

## **M.A. Roads to Democracies**

### **Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Politics and Culture**

#### **Partneruniversities:**

**Bologna, Campus Forlí (Italy)**

**Palermo (Italy)**

**Uppsala (Sweden)**

## Roads to Democracies - Profile

**International, interdisciplinary and research-oriented Master's course focusing on the development of democracies**

- Involved disciplines: History, Political Science, Sociology
- Language of instruction: English
- 1 integrated semester abroad (not compulsory)
- 1 internship (compulsory)
- Partner institutions: Bologna, Campus Forlì (Italy)  
Palermo (Italy)  
Uppsala (Sweden)
- Duration: 2 years / 4 semesters (120 ECTS credits)
- Degree: Master of Arts
- **no tuition fees** are charged at the University of Siegen

## Structure of the programme – the modules

- Introductory Module:
  - INT 1.1. Theories of Democracy
  - INT 1.2 Methods of History and Social Sciences
- Four Thematic Modules:
  - TM 1 Actors and Institutions in Historical and Contemporary Perspective
  - TM 2 Political Cultures and the Public Sphere: Past and Present
  - TM 3: Global and Transnational Processes: Past and Present
  - TM 4: Democracies in Comparative Perspective
  - TM 5: Thematic Module Abroad
- One Method Module (MET): Empirical Research on Democracy
- One Internship (8 weeks) - **compulsory**
- Two Additional Practical Modules:
  - APM 1 Additional Special Studies
  - APM 2 Transferable Skills
- Master Thesis
  - Preparation for the Thesis (Thesis Forum I & II)
  - Examination (Thesis and Presentation)

## Introductory Module

- INT 1.1. Theories of Democracy
  - early theories of democracy from the history of political thought
  - students will get to know, compare and reflect on the different strands of contemporary democratic theory - liberal, deliberative, republican and radical - and discuss their application and/or political consequences
- INT 1.2 Methods of History and Social Sciences
  - The course “Theory and Methods of History and Social Sciences” not only deals with the philosophy of science and different methodological strategies of history, political and sociological sciences and their relationship in themselves, but in bringing them together also tries to generate a surplus value in a synthesis.

## **Method Module (MET): Empirical Research on Democracy**

- Methodology and Methods
  - Principle Tools of Qualitative Research
  - Performing controversies on social media. How to study conflict in a digital age
  - Qualitative Expert Interviews
- Research Seminar
  - Grounded theory in research practice
  - Methods in History: Visual History
  - Mapping controversies. methodological tools for representing heterogeneity

## The Thematic Modules

- **TM 1 Actors and Institutions in Historical and Contemporary Perspective**
  - Historical Foundations of Democracy
  - „Democracy is a Foreign Flower“- Fiji, for example
- **TM 2 Political Cultures and the Public Sphere: Past and Present**
  - “Sustainability”: Politics and the Environment in the Modern Period
  - Political Cultures in Comparative Perspective
  - Political Cultures and the Public Sphere: Past and Present
- **TM 3: Global and Transnational Processes: Past and Present**
  - Doing Europe: European grassroots, initiatives and EU cohesion
  - Transnationalism: Identity, Culture and Mobility
- **TM 4: Democracies in Comparative Perspective**
  - Welfare States in international Comparison
  - On Torture: social-scientific perspectives

## **The Additional Practical Modules:**

- **APM 1 Additional Special Studies**
  - Saving face: What can we learn from sociological inquiries of facework with regard to relations of gender, ethnicity, and class?
  - Migration and Collective Identities
  - Anthropological perspectives on informal power and anarchy
  - International Environment and Energy Law
- **APM 2 Transferable Skills**
  - Language courses (e.g., German (Level: A1, A2, B1, B2, ...))
  - English: Introduction in Academic Writing
  - Intercultural Communication

## **Studies Abroad: Thematic Module Abroad (18 cp)**

*The module will be concerned with programme-related contents, methods and theories in the fields of history, political science, sociology and related subjects such as cultural studies. The concrete curriculum is to be agreed in detail with the respective partner university and is to be defined in a Learning Agreement.*



## Master Thesis

- **Preperation for the Thesis:**

- Thesis Forum I & II

You will define your research topic and therefore, your research question suitable to contribute to knowledge and debate in history and social science. The forum offers the opportunity to critically discuss and analyse scientific problems with peers as well as teachers and researchers and assess the relevance of different theoretical perspectives and methods for your research project.

## Master Thesis

- **M.A. Examination:**

- Master Thesis:

With the Thesis you demonstrate your ability that you are able to work independently on selected issues of the involved disciplines according to relevant scientific research methods and by recognising the latest developments and state of the art in research, and to present the research results appropriately in written form.

- Presentation:

You present your Thesis to show your ability to present your thesis in oral form clearly to a professional audience, to defend your work and respond to academic criticism in a professional and constructive way.

