

Study Regulations
for the post-graduate Master's programme
in "Baltic Sea Region Studies"

In accordance with § 17 of the Provisional Constitution of the Humboldt University of Berlin (Amtliches Mitteilungsblatt der HUB Nr. 08/2002), the Faculty Council issued the following Study Regulations for the post-graduate Master's programme in "Baltic Sea Region Studies." on 16 October 2002¹

§ 1 Applicability

These Study Regulations standardise the goals, the content and the structure of the post-graduate Master's programme in "Baltic Sea Region Studies" at the Nordeuropa-Institut of the Philosophische Fakultät II of the Humboldt University of Berlin. The post-graduate Master's programme in "Baltic Area Studies" is being offered by the Humboldt University in co-operation with the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University of Greifswald and the international partner universities: the University of Gdansk, the University of Vilnius, the University of Latvia (Riga), the University of Tartu, the University of Helsinki, the University of Turku, Södertörns Högskola (Stockholm) as well as the University of Copenhagen. Additional universities may join at a later time after receiving the consent of all the currently participating universities.

§ 2 Admissions Commission

(1) Preliminary selection and decisions concerning admission to the programme in accordance with the Admissions Regulations for the post-graduate programme in "Baltic Sea Region Studies", as well as the organisation of the tasks identified by the Examination Regulations, are the responsibility of the Admissions Commission in accordance with § 1 of the Study Regulations. The Admissions Commission is made up of one professor from the Humboldt University, the project director of the Ostsee-Kolleg in Berlin, one professor from the partner universities, one co-ordinator of the post-graduate Master's programme as well as one student. The members are appointed by the Faculty Council for the period of one year. The Commission makes its decisions on the basis of a simple majority.

(2) The Admissions Commission appoints a chairperson from among the professors.

§ 3 Structure and scope of the post-graduate Master's programme

(1) In accordance with § 2 of the Examination Regulations, the post-graduate Master's programme in "Baltic Sea Region Studies" has a duration of twelve months and is divided into three trimesters. It begins on the first of January of each respective year. In the first two trimesters the students participate in courses which are described in the Curriculum (appendices 1-4). The writing and defence of the Master's thesis are planned for the third trimester (see Curriculum, appendices 1-4).

(2) In the first trimester, all students will jointly participate in the two modules of the introductory phase, which are intended to impart basic knowledge on the history, politics, economics, culture and media of the Baltic Sea Region.

(3) In the second trimester, following the joint Module 3, students will specialise in politics/ culture or economics. In the alternatively chosen Modules 4 or 5, individual and regionally specific questions will be examined in detail and solutions will be developed within the framework of topically related seminars and project papers. This leads to a deepening of the students' knowledge of the Baltic Sea Region.

(4) In the third trimester a written Master's thesis is written which corresponds to the demands of scientific studies on a self-chosen topic and thus provides evidence of both the students' regional knowledge and their ability to pursue independent scientific research.

(5) The students complete the post-graduate Master's programme in "Baltic Sea Region Studies" at the Humboldt University of Berlin. The "Ostsee-Kolleg Berlin" project, which operates at the Nordeuropa-Institut, co-ordinates the one-year full-time programme and the teaching capacities granted to it by the partner universities. The programme of studies is

¹ In the english version of study regulations it concerns a translation. As a legislative regulation is the german version in force.

assembled from the courses of the partner universities. Doctoral students (at least one year), junior professors (for six months to two years) and visiting professors (for up to three months) from the partner universities as well as adjunct professors are invited to Berlin to offer courses to the Master's students.

(6) The post-graduate Master's programme in "Baltic Area Studies" is designed on a modular basis and has a total scope of 1,800 working hours. This corresponds to 60 Study Points (SP). 20 Study Points devolve to the first, second and third trimester respectively. One study point corresponds to 30 hours of study time for the students.

§ 4 Programme goals

The specific programme goals are:

- the imparting of knowledge on both the historical and current political, economic and cultural conditions of the Baltic Sea Region in regard to the regionalisation of Europe,
- the imparting of knowledge on the changing patterns of national and international co-operation among the states surrounding the Baltic Sea,
- the imparting of knowledge on political, economic and other forms of co-operation as well as on the region's future perspectives,
- qualifying students for professional fields requiring regionally specific knowledge,
- qualifying students for interdisciplinary scholarly work,
- qualifying students for intercultural communication and co-operation within a European framework,
- preparing students for career activity in politics, economics, administration and media within a European framework.

§ 5 Structure of course offerings

(1) In order to achieve the study goals, the course offerings have been structured as follows:

1st Trimester (20 SP) – Introductory phase

This phase consists of two modules:

Module 1: Historical Developments in the Baltic Sea Region (6 SP)

Module 2: Basic Regional Knowledge in Politics, Culture, Economics and Media (14 SP)

2nd Trimester (20 SP) – Deepening phase

This phase consists of two modules:

Module 3: Regions and Regionalism: Theoretical Introduction (8 SP)

Module 4: Specialisation I: Politics and Culture (12 SP)

Or as an alternative to Module 4

Module 5: Specialisation II: Economics (12 SP)

3rd Trimester (20 SP) – Completion phase

This phase consists of one Module:

Module 6: Final paper: Master's thesis (16 SP), defence (2 SP), research colloquium (2 SP)

(2) Modules 1 to 3 serve to equalise the knowledge of the students of one graduating class, to impart basic knowledge of the history, politics, culture and economics of the Baltic Sea Region as well as to make practical application of methodological knowledge. Modules 4 or 5 serve to specialise knowledge.

