DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

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Master's degree

Cognitive Systems: Language, Learning, and Reasoning

University of Potsdam • Potsdam

Overview

Degree	Master of Science
Teaching language	• English
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	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. 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.

Course Details

Course organisation	The study programme starts off with lectures that teach you the basics of language, learning, and reasoning.

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.

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A Diploma supplement will be issued	Yes
International elements	• Integrated study abroad unit(s)
Integrated study abroad unit(s)	Students have the opportunity to spend a semester abroad via the Erasmus+ programme.
Special promotion / funding of the programme	• ERASMUS+
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	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 currently amounts to 316 EUR. This semester contribution includes a semester ticket entitling you to free use of public transport all over Brandenburg and Berlin.
Costs of living	Living in Germany is rather cheap compared to other countries in Northern and Western Europe. Monthly living expenditures of students at the University of Potsdam vary between 870 and 1,200 EUR, largely depending on accommodation. A more detailed list of the average monthly expenditures of our students can be found here.
Funding opportunities within the university	No

Requirements / Registration

Academic admission	Applicants need to demonstrate that they already have programming skills as well as background

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	Your English language skills should be at the level C1. Acceptable certificates include: - UNIcert® III or IV certificate - TOEFL® Internet-Based Test (iBT) or TOEFL iBT Home Edition with at least 95 points - Cambridge English C1 Advanced (CAE) with at least 180 points - IELTS "Academic" with at least seven points in every test component - Degree certificate for the completion of an English-language degree programme at a recognised institution of higher education - Certificate of the higher education entrance qualification obtained for an English language course of education in a country that has English as an official language - Pearson Test of English – PTE Academic with at least 76 points - Cambridge English C2 Proficiency (CPE)
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 assistants at the University of Potsdam or at one of the many non-university research institutions located in the area. The German capital, Berlin, 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 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 this link.

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 candidates	- Welcome event - Buddy programme - Tutors - Specialist counselling - Visa matters

Contact

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International Programmes in Germany - Database

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Federal Ministry of Education and Research