



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



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Master's degree

UNIKASSEL
VERSITÄT

Agriculture, Ecology & Societies (AGES)

University of Kassel • Witzenhausen



Overview

Degree	Master of Arts or Master of Science, depending on specialisation
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">English
Languages	The programme is taught in English.
Full-time / part-time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">full-time
Programme duration	4 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Additional information on beginning, duration and mode of study	This programme starts in October. Please refer to the programme website for up-to-date information, or contact the programme coordinator via e-mail.
Application deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Applicants with a first academic degree acquired outside of Germany: 1 May Applications are screened beginning in December – please apply as early as possible in order to allow time for registration, financing, and visa formalities.Applicants with degrees acquired in Germany: 1 September
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	No
Description/content	<p>In the two-year Master's programme in "Agriculture, Ecology & Societies" (AGES), students explore sustainable agriculture from an interdisciplinary perspective. Depending on their career objectives and thematic interests, students may combine courses in the following areas of expertise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">the natural sciences and biophysical basis for sustainable agroecologies

- ecological land and farm management practices
- the social organisation (governance) and economics of agriculture, rural geographies and rural-urban linkages
- political demands and voices within the food system
- agricultural beliefs and ethics
- critical food systems research and advocacy

The programme emphasises interdisciplinary, critical and project-based learning, and is taught by scholars from a variety of (inter-)disciplinary backgrounds. Its common denominator is the search for more sustainable, equitable food systems, and the need to train and equip young change-makers with an interdisciplinary skill set for food system transformation.

AGES is offered by the [Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences](#), which has been a core research and education hub for the German and European organic agriculture movement for 40 years. As a transdisciplinary programme, AGES combines the expertise and facilities of four more faculties at the University of Kassel:

- Faculty of Humanities
- Faculty of Social Sciences
- Faculty of Economics and Management
- Faculty of Architecture, City and Landscape Planning

We maintain a unique network of partner institutes abroad where students can further specialise in agroecology, agricultural development and environmental governance, among other focus areas.

Short films about our faculty and student life in Witzenhausen can be found in our [video gallery](#).

Course Details

Course organisation

The programme is divided into 15 modules (six credits each):

Two compulsory modules:

- Agriculture and ecosystem services
- Food systems governance and agriculture

Two bridging modules:

- Students with a life sciences background take:
 - Research methods in social sciences
 - History, societies and environment
- Students with a social sciences or humanities background take:
 - Research methods and data science in the life sciences **and**
 - **either** Principles of organic farming **or** Soil and plant sciences **or** Organic livestock farming under temperate conditions

In **two interdisciplinary project modules**, small groups of students approach a complex topic of societal relevance, using and combining their respective methodological strengths. Interdisciplinary projects are each facilitated by two professors from different disciplines, over the course of one or two semesters.

Nine electives from a wide range of courses are offered at our faculties as well as at the University of Göttingen and a number of international partner universities. Students only take electives during the third semester, which greatly simplifies the arrangements for an exchange semester. The electives must include:

- At least two courses from the subject area Agriculture and Ecology
- At least two courses from the subject area Socioeconomics, Humanities and Environment
- At least two methodological courses
- Optional and with prior approval: up to two courses taught in German

Finally, in the **Master's thesis module and colloquium** (30 credits), students develop and

present an independent, transdisciplinary research project of societal relevance. Each thesis is supervised by two supervisors from different disciplines.

A Diploma supplement will be issued	Yes
International elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training in intercultural skills• Study trips• International comparisons and thematic reference to the international context• Projects with partners in Germany and abroad
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	Mandatory registration fees allow students to use public transport free of charge and the university's refectories and cafeterias at reduced prices. The registration fee for the winter semester 2023/2024 will be approximately 300 EUR.
Costs of living	In order to cover personal expenses while studying in Kassel, it is recommended that students budget around 750 to 900 EUR per month for accommodation, food, health insurance, books, and miscellaneous expenses.
Funding opportunities within the university	No

Requirements / Registration

Academic admission requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An above-average BA or BSc degree in a relevant subject area: Agricultural Sciences, Social Sciences, Economics or Humanities2. A one-page letter detailing your motivation for studying this programme <p>Please refer to the official admissions homepage.</p>
Language requirements	A certificate showing C1-level mastery of the English language Please refer to the official information on language certificates here .
Application deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicants with a first academic degree acquired outside of Germany: 1 May

Applications are screened beginning in December – please apply as early as possible in order to allow time for registration, financing, and visa formalities.

