

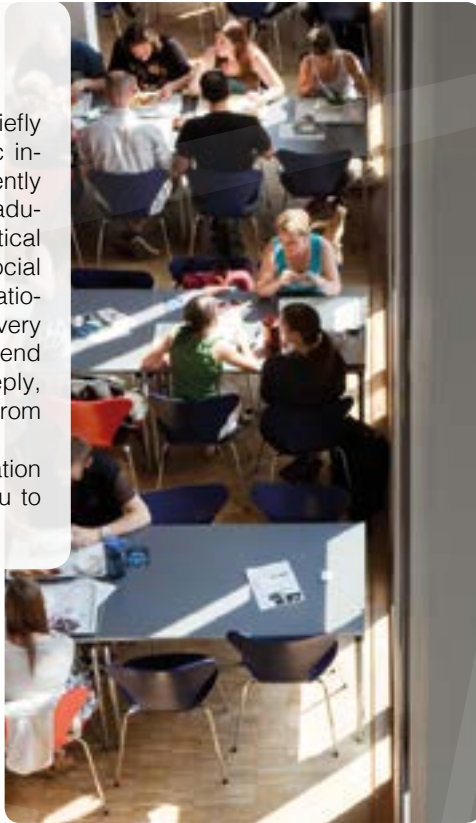
STUDYING  
SOCIAL  
SCIENCES  
AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN

INFORMATIONS FOR  
GUEST STUDENTS

## Dear Guest Student,

we have prepared this leaflet to inform you briefly about our study programmes and academic institutes. More than 5000 students are currently enrolled in the various undergraduate and graduate programmes in Geography, History, Political Science and Sociology at the Faculty of Social Sciences. We are happy to be the most internationalized Faculty of the University of Bremen. Every year more than 100 students of our Faculty spend a study or placement period abroad, and in reply, almost as many guest students come to us from all over the world.

We hope that this leaflet gives you an orientation about the faculty and makes it easier for you to choose Bremen as your place of study.



## Language requirements for international guest students

In order to follow courses successfully, you will need sufficient knowledge of the German language. We recommend a German level of at least B2 (according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). If you do not have enough knowledge in German, you are welcome to choose from the courses offered in English language. Usually, when choosing lectures and seminars from all degree programmes of our Faculty plus language training, you should be able to receive 30 ECTS per semester.

## 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 Modul Social Sciences

The International Module is a special interdisciplinary offer for undergraduate degree and international guest students of our Faculty. Language of instruction is English. 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 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 University of Bremen

Students of the University of Bremen organize in Student Committees (called Stuga). They give advice and information on an equal footing if you have questions concerning the study structure or in case you have problems with a professor. Furthermore they organize different activities (like film evenings, the orientation week in the beginning of the semester, departmental parties etc.) where you are of course warmly invited.

### Student Committees of the FB8

#### Political Science

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

#### Integrated European Studies (IES)

[www.ies.uni-bremen.de/service/stuga](http://www.ies.uni-bremen.de/service/stuga)  
[stugaies@uni-bremen.de](mailto:stugaies@uni-bremen.de)

#### Sociology

[stugasoz@gmx.de](mailto:stugasoz@gmx.de)

#### History

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

#### Geography

[www.geographie.uni-bremen.de](http://www.geographie.uni-bremen.de)  
(click on the link Studium, then on Stuga)  
[stugaggr@uni-bremen.de](mailto:stugaggr@uni-bremen.de)

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

Most bilateral ERASMUS agreements include the mobility of teaching 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 visitor into our modules and institutes. We are looking forward to your visit!

## Doctoral studies at the University of Bremen

Doctoral students have so far only rarely taken part in the ERASMUS student exchange programme. This might be due to the not existing curriculum 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 connected 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 of 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.iniiis.uni-bremen.de](http://www.iniiis.uni-bremen.de)), the Jean Monnet Centre for European Studies ([www.monnet-centre.uni-bremen.de](http://www.monnet-centre.uni-bremen.de)) and the Centre for Social Policy Research ([www.zes.uni-bremen.de](http://www.zes.uni-bremen.de)).

In the light of the international and intercultural approach of political science at Bremen, Erasmus students as well as students of political science from outside of Europe are especially welcome. At present the Institute has a total of 37 ERASMUS partner universities in Western, Eastern, Northern and Southern Europe.

## BA Political Science

In this six-semester degree 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 from the fourth semester. Students aiming for a teaching career can study political science as a main or subsidiary subject.

The BA-programme is in principle open to ERASMUS students of political science and neighbouring disciplines.

## 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 some law modules. The social science field of study focuses on Western Europe while the cultural history field of study concentrates on Eastern and Central Europe. In the first modules, the students acquire fundamental knowledge in methodical and theoretical basics of the European integration and contemporary history.

The focuses 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 hands-on modules connect theory with individual research projects. They cover the following topics: EU Politics and Policy-Making; Sites of Memory/Archives; Publicity and Communication.

## MA Political Science

This four-semester Master's programme is designed for students wishing to deepen their knowledge of political science. All courses are held in German. Specialisation areas 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 participate in individual seminars of this programme but must consult teaching staff first.

## MA Social Policy Studies

This four-semester, German language programme is designed for students wishing to specialise in studies on the modern welfare state, i.e. for example state health care or pension systems or unemployment insurance. The welfare state is examined not only from the perspective of political science but also from a sociological, legal and economic perspective. Seminars cover subjects such as Theories of the Welfare State and Comparative Social Policies throughout the EU and other countries. ERASMUS students at MA level may participate in individual seminars but must consult teaching staff first.

