



# STUDYING **SOCIAL SCIENCES**

at the  
UNIVERSITY  
of BREMEN

INFORMATION FOR  
**GUEST STUDENTS**

**FB 08**

## ***Dear International Students,***

The University of Bremen is a young university, founded in 1971, with currently about 20,000 students. More than 3,000 of them are enrolled in the various undergraduate and graduate programmes at the Faculty of Social Sciences, in the Departments of Geography, History, European Studies, Political Science and Sociology. Every year more than 100 students from our Faculty spend a study period abroad, and almost as many guest students come to us from all over the world. This leaflet will provide an orientation about the faculty and its departments and will hopefully support your decision to choose Bremen as your place of study.

### **Language requirements for international guest students**

To study in the social sciences in Bremen you need sufficient knowledge of one of our teaching languages, German or English. To be able to follow courses you need at least a B2 level in one of these languages. The individual study programmes differ with regard to the number of English language courses, but all offer a substantial list of courses taught in English in each semester. When choosing lectures and seminars from all degree programmes of our Faculty plus language training, you will always be able to receive 30 ECTS per semester in English spoken courses, only.

### **ECTS Requirements**

The courses in our Study Programmes are usually worth either three or six Credit Points (ECTS) depending on the examination requirements at the end of the semester.



Examination requirements can be assignments, written exams, essays, oral presentations, records etc.

### **International Module Social Sciences**

The International Module is a special interdisciplinary English language offer for undergraduate and international guest students of our Faculty. This module is generally offered each summer semester and consists of lectures (including integrated presentations or sessions of teaching staff from our partner universities), a seminar part in which students present the results of their own small “international” research group and an international field trip (usually to one of our partner schools).

## Student Committees at the FB08

Students at the University of Bremen organize in Student Committees (called StugA). They provide advice and information to fellow students about questions concerning the study structure or if you should have problems with a professor. Furthermore they organize different activities (film screenings, an orientation week at the beginning of the semester, parties etc.) to which you are of course kindly invited.

### Political Science

[www.politik.stugen.uni-bremen.de](http://www.politik.stugen.uni-bremen.de)

### Integrated European Studies (IES)

[www.ies.uni-bremen.de/ies/stuga](http://www.ies.uni-bremen.de/ies/stuga)

[stugaies@uni-bremen.de](mailto:stugaies@uni-bremen.de)

### Sociology

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### History

[www.stugages.uni-bremen.de](http://www.stugages.uni-bremen.de)

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### Geography

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## Teaching staff mobility and Staff training at the FB 8

Most bilateral ERASMUS agreements include mobility of teaching, technical and administrative staff. Each year the International Office of the

Faculty of Social Sciences accommodates a growing number of visitors and enables a useful integration of the visitors into our teaching modules and research institutes. We are looking forward to your visit!

## Doctoral studies at the University of Bremen

Doctoral students have so far only seldom taken part in the ERASMUS student exchange programme. This might be a result of the limited number of courses at this level in Bremen (here students generally just write their thesis). Nevertheless doctoral students are welcome to come to Bremen and attend classes from our BA- and MA-programmes besides doing their own research related to the thesis. Doctoral students who are at the same time staff members and teaching at their home institution, are, of course, invited to come to Bremen as ERASMUS short term teaching staff.

It is worth to mention that former ERASMUS students have not only the possibility to apply for a Master's programme in Bremen but also for a 3-year grant to work on a PhD at our Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS, [www.bigsss-bremen.de](http://www.bigsss-bremen.de)).





# Political Science

## The Institute for Political Science

The Institute for Political Science is ranked among the leading political science institutions in Germany and specialises in two main areas: Theories and Institutions in International Relations (including the European Union) and the Modern Welfare State. The teaching profile of the two bachelor and three master programmes is shaped by the three research institutions affiliated to the Institute for Political Science. These are the Institute for Intercultural and International Studies ([www.iniis.uni-bremen.de](http://www.iniis.uni-bremen.de)), the Institute for European Studies and the SOCIUM - Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy (<http://www.socium.uni-bremen.de>).

In the light of the international and intercultural approach of political science at Bremen, Erasmus students as well students of political science from outside of Europe are especially welcome. Currently the Institute has a total of 42 ERASMUS partner universities in Western, Eastern, Northern and Southern Europe.

