



# Information Set for (prospective) Students in the M.A. Political Science<sup>1</sup>

*The “information set” provides an overview of the study programme of the Master in Political Science at the Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaftliche Fakultät (WiSo-Faculty) of the University of Cologne. In addition to a presentation of the Institute of Political Science’s Chairs and their research focus, you will find information about exams in Political Science for Bachelor students at Cologne. This will help you to gauge what kind of previous knowledge is expected from Master students and in which area you might need to catch up.*

Compiled by the Institute of Political Science and European Affairs at the University of Cologne:

Prof. Dr. André Kaiser, Chair for Comparative Political Science

Prof. Dr. Christine Trampusch, Chair for International Comparative Political Economy and Economic Sociology

[www.cccp.uni-koeln.de](http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de)

Prof. Dr. Thomas Jäger, Chair for International Relations und Foreign Policy

[www.jaeger.uni-koeln.de](http://www.jaeger.uni-koeln.de)

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Leidhold, Chair for Political Theory and the History of Ideas

[www.leidhold.uni-koeln.de](http://www.leidhold.uni-koeln.de)

Prof. Dr. Sven-Oliver Proksch, Chair for European and Multi-level Politics

[www.cccp.uni-koeln.de](http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de)

Original (German) version: 19/01/2017; translation: 19/01/2017

---

<sup>1</sup> The winter term 2017/18 marks the transition of the M.A. Politikwissenschaft to an English-language programme M.A. Political Science. A thorough active and passive command of English (instead of German) will be an admission requirement. However, a number of elective courses will still be taught in German, so proficiency in both languages increases the available choice of courses.

# Content

- 1 GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE ..... 3**
- 2 GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE M.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE ..... 4**
- 3 THE PROFILES OF THE BRANCHES..... 6**
  - 3.1 COMPARATIVE POLITICS ..... 6
  - 3.2 INTERNATIONAL COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY AND ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY..... 7
  - 3.3 POLITICAL THEORY AND THE HISTORY OF IDEAS..... 8
  - 3.4 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND FOREIGN POLICY..... 9
  - 3.5 EUROPEAN AND MULTI-LEVEL POLITICS ..... 10

# 1 General Information on the Application Procedure

Prospective students apply for the M.A. Political Science directly to the University of Cologne. The master application portal of the WiSo-Faculty (see below for the link) is the hub where you can find all relevant information.

Please note the admission requirements of the master programme. Inter alia, you need to provide evidence of proficiency in the English language. Starting from the winter term 2017/18, the M.A. Political Science is an English-language degree programme. A number of elective courses are taught in German only.

The M.A Political Science can also be studied within a double master programme with the University of Maastricht. In this programme, students complete the first year at the University of Maastricht in the Research Master European Studies (M.Sc.). In the second year, students study at the University of Cologne in the M.A Political Science. Against the background that students obtain two master degrees at the end of their studies, two separate applications at the two participating universities are required. You can find further information on the pages of the Centre for International Relations of the WiSo-Faculty (see below).

The following table summarises the deadlines for the M.A. Political Science and the double master programme for the year 2017.

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Who?</b>	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Where?</b>
01.05.2017	Non EU Citizens	Double Master Programme	University of Maastricht
01.05.2017	Non German Citizens	Double Master Programme	University of Cologne, uni-assist
15.05.2017	German Citizens	Double Master Programme	University of Cologne, Master Application Portal
01.06.2017	EU-Citizens	Double Master Programme	University of Maastricht
15.06.2017	EU-Citizens	M.A. Political Science	University of Maastricht, Master Application Portal
15.06.2016	Non German Citizens	M.A. Political Science	University of Cologne, uni-assist

Source: [Application Procedure](#) of the WiSo-Faculty – please check here for updates and details.

Useful Links:

- [Homepage](#) of the Institute of Political Science at the University of Cologne
- [Information](#) about the admission requirements and the selection procedure in the M.A. Political Science
- [Overview](#) of the M.A Political Science's structure
- The [Master Application Portal](#) of the WiSo-Faculty
- [Homepage](#) of the WiSo Student Service
- [Information](#) of the Centre for International Relations on the Double Master Programme with the University Maastricht

## 2 General Information on the M.A. Political Science

In terms of content, the M.A. Political Science at the University of Cologne consists of **five thematic branches** allowing for specialisation:

- I. [Comparative Analysis of Political Institutions \(Prof. Kaiser\)](#)
- II. [Comparative Analysis of Political Economy \(Prof. Trampusch\)](#)
- III. [Political Theory and the History of Ideas \(Prof. Leidhold\)](#)
- IV. [International Relations and Foreign Policy \(Prof. Jäger\)](#)
- V. [European and Multi-level Politics \(Prof. Proksch\)](#)

Additionally, Prof. Dr. Ingo Rohlfing offers courses on methods in branches I and II.