## MA International Relations

This two-year English Master 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 International Order) as well as Methodology Issues.

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.

## Contact and information:

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# SOCIOLOGY

## The Institute of Sociology

Sociology has been taught at Bremen since the University's foundation in 1971. Twenty-five years after the Sociology major was established, studies underwent a profound reform in order to meet new requirements.

As a result of this reorganisation, the Institute of Sociology (IfS) was founded in 2000. Since then, IfS has coordinated all matters of teaching. It further creates linkages to related research initiatives and projects at the University of Bremen. Research in sociology thereby mainly takes place in independent and mostly multi-disciplinary research facilities and institutes. Among the most important research institutes are the Institute for Empirical and Applied Sociology ([www.empas.uni-bremen.de](http://www.empas.uni-bremen.de)), the Institute for Intercultural and International Studies ([www.iniis.uni-bremen.de](http://www.iniis.uni-bremen.de)) and the Centre for Social Policy Research ([www.zes.uni-bremen.de](http://www.zes.uni-bremen.de)).

For committed students, these facilities offer various possibilities to study while researching, to work as a student assistant and to conduct internships. The close connection between research and teaching, as well as the extensive training available in methods, are outstanding characteristics of Sociology studies in Bremen.

The teaching offered in Sociology focuses on the following fields:

- Statistics and empirical social research
- Sociology of migration
- Theory and empirics of social structures
- Sociological theory, life course and educational research
- Sociology of income, sociology of the welfare state and gender studies

The courses of studies of Sociology at the University of Bremen contain two parts, a three years Bachelor programme and three two-year Master degree programmes. In principle, all courses offered under those programmes are open to ERASMUS students. In addition, a doctorate degree in Sociology is possible as Dr. phil. or Dr. rer. pol.. For students who seek to develop an international profile close cooperation exists with the Bremen International Graduate School of Social Sciences (BIGSSS) (<http://www.bigsss-bremen.de>). As provider of excellent international doctoral education the BIGSSS offers the possibility of getting a Ph.D., thereby combining outstanding areas of graduate education and research at the University of Bremen and the Jacobs University. It is based on the core disciplines of political science, sociology and psychology and supported by a solid foundation in social-science methods.

## BA Sociology

The objective of the BA programme in Sociology is to equip students with a solid knowledge in basic sociological theory and methods, statistics and the analysis of social stratification. Students further become familiar with basic sociological terminology as well as with analytical tools of sociological theo-

ry formation. In addition, students are given the opportunity to deepen their knowledge in selected sociological research areas. The emphasis thereby is placed on the methodological-empirical training, project-based studies and an international orientation. Specialising in particular fields of sociology should support students to develop a distinguished competence profile to work in specific professional fields after completion of their studies. This professional orientation is further fostered by an eight weeks practical internship that students are required to complete..

## MA Sociology and Social Research

The four-semester Master's programme of sociology and social research is designed for students who seek to deepen their knowledge of theory and empirical social research. It is a modularised course of study covering 120 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) including the master thesis.

The study course is designed as project studies in order to ensure that students get familiar with actual research with all its different facets. The research questions the students follow thereby should cover one of the following three areas:

- Social structure
- Education, work and institutions of the welfare state
- Migration and urban research

Another focus is on life course research and longitudinal studies, both of which approaches characterise the research profile of studies of sociology at the University of Bremen.

## Contact and information:

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# GEOGRAPHY

## The Institute of Geography

Geography deals with nature and the environment as well as space-oriented organization forms of man and society. 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).

## Special offers for ERASMUS students

In the winter semester we offer the class „Regional Geography of Bremen, Germany and ERASMUS partner countries“ 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, field trips or exercises instructed 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 computer 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. 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 between a range of modules discussing fields of geographic research and methodology in more detail. Our project modules offered in the fifth semester allow the students to conduct their own group research projects according to their personal interest. 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 oppor-

tunity to take an in-depth look at questions concerning the social organisation 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 developments and structures that take place in our society's cities and regions. Questions concerning regionalisation, suburbanisation, 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 are taught subject-related foundation 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 and regional development topics such as "Environment", "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.

## Contact and information:

Student advisory and ERASMUS departmental coordinator:

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## MSc

### Physical Geography: Environmental History

The M. Sc. "Physical Geography: Environmental History" focusses on the reconstruction of environmental and climatic history as scientific expertise in this field is paramount today. The programme provides physical-geographical knowledge and skills that will enable you to analyse, interpret and evaluate the complex effects of natural and anthropogenic environmental changes on nature and society. Global environmental changes are one of the biggest social, political and cultural issues of the 21st century.

You will be trained in interdisciplinary lectures, seminars, projects as well as in laboratory and field courses. Lecturers are leading experts in their respective fields and will provide you with information about up-to-date research questions. Thus, you partici-

pate in ongoing research by working on own projects while preparing your master thesis.

You learn to evolve your own scientific questions in close contact to ongoing national and international research projects. You work in an interdisciplinary manner through research-based education and in close cooperation with research institutions in Bremen and Lower Saxony. Methodological training in the field, in the laboratory and on the computer (including geographical information systems – GIS) qualifies you for different applied labour markets, e. g. public administration, planning offices, adult education as well as media sectors and information technology and prepares you for Ph.D. programmes at the University of Bremen or elsewhere.

# HISTORY

## The Institute of History

History programmes are informed by the staff 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 Institute 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 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), and are completed by a final examination. Teaching language is generally German, although some postgraduate 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" ("Kulturren-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 pheno-

mena, 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:

### Student advisory

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## Contact and information:

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

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