## BA Political Science

In this six-semester BA programme (mainly in German, partly in English), students are introduced to the key areas of political studies (Germany's political system, political theory, comparative politics, international relations and policy studies). Focal themes in the programme include global governance and European integration, democracy theories and welfare state politics. Students can specialise in one of the sub-disciplines in their fourth semester. Students aiming for a teaching career can study political science as a main or subsidiary subject. The BA-programme is open to ERASMUS students of political science and neighbouring disciplines.

## MA Political Science

This four-semester Master's programme is designed for students wishing to deepen their knowledge of political science. Most courses are taught in German, but there is also a growing number of English language courses. Areas of

specialisation include political theory, public administration, European integration and international relations. Topics covered include state and democratic theory, democratic justice as well as public policy and administration.

ERASMUS students at MA level may in general participate in seminars of this programme.

## MA International Relations

This two-year English Master's programme in International Relations is a joint project run by Jacobs University and the University of Bremen. Students attend a total of twelve seminars covering fields such as theories and issues of global governance (including war and peace, international political economy, modern social theory, normative theories of the international order) as well as methods courses.

The MA programme in International Relations is explicitly for international students, who are selected through an application process. Erasmus students at MA level may participate in individual

seminars but must consult teaching staff first. Please note that this programme runs on a different schedule.

### **MA Social Policy**

This four-semester study programme is designed for students wishing to specialise in studies on the modern welfare state, i.e. for example the analysis of health care, pension or unemployment systems. The welfare state is examined not only from a political science perspective but also from a sociological, legal and economic perspective. Courses are offered in German and in English and cover subjects such as theories of the welfare state, comparative policy analysis as well as methods to study social policy.

ERASMUS students at MA level are welcome to attend the courses in this programme.

### **Contact and information**

#### **ERASMUS Coordinator for Political Science and International Relations**

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# Sociology

### **The Institute of Sociology**

The Institute of Sociology is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and contributes considerably to the vibrant social science research landscape at Bremen University and beyond. In teaching and research, the main focal areas are sociological theories, social science research methods and statistics, political and comparative sociology, migration studies and integration, developmental sociology, social networks, family, life course research, as well as education, work, and social inequality. We offer training at the undergraduate and graduate level: BA Sociology and MA Sociology and Social Research. Students in the Bachelor programme Sociology are exposed to a wide array of theoretical approaches and branches of sociology. Our Master's programme Sociology and Social Research offers students thorough project-based training in advanced quantitative and qualitative methods. Further, a wide array of General Studies courses are offered each term, complementing the broad range of topics and methods.

Nearly all courses offered under the two programs are open to ERASMUS students. Courses in neighbouring disciplines within the social sciences can also be attended. German is the language of instruction in most courses. However, each term several courses are offered in English, covering in total about 30 Credit Points. This enables guest students to also study in English.

The Institute of Sociology is also closely linked to the SOCIUM – Research Center on Inequality and Social Policy ([www.socium.uni-bremen.de](http://www.socium.uni-bremen.de)). Whereas teaching is organized by the Institute of Sociology, research mainly takes place within the Research Center. Most of the academic staff are members of both the Institute of Sociology and SOCIUM, enabling a close link between research and teaching.

ERASMUS PhD students can profit from the Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS, [www.bigsss-bremen.de](http://www.bigsss-bremen.de)), where international students work on their doctoral projects. BIGSSS also accepts Visiting Scholars, offering office space and participation in the graduate school program.

## BA Sociology

The objective of the BA programme in Sociology is to equip students with a solid knowledge in basic sociological theories and methods, statistics and social stratification analysis. In addition, students are given the opportunity to deepen their knowledge in selected research areas within sociology. Emphasis is placed on training in empirical research methods and gaining competence in selected branches of sociology.

ERASMUS students of Sociology and neighbouring disciplines are welcome to join courses in the BA Sociology programme.

## Contact and information

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## MA Sociology and Social Research

The Master's programme in Sociology and Social Research is designed for students who seek to deepen their knowledge of sociological theories, and acquire practical and methodological competencies in doing empirical social research. The course design offers project modules to ensure that students become familiar with all facets of current research. Key areas for specialization are:

- Social inequality and living arrangements
- Education, work and the welfare state
- Urban development and migration
- Social integration and methods research
- Network research

An overarching focus is placed on life course research and longitudinal methodology; both approaches characterize the research profile of sociology at the University of Bremen.