In general, students may decide individually on their specialisation within the study programme. Unlike most bachelor programmes, the M.A. Political Science does not have any obligatory modules (except the colloquium). The master programme intentionally covers the whole range of political science. In contrast to specialised master programmes such as "International relations" or "Development policy", it aims to educate generalists. This orientation notwithstanding, students may specialise by focusing on three of the thematic areas on offer. After passing a number of core modules in the five branches mentioned above, students specialise in theoretical and methodological challenging research projects, which prepare for writing one's master thesis independently. Although we recommend to specialise in three of the five thematic areas, this is not a requirement.

Note that in order to pass a module, usually several courses are on offer from which you can choose. However, you can pass any module only once as part of your studies, even when courses in the respective module deal with different topics.

**In terms of structure**, the M.A. Political Science comprises 120 credit points (CP), has a regular study time of four semesters and consists of four sections. In each of these sections, each of the five thematic areas (see above) offers at least one course in the respective module I-V.

The **core section** (36 CP) consists of "core modules" and "advanced core modules". Students have to pass:

- three (out of five) core modules à 6 CP. With the exception of core module IV, these are lectures with a written exam at the end of the semester,
- two (out of five) advanced core modules à 9 CP. Advanced core modules are seminars where students write a seminar paper.

The **specialisation section** (36 CP) consists of three (out of five) research projects, usually held as seminars. Students write a – usually empirical – seminar paper. This section also includes the obligatory colloquium (9 CP), where students present and discuss a draft of their master thesis.

The **supplementary section** (24 CP) allows choosing from subjects and specialisations offered at the WiSo Faculty and (based on a bilateral agreement with the Institute of Political Science) the Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Students can choose from different modules or even combine two supplementary sections in different disciplines.

Students should choose the topic of their **Master's thesis** (24 CP) from the passed subjects within the core- and specialisation sections. Students can register for the master's thesis as soon as they have passed courses worth 60 CP, so it does not necessarily form the final part of their studies. The maximum preparation time of the thesis is six months.

Optionally, students can also bring in up to 6 CP acquired at a foreign university or at a summer school organised by the WiSo-faculty. This is possible in the module "Special Aspects of Social Sciences" in the core section. Additional options for crediting courses from foreign universities include the full supplementary section "Studies Abroad" through the modules Studies Abroad I + II with 12 CP each, as well as the option of replacing individual courses of the Cologne programme with equivalent courses from abroad.

CP-Overview	
<b>Core- and Advanced Section</b>	<b>36 CP</b>
Core Modules	18 CP
Advanced Core Modules	18 CP
<b>Specialisation Section</b>	<b>36 CP</b>
Specialisation	27 CP
Colloquium	9 CP
<b>Supplementary Section</b>	<b>24 CP</b>
<b>Thesis</b>	<b>24 CP</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>120 CP</b>

Detailed CP-Overview (exemplary course of studies with options)				
Sem.	Module	K	Prep	CP
1	Core Module Political Science I, IV, V	30h	150h	6
1	Core Module Political Science I, IV, V	30h	150h	6
1	Advanced Core Module Political Science I-V	30h	240h	9
1	Advanced Core Module Political Science I-V	30h	240h	9
2	Core Module Political Science II, III	30h	150h	6
2	Specialisation Module Political Science I, IV, V	30h	240h	9
2	Supplementary Modules I	60h	300h	12
3	Specialisation Module Political Science II, III	30h	240h	9
3	Specialisation Module Political Science II, III	30h	240h	9
3	Supplementary Modules II	60h	300h	12
4	Colloquium	30h	240h	9
4	Master's Thesis		720h	24

## 3 The Profiles of the Branches

### 3.1 Comparative Politics

#### 3.1.1 Profile and Requirements

The Chair of Prof. Dr. André Kaiser focuses on imparting theoretical concepts, quantitative and qualitative methods and central findings of the comparative analysis of political systems to students. Content-wise, the focus is on constitutional democracies. However, courses regularly also touch upon non-democratic political systems and transition countries. With regard to theories and concepts, the focus is on neo-institutionalist concepts that interpret political behaviour within institutional structures.