## Research focuses (examples)

- Social Movements and Protests
- Migration in European and global perspective
  - Sociology of forced mobility (refugee camps, flight and return)
  - Asylum Regimes in Germany and France and the Protection Seekers' Transnational Families
- Social problems, health and social policy
  - Health Inequalities in European Welfare States
- Sociology of Violence
- European History
- History of culture and media
- Transnational cultural history

## Perspectives

- The Master of Arts Degree in the programme Roads to Democracies qualifies successful candidates for admission to doctoral studies/ PhD studies.
- The Master's programme provides a good basis for responsible positions in, e.g.: international organisations and NGOs, international aid and development agencies, research institutions and institutes of higher education of the public and private sector, culture agencies and cultural heritage institutions, publishing houses, journalism and media agencies concerned with international and intercultural communication, political parties, associations, foundations, international and internationally operating companies.
- Please also check our international [Alumni-Network](#).

## Internship I

- The study programme includes a compulsory internship of at least 8 weeks (full-time!).
- The internship can be completed in Germany or abroad.
- Funding for internships abroad possible (through Erasmus+, DAAD-Promos or the Carlo Schmid program)
- For funding options contact Ms Pacas

## Internship II

### **Possible fields:**

- international and intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, public and private educational and research institutions, cultural institutions, publishing houses, agencies and media of international and intercultural communication, parties, associations, political and cultural foundations and other private legal organizations, International and internationally oriented companies.

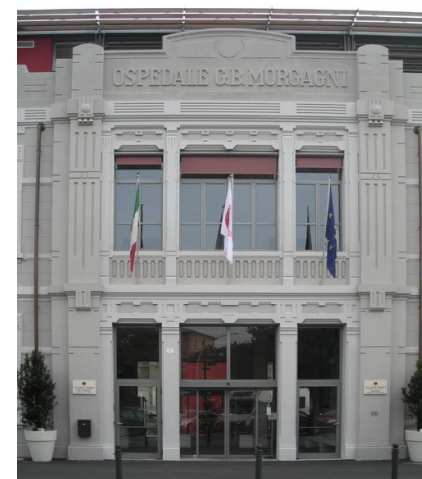
## **Study Abroad:** Uppsala, Bologna (Forlì), Palermo,



**Uppsala**



**Palermo**



**Bologna (Forlì)**

## Profiles: overview

- **Uppsala (Sweden):** Department of History
- **Bologna, Campus Forlì (Italy):** School of Political Science (Especially International Relations and Eastern European Studies)
- **Palermo (Italy):** Department of Political Science /International Relations
- **Only Thesis Work:**  
**Azores (Portugal):** For M.A. Thesis work only

Medium of instruction: English



## Erasmus +

- No tuition fees at the partner University
- 530-650 Euro per month (depending on the country of destination)
- Language courses
- Support in finding accommodation
- Welcome weeks

## Admission requirements

- An above average first academic degree (Bachelor's degree or equivalent) in history, political science, sociology or in a related field of study with a final grade of at least "good" (local grade 2,5).
- A very good command of English (equivalent to Level C1 of the CEFR) documented by internationally recognised test certificates (e.g. IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge certificate). In some cases students can be exempted from submitting a formal test certificate, e.g. when students have obtained a BA degree from a university where the language of instruction was English

## Admission requirements

- Admission to the Master's programme requires a proof of a study-related special qualification.
- A study-related special qualification is ascertained when the submitted documents, in particular the **transcript of records**, the **letter of motivation** and **the exposé** show that the student has the ability to conduct independent scientific work and has the relevant methodological competencies that enable him/her to successfully complete the Master's programme.

**The assessment of the study-related special qualification is part of the application procedure. It is based on the submitted application documents**

## Application deadline

WS  
2021/22:

**15 May/  
15 July**

### Application Documents:

1. short CV (English)
2. copies of your university entrance certificate
3. copies of university certificates, university diplomas with transcript of records and certified translations, if applicable
4. language certificates (if students have obtained a BA degree from a university where the language of instruction was English, this needs to be certified by the university)
5. a letter of motivation (750 to 1000) words in English with information about professional qualifications, personal motivation for the course of study described from a professional-scientific perspective. The letter should also describe professional goals (English)
6. an exposé of research ideas for the applicant's potential Master's thesis of 2000 to 2500 words in English, which must meet scientific standards.
7. one letter of recommendation from a university professor in English

Certificates of vocational training, internships, social commitment can be taken into account and can be uploaded to the application portal

## **Thesis Proposal:**

Roads to Democracies is a research-oriented and interdisciplinary master programme.

The requested Research Proposal should give the programme coordinators an insight into your research ideas and should also indicate your interest in interdisciplinary research questions.

The research proposal should inform about the research problem you are interested in. It should also include first ideas in terms of theoretical references and the methodological approach. Length of the paper should be 2000 to 2500 words.

## **Further information on the application procedure:**

**Contact:** [master-democracy@uni-siegen.de](mailto:master-democracy@uni-siegen.de)

**Programme website:**

[www.uni-siegen.de/phil/ma-roads](http://www.uni-siegen.de/phil/ma-roads)

**Application procedure:**

[www.uni-siegen.de/phil/studium/studiengaenge/master/roads/bewerbung.html](http://www.uni-siegen.de/phil/studium/studiengaenge/master/roads/bewerbung.html)

**FAQ:**

[www.uni-siegen.de/phil/faq](http://www.uni-siegen.de/phil/faq)



# PHIL

**Thank you very much for your attention!**

**Do you have any further questions? Follow us to zoom and listen to the experience reports of our students!**