ERASMUS students of Sociology at MA level may participate in various seminars but must consult teaching staff first. They can also choose from BA courses.

# European Studies

## BA Integrated European Studies (IES)

The BA programme IES is multidisciplinary and comprises political science, social science and cultural history. In addition, the program also includes learning Polish or Russian. The social science study track focuses on Western Europe while the cultural history study track concentrates on Eastern and Central Europe. In the first modules, the students acquire fundamental knowledge in methods and theories of European integration and contemporary history.

The areas of interest are European Transformation and Integration, Methods and Theories of Social Science, European Cultural History and European Literature and Comparative European Political Science. The area modules focus on specific European regions. Western Europe/Germany, Central Europe/Poland and Eastern Europe/Russia are analyzed in separate modules.

The practical modules connect theory with indi-

vidual research projects. They cover the following topics: EU Politics and Policy-Making; Sites of Memory/Archives; Publicity and Communication.

## Contact and information

### ERASMUS coordinator for the BA Integrated European Studies

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# Geography

## The Institute of Geography

Geography deals with nature and the environment as well as the spatial organization of societies. The interdisciplinary position of this subject between the natural and social sciences makes the study of geography unique and offers a wide range of career possibilities.

For further information visit our website:  
[www.geographie.uni-bremen.de](http://www.geographie.uni-bremen.de)

## Student advisory and ERASMUS departmental coordinator:

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### Special offers for ERASMUS students

In the winter semester we offer the class "Urban History and Geography of Bremen and North Germany" for our visiting guest students. It is part of the "Global Education" programme at the university level. On top of that, you can expect one or two additional classes and the full Physical Geography programme at Master's level, field trips or exercises at Bachelor's level taught in English each semester.

## BA/BSc Geography

The bachelor programme imparts the basics of physical geography and human geography as well as geographical techniques and methods. The subject of physical geography is the influence of natural geo-factors on the human habitat.

Human geography analyzes human and societal activities with regard to the resulting spatial structures. The instruments that are used are, for example cartography, geographical information systems, statistics, field mapping, creating and evaluating questionnaires and laboratory work.



The obligatory excursions increase the awareness of concrete interdependencies in the field. The first semester starts with an obligatory orientation during the week before normal classes start and an introductory project module. The basic modules introducing human and physical Geography form the foundation of knowledge needed for the next semesters. We also offer modules introducing to Geographical Information Systems, cartography, statistics and social research. During the second year our students can choose from a range of modules discussing fields of geographic research and methodology in more detail. Our project modules offered in the fifth semester allow students to conduct their own group-research projects according to their personal interests. This prepares students to develop skills to work on their bachelor thesis during the last (sixth) semester. Students opting to become a teacher in secondary education can also choose modules in the didactics of geography.

### **MA Urban and Regional Development**

How do the many, often unacquainted people in the urban social fabric manage to co-exist? What causes the marked regional differences in residents' living conditions that are currently observed, and how does our society approach the extreme divergences among the ways in which people live? This MA focuses on these issues. It offers students the opportunity to take an in-depth look at questions concerning the social organization of space. It aims to impart interdisciplinary knowledge from the fields of geography and sociology. At its heart are the spatial differentiations and their impacts on different develop-

ments and structures that take place in our society's cities and regions. Questions concerning regionalization, suburbanization, the sustainability of regional development, as well as migration and integration, diversity in cities and especially in urban planning, urban economies, urban infrastructure and housing markets stand at the core of the programme. Emphasis is being placed on teaching spatial information processing techniques and methodological approaches to develop spatial action plans.

In the first semester students learn fundamental concepts in theoretical sociology as well as economic theories of regional development. In addition, an in-depth coverage of advanced qualitative and quantitative research methods is provided. In the second and third semesters, students have the opportunity to acquire research skills through modules on specific urban topics such as environment, culture, migration and urban economies. Parallel to this, students develop a study project with a focus on planning instruments and procedures.

The study programme prepares students for a wide variety of professions in regional administrative bodies, planning and consulting organisations specialised in urban and regional development processes, social urban development projects, real estate, business development organisations and urban logistics and waste disposal businesses.

