctoral candidates

<https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/international/contact/io>

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## Contact

### University of Potsdam

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🌐 Course website: <https://www.ling.uni-potsdam.de/cogsys/>

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

🐦 <https://twitter.com/unipotsdam>

🌐 <https://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-potsdam/>

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

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# International Programmes in Germany - Database

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

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## GATE-Germany

Consortium for International Higher Education Marketing  
[www.gate-germany.de](http://www.gate-germany.de)

## 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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