



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service



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# Master's degree

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VERSITÄT

## Global Political Economy and Development (MA GPED)

University of Kassel • Kassel



## Overview

Degree	Master of Arts (MA) in Global Political Economy and Development
Teaching language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>English</li></ul>
Languages	Courses are held in English (100%).
Programme duration	4 semesters
Beginning	Winter semester
Application deadline	<p>Application period for applicants who earned their undergraduate degrees outside of Germany: <b>1 December — 15 July</b></p> <p>Application period for applicants who earned their undergraduate degrees in Germany: <b>1 June — 15 July</b></p> <p>Please visit our website for up-to-date deadlines!</p>
Tuition fees per semester in EUR	None
Combined Master's degree / PhD programme	No
Joint degree / double degree programme	No
Description/content	<p>PROGRAMME PROFILE</p> <p>The two-year Master's programme "Global Political Economy and Development" is a research-oriented graduate programme that leads to the degree of Master of Arts in Global Political Economy and Development. It introduces students to the institutions, actors and processes characterising globalised capitalism, North-South relations and development cooperation. It focuses on the global level, but it also looks at regional and national settings from a comparative perspective. Our curriculum stands out because it approaches political economy from a North-South perspective that is informed by development theory and practice and postcolonial perspectives.</p> <p>The programme is interdisciplinary in character and is taught by scholars with a variety of</p>

disciplinary backgrounds, among them political science, sociology and economics. The curriculum is based on a pluralist understanding of political economy and covers both mainstream and critical perspectives. It stresses the importance of an integrated approach to research, which links empirical analysis with methodological and theoretical considerations. Moreover, there is a practical component to GPED: students are expected to complete a two-month internship at NGOs, international organisations, research centres, etc.

#### INTERNATIONAL SCOPE

The student body is truly international: about 75 per cent of the students are from other countries than Germany. Guest lecturers from partner universities around the world regularly offer classes. Field research in preparation for the MA thesis can be supported by a limited number of research grants. For more information, please see the website of the [Global Partnership Network \(GPN\)](#).

#### RELEVANCE

Globalisation has challenged conventional thinking still heavily attached to the nation state and has called into question the traditional separation between the economy and the political sphere. Reflecting on this, the Global Political Economy and Development Master's programme offers students a comprehensive perspective on the world economy as well as the political dynamics, institutions and actors that shape it and the imaginaries of development and progress that permeate it. It investigates the forces of globalisation and its contestations, and critically analyses contemporary forms of political and economic governance on the global level as well as actors and policies in international development.

#### A COMPETITIVE EDGE ON THE JOB MARKET

In the wake of globalisation, a critical understanding of the global political and economic dynamics, time spent abroad and good language skills give graduates a competitive edge on the job market. Correspondingly, the Master's programme aims at facilitating learning on how to interpret and analyse transnational economic and political processes and how to cooperate with peers from all over the world. In so doing, it prepares graduates for careers in areas concerned with globalisation and development, for example, in international organisations, NGOs, consultancies, journalism and academia. Thanks to its focus on both theory and empirical research, it provides rigorous training for students who are interested in pursuing a PhD after graduation.

## Course Details

### Course organisation

#### The following core courses are offered:

- Foundations of GPED (first semester)
- From Colonialism to Globalisation (first semester)
- Governance of the World Market: Institutions and Actors in Trade, Finance and Development (first semester)
- Theories of Global Political Economy and Development (second and third semesters)
- Research Methods (second and third semesters)
- Master's thesis plus colloquium (fourth semester)

#### Specialisation optional courses are offered in the following fields:

- Labour in the Global Economy
- Politics of Money, Debt and Finance
- Issues of Postcolonial Political Economy
- Gender and Race in Globalisation
- Global Governance and Development Cooperation
- Global Political Ecology and Environmental Politics
- European Integration and Migration Policy
- Urbanisation and Agrarian Studies
- Postcolonial, Decolonial and Post-Development Theory
- State, Civil Society and Social Struggles

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<b>A Diploma supplement will be issued</b>	Yes
<b>International elements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International guest lecturers</li> <li>• Training in intercultural skills</li> <li>• International comparisons and thematic reference to the international context</li> </ul>
<b>Integrated internships</b>	An internship of at least eight weeks is to be completed during the summer breaks. Programme advisers will assist students in finding the appropriate internship.
<b>Course-specific, integrated German language courses</b>	Yes
<b>Course-specific, integrated English language courses</b>	No

## Costs / Funding

<b>Tuition fees per semester in EUR</b>	None
<b>Semester contribution</b>	There are no tuition fees as such; however, each semester students pay a registration fee of around 300 EUR, which covers the cost of their transportation ticket and also allows students to eat at the university's refectories and cafeterias at reduced prices.
<b>Costs of living</b>	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.
<b>Funding opportunities within the university</b>	No

## Requirements / Registration

<b>Academic admission requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bachelor's degree in social sciences, political science, economics, law or a related field with a study period of at least 6 semesters;</li> <li>• Minimum cumulative grade of "good" or "upper second-class honours", or an equivalent to 2.5 on the German grading scale;</li> <li>• The Bachelor's degree profiles must indicate good knowledge of political science or economics or social science;</li> <li>• Knowledge of the English language equivalent to level C1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages;</li> <li>• One year of socio-political engagements or relevant volunteer/work experience (e.g. international organisations, political institutions, university politics, NGOs, etc);</li> <li>• A motivation letter (two to three pages long) covering the following aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ relation between previous qualifications and prospective professional aims to the MA GPED</li> <li>◦ description of your socio-political commitments</li> <li>◦ explicit motivations for studying the MA GPED</li> <li>◦ discussion of one specific problem of the global political economy or</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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Language requirements	Proficiency in English is necessary for participation in the programme. Non-native English speakers should present one of the following certificates: TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English, DAAD Sprachzeugnis or an equivalent certificate. The score needed for admission is 95 points in TOEFL (iBT, Internet-based), 7.0 in IELTS or C1 in Common European Framework of Reference of Languages. Applicants who have completed their first degree entirely in English are exempt from this requirement.
Application deadline	<p>Application period for applicants who earned their undergraduate degrees outside of Germany: <b>1 December — 15 July</b></p> <p>Application period for applicants who earned their undergraduate degrees in Germany: <b>1 June — 15 July</b></p> <p>Please visit our website for up-to-date deadlines!</p>
Submit application to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Applicants who earned a degree in Germany must send applications to Kassel University. Please see: <a href="https://www.uni-kassel.de/uni/studium/fahrplan-ins-studium/bewerbung/">https://www.uni-kassel.de/uni/studium/fahrplan-ins-studium/bewerbung/</a></li><li>• Applicants who earned a degree outside of Germany must submit applications to uni-assist (online portal). Please see: <a href="http://www.uni-assist.de">http://www.uni-assist.de</a></li></ul>

## 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 <a href="http://www.uni-kassel.de">www.uni-kassel.de</a> . 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 <a href="https://www.studierendenwerk-kassel.de/en/wohnen/">https://www.studierendenwerk-kassel.de/en/wohnen/</a> . 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).
Support for international students and doctoral candidates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome event</li><li>• Tutors</li><li>• Cultural and linguistic preparation</li><li>• Buddy programme</li></ul>
Supervisor-student ratio	A maximum of 10 students for each instructor

# University of Kassel

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 Karlssaue 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.

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## 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

### University of Kassel

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🌐 Course website: <https://www.uni-kassel.de/uni/studium/global-political-economy-and-development-master>

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# International Programmes in Germany - Database

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

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