### **MSc Physical Geography: Environmental History**

The current debate about the reasons and effects of climate change illustrates the need for experts who can understand and explain the complex interrelations that lead to environmental changes

through time. Meeting this demand, the M. Sc. "Physical Geography: Environmental History" is a research-oriented Master's programme in physical geography focusing on the understanding and reconstruction of environmental and climatic history. This programme is innovative and unique in Germany due to its distinct interdisciplinary approach including courses in physical and human geography, archaeology, geosciences, palaeobiology and environmental physics. To ensure high academic quality and practical orientation, the programme draws on both, expertise within the University of Bremen as well as on partnerships with regional scientific institutions in Bremen and Lower Saxony. All classes are taught in English. You will be trained in interdisciplinary lectures,

seminars, projects as well as in laboratory and field courses. Consecutive core subjects start in winter semester and are continued in the summersemester, closely interconnected and consolidated by means of research-based and hands-on training. Furthermore, computer-based analyses and visualization techniques of spatio-temporal data and processes are conveyed. Advanced students of other subjects at the Faculty of Social Sciences can study courses in Archeology and Historical Political Ecology even without a background in natural sciences.

# History

## The Institute of History

History programmes are informed by the staff's research interests and expertise and cover a large range of subject matters. Our programmes encompass Eastern and Western European History and Latin American History as well as German History, covering a chronological span from Ancient History to the 20th century. The History department is cooperating with several research institutions and museums in and around Bremen, including the Research Centre for Eastern European Studies, the German Maritime Museum, the Focke Museum, the Archives of Bremen, and the Archaeological Office of the State of Bremen.

Our undergraduate programmes include the Bachelor in History, with the options single honours in History and joint honours, as well as a Bachelor in History with a teacher's training option. At postgraduate level, two Master's programmes are available, the Master in History and the Master of Education. Both in the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, modules normally consist of two courses (e. g. one lecture and one seminar or two seminars) and are completed by a final examination usually in a form of a term paper or oral examination. Teaching language is generally German, although some courses are taught in English.

## BA History

The Bachelor programmes are designed to offer a broad historical knowledge and an introduction to the methods of historical research. In a first phase, students acquire knowledge of the major historical periods, as well as of German, European and World History. The second phase emphasises thematic approaches, including “cultures – transfers – conflicts”, “order and dissent”, “interpretations and imaginations of the past”, “the multiplicity of modernity”. Students, who choose the teacher’s training option, are offered courses in didactics of history and educational sciences.

## MA History

Our Master in History focuses on two major orientations: “Public History” (“Geschichte in der Öffentlichkeit”) and “Cultural History” (“Kultur(en)-Geschichte”). The Master’s degree provides students with advanced skills in historical research as well as with professional skills, preparing either for a range of different careers or to pursue further study at doctoral level.

The “Public History” courses address the role of History in public discourse, including the perception of History, memory culture, and competing

interpretations of historical phenomena, as well as their public presentation in the media. Students also acquire professional competencies such as communication skills and presentation techniques for historical contents in the media and in museums.

The courses in “History of Cultures” focus on the study of inter- and transcultural processes. Students analyse and discuss the variety of values, standards and rituals, which determined life in the past. You will also find out information about developments both specific to and across certain epochs, about historical processes of change in European and extra-European spaces and regions, and about the historiography of the subject. So our Master in History offers a very good base for different occupational fields as well as for a PhD-thesis.

### Contact and information:

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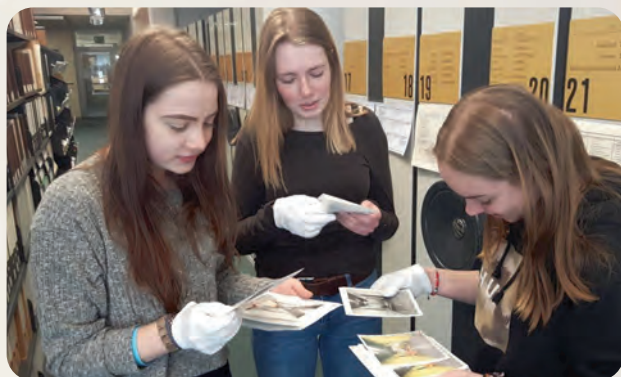
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For general questions about your stay at the University of Bremen (application, immatriculation, accomodation, language classes etc.) please contact the International Office.

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