The chair aims – within the Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP), run together with Prof. Dr. Christine Trampusch (Chair for Comparative Political Economy and Economic Sociology) and Prof. Dr. Sven-Oliver Proksch (European and Multi-level politics) – for a cross-fertilisation process of the analysis of political institutions and the analysis of policy production, especially of regulatory policies for the labour and the financial market. Most courses are offered in English. For more information please visit the homepage of the Center for Comparative Politics (<http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de>).

#### 3.1.2 Core Readings

Lijphart, Arend, 1999: *Patterns of Democracy. Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries.*

Tsebelis, George, 2002: *Veto Players. How Political Institutions Work.*

Scharpf, Fritz W., 1997: *Games Real Actors Play. Actor-Centred Institutionalism in Policy Research.*

Kaiser, André, 2002: *Mehrheitsdemokratie und Institutionenreform. Verfassungspolitischer Wandel in Australien, Großbritannien, Kanada und Neuseeland im Vergleich.*

Biela, Jan, Annikal Hennl und André Kaiser, 2012: *Policymaking in Multilevel Systems. Federalism, Decentralisation, and Performance.*

#### 3.1.3 Selected Assignments from B.A. Exams

- 1) Describe two fundamental strategies for comparing political systems. Name the basic problems that may arise in the process.
- 2) Explain neo-institutionalism by means of an example.
- 3) What distinguishes parliamentary democracies from presidential democracies?
- 4) Explain Arend Lijphart's typology of democracies. Against this background, elaborate on his ten country indicators.
- 5) Explain the following terms: (a) semi-presidentialism, (b) dual federalism, (c) decentralisation, (d) representation.
- 6) What explains that numerous western European democracies are also monarchies?
- 7) Compare the system of constitutional judiciary in Germany and the USA.
- 8) Explain Inglehart's post-materialism hypothesis.
- 9) Name and explain four models of voting behaviour.
- 10) Compare the German and the British party system.

## 3.2 International Comparative Political Economy and Economic Sociology

### 3.2.1 Profile and Requirements

Research and teaching at the Chair for International Comparative Political Economy and Economic Sociology (and bridging chair to the Max-Planck-Institute for the Study of Societies) focus on the empirical-analytical investigation of relations between economy, society and politics. Explaining interests, preferences and strategies of political and economic collective actors plays a pivotal role. How is political action influenced by economic and social factors? Under which political and social conditions is economic action embedded in labour and financial markets? The chair's research and teaching is theory-oriented and methodologically grounded. The theoretical points of reference are political-economic as well as sociological economic approaches, especially: rational-choice, historical and sociological institutionalism, comparative policy-analysis, power resources and corporatist approaches, veto player approaches and varieties-of-capitalism approaches. The methodological spectrum encompasses quantitative and qualitative, case oriented research methods. The chair cooperates in research and teaching closely with the MPIfG (<http://www.mpifg.de>). Together with the chairs for Comparative Politics (Prof. Dr. André Kaiser) and European and Multi-level politics (Prof. Dr. Sven-Oliver Proksch), it forms the Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (<http://www.cccp.uni-koeln.de>).

In order to partake in courses offered by the chair, Master students should have pre-knowledge in the following areas: quantitative and qualitative methods, comparative political science, empiric theories of politics, sociological and economic-sociological theories, European Integration, Europeanisation and Organisation research. Most courses are offered in English.

### 3.2.2 Core Readings

Busemeyer, Marius R. / Trampusch, Christine: *The Political Economy of Collective Skill Formation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2012.

Campbell, Kohn: *Institutional Change and Globalization*, Princeton 2004.

Hall, Peter A. / Soskice, David (Hg.): *Varieties of Capitalism: The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage*, Oxford 2001.

Korpi, Walter: *The Democratic Class Struggle*, London 1983.

Mahoney, James: Path Dependence in Historical Sociology, In: *Theory and Society* 29, 2000, 507-548

Streeck, Wolfgang / Schmitter, Philippe C.: Gemeinschaft, Markt, Staat – und die Verbände? In: Streeck, Wolfgang, *Korporatismus in Deutschland*. Frankfurt am Main, 1999, 191-222.