- Applicants with degrees acquired in Germany: 1 September

Submit application to <https://www.uni-kassel.de/uni/en/27135>

Services

Possibility of finding part-time employment

Students can apply for various part-time jobs or work as student assistants on campus. Please have a look at www.uni-kassel.de. Some departments also provide positions as tutors or working students.

Accommodation

International students enrolled at the University of Kassel can choose between staying at a student residence hall ("Wohnheim") or private accommodation. There are about 1,000 rooms available in the student residencies around the campus. Please have a look at <https://www.studierendenwerk-kassel.de/en/wohnen/>. Rent for a room varies between 200 and 350 EUR per month depending on the location and facilities. Students can choose single apartments with en-suite facilities or a shared flat with fellow students. Private furnished or unfurnished accommodation in Kassel is also available and can be found in the local paper, on flyers on campus, or on the Internet (e.g. social media).

Career advisory service

The University of Kassel has a career service that supports alumni and students in their transition into the job market. The career service guides students during their studies and beyond their graduation with job orientation and assistance in searching for a job or internship through the wide variety of services that are offered.

For more information, please visit the [Career Service homepage](#).

Support for international students and doctoral candidates

- Welcome event
- Tutors
- Specialist counselling
- Cultural and linguistic preparation
- Support with registration procedures

General services and support for international students and doctoral candidates

Mentoring

Supervisor-student ratio

A maximum of 10 students for each instructor

University of Kassel



Kassel University, Campus Witzenhausen

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The University of Kassel, founded in 1971, is characterised by a multi-layered competence network focused on nature, technology, art, and society. The university, with its ten faculties and its School of Art and Design, has committed itself to international cooperation and interdisciplinary research. It hosts 3,000 international students from over 130 countries among its 25,500 students. Approximately 300 professors teach and research in the fields of engineering, natural sciences, and mathematics as well as the humanities, human sciences, environmental engineering, informatics, and arts.

The faculties are located on the main campus (Holländischer Platz) and on other campuses (Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at Heinrich-Plett-Straße, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Wilhelmshöher Allee, Kassel School of Art and Design at the Karlsaue Park, Institute of Sports and Sports Science at the Aueparkhalle, and the “Murhardsche” Library at Brüder-Grimm-Platz). The Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences can be found in the nearby village of Witzenhausen.

Internationally orientated, short-term study courses as well as English-taught Bachelor's and Master's programmes make the university an attractive place to study and do research. International partnerships at home and abroad strengthen its position in the area of national and international higher education.

The university also provides a wide range of leisure-time activities such as sport facilities, cultural activities, international meetings, and social events.



University location

Kassel, with approx. 200,000 inhabitants, is located at the centre of Germany, close to the Fulda River. The city offers rich cultural and economic diversity. Opera and theatres, concerts, open-air-events, famous art museums, and castles enrich the capital of the German “Fairytale Route”. Every five years, the world-famous “documenta” contemporary art exhibition turns Kassel into a cosmopolitan city. There are many parks and forests in Kassel and its surroundings where you can relax in the open air or be active. The “Bergpark Wilhelmshöhe”, Europe’s largest mountainside park, is the most famous sight in Kassel. In 2013, the park and its water cascades became a UNESCO World Culture Heritage Site. An excellent highway and railway infrastructure provides you with the means to explore other German and European cities in a fast and easy way (e.g. three hours to Berlin, Hamburg, or Munich).

Witzenhausen — where the Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences is located — is a small, typical Hessian town, some 35 km from Kassel. Approx. 1,000 students live and work here. Historic, half-timbered houses lend a unique charm to the small town, which is famous for its cherry orchards in the surrounding areas. The annual spring cherry blossom celebration is a highlight for both young and old.

Contact

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🌐 Course website: <https://www.uni-kassel.de/uni/en/studium/agriculture-ecology-and-societies-master>

📷 https://www.instagram.com/oekoagrар_wiz.unikassel/

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International Programmes in Germany - Database

www.daad.de/international-programmes
www.daad.de/sommerkurse

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www.gate-germany.de

Disclaimer

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