### 3.2.3 Selected Assignments from B.A. Exams

- 1) Discuss the differences between liberal and social democratic welfare states.
- 2) What are the differences between Marxist approaches and the New Political Economy?
- 3) What is corporatism? How can corporatist states be distinguished from pluralist ones?
- 4) Which problems does economic sociology try to explain and how does that differ from the economic theory?
- 5) Explain the ideal type of a liberal economy in contrast to a coordinated economy.
- 6) Elaborate on the role of left-wing parties in the creation and development of the welfare state.
- 7) Explain the differences between rational-choice institutionalism, historical institutionalism and sociological institutionalism.
- 8) Explain the concept of path dependence.
- 9) Which function does governance have in political economy and which governance types exist?
- 10) How does European economic integration change national political economies?

## 3.3 Political Theory and the History of Ideas

### 3.3.1 Profile and Requirements

The Chair of Political Theory and the History of Ideas ([www.leidhold.uni-koeln.de](http://www.leidhold.uni-koeln.de)) aims for a conceptual and systematic understanding of political realities in their historical and contemporary varieties under special consideration of their intercultural dimensions. This branch, on the one hand, deals critically and analytically with classical and modern authors that considerably contributed to the analysis of political realities. On the other hand, it examines the rich material of the history of ideas that human societies produced to articulate their self-understanding. This theoretical work aims to promote the independent judgment, conception and innovation in theoretical thinking. This includes the critique of dogmatic fixations on one “true” theory.

Besides the primary methods of logical analysis, the methods of historical and intercultural hermeneutics (Cassirer, Dilthey, Gadamer, Alfred Schütz) and the methods of the history of ideas and concepts (Koselleck, Richter; Lovejoy, Foucault, Skinner, Strauss, Voegelin) play an important role in the analysis of theory and the history of ideas. A special focus is on the analysis of structures of experiences that constitute the self-understanding of societies and their institutions (cf. the lecture and seminars “Genealogy of Experience”).

In terms of content, the chair deals with the classics (such as Plato, Aristotle, Thomas Aquinas, Marislius and Dante, Machiavelli, Hobbes and Rousseau, Kant, Hegel and Nietzsche) as well as modern authors (e.g. Derrida, Foucault, Mouffe, Rawls, Sandel, Taylore, Zizek). A competent critical analysis requires a sufficient material breadth of the intelligible field of analysis (Toynbee). Especially, this implies not to reduce a critical analysis to power processes in political institutions. Instead, one has to include the dimensions of experience and the constitutive principles of order and ideas of human existence in society and history. Another special focus here is – among political ideas in the narrow sense (State, Constitution, Democracy, Justice etc.) – the function of orientation, which was assumed by religion and ideology, by art and culture in societies. Courses are partly offered in English.

### 3.3.2 Core Readings

Arendt, Hannah, 1960: *Vita Activa oder Vom tätigen Leben*.

Dewey, John, 1996: *Die Öffentlichkeit und ihre Probleme*.

Mannheim, Carl, 1952: *Ideologie und Utopie*.

Leidhold, Wolfgang, 2002: *Politische Philosophie*.

Strauss, Leo, 1964: *The City and Man*.

Voegelin, Eric, 1991: *Die Neue Wissenschaft der Politik*.

Walzer, Michael, 1992: *Sphären der Gerechtigkeit*.

### 3.3.3 Selected Assignments from B.A. Exams

- 1) Describe Plato’s constitutional model.
- 2) Describe the Aristotelian theory of the creation of the polis and his term of the political.
- 3) Describe Cicero’s analytical method on the basis of the linkage of logic, rhetoric and scepticism.
- 4) Which influence does the Christian context have on the analytical method of Augustine?
- 5) Present the thought method of Thomas Aquinas.
- 6) Which connection exists between Ockham’s theology and his conception of man?
- 7) Present the historical method of thinking of Machiavelli.
- 8) Present the conception of man of Machiavelli.
- 9) Outline the foundation of Machiavelli’s political theory.
- 10) Present the thinking method of Thomas Hobbes.



## 3.4 International Relations and Foreign Policy

### 3.4.1 Profile and Requirements

The chair of Prof. Dr. Thomas Jäger offers theory driven empirical analyses to students with a focus on International Relations. Students can engage in the analysis of International Relations and Foreign Policy in didactically diverse seminars. As a prerequisite, they should have the fundamental concepts and terminologies in the fields of International Relations and Foreign Policy at their disposal. Students should understand concepts such as anarchy, sovereignty, power, values and rules, decisions, routines and interests in their relevant disciplinary definitions and they should be able to work with them. Furthermore, they should be familiar with individual theories and be able to differentiate among them or at least have read about them in the relevant literature (see below) in order to participate actively in seminars.

In order to deal with research questions of International Relations students should be familiar with realism and neo-realism, interdependence and institutionalism, the liberal theory of International Relations, the international political economy as well as social constructivism. In order to deal with research questions in the analysis of Foreign Policy students should have acquired basic knowledge in areas of liberal analysis (interest groups, media, public opinion), the two-level approach, the theoretical analysis of bureaucracy- and organisation as well as political psychology and group decision-making.

Based on such diverse approaches, seminars deal with different topics and different states. Students are encouraged to check the chair's archive at [www.jaeger-uni-koeln.de](http://www.jaeger-uni-koeln.de). Language of instruction is mostly German, although readings in English are the norm. For students who would like to prepare for their master studies, the following books form a good point of departure.

### 3.4.2 Core Readings

Dunn, Tim, Milja Kurki & Steve Smith (Ed.), 2010: *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*.

Hudson, Valery M., 2007: *Foreign Policy Analysis: Classic and Contemporary Theory*.

Jäger, Thomas, Alexander Höse & Kai Oppermann (Hg.), 2011: *Deutsche Außenpolitik: Sicherheit, Wohlfahrt, Institutionen und Normen*.

Waltz, Kenneth N., 1979: *Theory of International Politics*

King, Gary, Robert O. Keohane & Sidney Verba, 1994: *Designing Social Inquiry: Scientific Inference and Qualitative Research*

### 3.4.3 Selected Assignments from B.A. Exams

- 1) Discuss the 'grand debates' in International Relations since the 1930s.
- 2) Write an essay on the role of anarchy in the international system. Elaborate on the different perspectives on anarchy in realist and institutionalist conceptions of International Relations.
- 3) What distinguishes theories of neo-realism and neo-institutionalism in the opinion of Robert Keohane?
- 4) Explain the role of international regimes and the heuristic role of the prisoner's dilemma in the theory of neo-liberal institutionalism.
- 5) Discuss the interdependence theory, focussing on the terms interdependence sensitivity and interdependence vulnerability.
- 6) "The 2006 Libanon war happened because the political system of Israeli abetted it." Assign this statement to one of the levels of analysis Actor, Individual, Ideology, System.
- 7) Discuss the theory of new liberalism in foreign policy research and apply it to a case example in German foreign policy during the past decade.
- 8) Compose an essay on the two-level-approach in foreign policy research and apply it to a case example of British European or foreign policy.

## 3.5 European and Multi-level Politics

### 3.5.1 Profile and Requirements

European Political Science at the University of Cologne – since 2017 represented by Prof. Dr. Sven-Oliver Proksch as the successor of Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Wessels – focuses on a strong theoretical foundation in its research. Students should be familiar with the theories of European Integration and have applied them in seminar papers on specific research questions. The ability to reflect on methods in academic work is an asset.

Students should also be familiar with the relevant political actors and procedures in the political system of the European Union. This includes extensive knowledge about European institutions and also knowledge about decision-making processes and procedures. In particular, students should be familiar with the following institutions: the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Court of Justice, and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

As a rule, language of instruction in master courses is English. Hence, the majority of term paper and theses is also written in English.

### 3.5.2 Core Readings

Cini, Michelle / Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, Nieves, 2013: *European Union Politics*.

Nugent, Neill, 2010: *The Government and Politics of the European Union*.

Peterson, John & Michael Shackleton (eds.), 2012: *The institutions of the European Union*.

Wessels, Wolfgang, 2015: *The European Council*.

### 3.5.3 Selected Assignments from B.A. Exams

Multiple-Choice assignments in Bachelor exams may include the following:

	Question / statement	YES	NO
1)	The European Parliament has the right to block a country's accession to the EU.		
2)	The European Council has been assigned the role of a chamber in the ordinary legislative procedure.		
3)	The European Commission's president can dismiss a Commissioner without being obliged to give a reason.		
4)	The European Court of Justice can exclude a Member State from the Union on grounds of a treaty infringement.		
5)	Only a Member State can initiate a procedure of treaty infringement before the European Court of Justice.		

Examples of statements to be discussed in short essays:

- 1) Member State governments are the principal legislators within the EU system.
- 2) The European Parliament cannot be regarded as a fully-fledged parliament.
- 3) The ordinary legislative procedure after Lisbon has increased the legitimacy of EU legislative acts in a decisive way.

Bachelor students must discuss statements giving arguments both in favour and against. The usual time limit in Bachelor examinations is 30 minutes.

Master students must demonstrate the ability to embed factual knowledge theoretically and to apply theoretical concepts on current developments.