(3) All teaching units of the 1st and 2nd trimester are either mandatory or elective courses. As a general rule, the language of instruction and examination is English. The sequence, distribution and scope of the modules and courses can be seen in the Curriculum (appendices 1-4). The courses are conducted in varying teaching forms appropriate to the subject of study (lectures, introductory courses, basic courses, advanced seminars, colloquia). The instructors are scholars and persons from selected practical fields from Germany and the partner universities of the neighbouring Baltic states. Course attendance is mandatory.

(4) All modules are covered in the Master's examination. Further details are regulated in the examination rules.

§ 6 Modules

Modules are combinations of courses with limited goals and content. The courses within the individual modules are related to one another both in regard to their subjects and to their methods and questions.

§ 7 Courses

(1) The following course forms are offered:

a) Lectures (VL)

Lectures provide an overview and/or examine essential problems on the basis of selected examples.

b) Introductory courses (UE)

Introductory courses centre on the training of scientific work and the acquisition of various presentation techniques.

c) Basic courses (GK)

Basic courses offer an in-depth view of scientific work and convey specialised basic knowledge and skills using selected subjects as examples.

d) Advanced seminars (HS)

Advanced seminars are aimed at a deepened examination of theoretical positions and/or an intensified focus on specific questions and thus expand methodological and specialised knowledge. Advanced seminars also offer thematic preparation for the Master's thesis.

e) Colloquia (CO)

Colloquia are aimed at the reflection and discussion of fundamental questions of the subject and lead to a close involvement with the current state of research. In addition, they help prepare students for writing the Master's essay and/or accompany the writing stage as a work forum.

(2) A set number of Study Points is assigned to each course.

§ 8 Study Points

(1) The awarding of Study Points occurs on the basis of the study time required for each course. One study point corresponds to 30 study hours.

(2) Over the course of the programme, a total number of 60 Study Points must be earned with a time expenditure of 20 SP per trimester in three trimesters of study time. This corresponds to 1,800 study hours.

(3) The following Study Points are awarded for the course forms cited in § 7 (1) with a volume of 2 trimester weekly hours each (1.5 study hours of courses per week during the trimester):

Lecture (VL)	2 SP
Introductory Course (UE)	3 SP
Basic Course (GK)	4 SP
Advanced Seminar (HS)	5 SP
Colloquium (CO)	2 SP

(4) Each module is completed by means of a module completion exam (cf. § 7 of the Examination Regulations). The grades from the Module Completion Exams, evaluated according to the number of Study Points, are included in the overall programme grade.

(5) Documentation of the awarded Study Points occurs in the form of study certificates.

§ 9 Study certificates

The study certificates for courses are:

Course certificates

Module completion certificates

§ 10 Course certificates

In each course, work performance is demanded as the requirement for the awarding of the Study Points listed in § 8 paragraph 3. General work performance generally includes the preparation and subsequent assessment of a course as well as regular and active participation (at least 80% of a course must be attended). Beyond this, additional performances such as oral presentations, working papers, tests etc. can be demanded in introductory courses, basic courses and advanced seminars as the requirement for the awarding of the respective Study Points. The number of awarded Study Points is derived from the course certificates.

§ 11 Module Completion Certificates

(1) A Module is considered to be complete when all Study Points have been earned and/or when all course certificates have been presented and the Module Completion Exam has been successfully passed (cf. § 7 of the Examination Regulations).

(2) The Module completion certificates indicate the courses attended, the work performance, the acquired Study Points as well as the evaluation of the Module Completion Exam.

§ 12 Effective date

These study regulations go into effect on the day following their publication in the "Amtliches Mitteilungsblatt der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin."

**Philosophische Fakultät II
Nordeuropa-Institut/Ostsee-Kolleg Berlin**

Appendix 1:

**Curriculum for the 1-year postgraduate Master’s programme
in “Baltic Sea Region Studies”**

The programme entails a total volume of 1,800 hours, corresponding to 60 study points (SP), and has a modular structure. 20 SP must be earned in the first, second and third trimesters respectively. One study point corresponds to 30 hours of study time for the students. The first and second trimester are divided into the obligatory modules of the introductory phase and the respectively chosen specialisation module in the deepening phase.

The teaching of the instructional units is based both on theme-work teaching and on the division of the main topics into subtopics taught by various instructors. The courses are set for each module at the beginning of the trimester, depending on the German and foreign instructors who are available at the time. The same is valid for the exchange of individual instructional units for other, equally suitable instructional units; the total volume of 40 study points for the first and second trimester must be maintained. In the third trimester, students must write and defend their Master’s thesis and attend a matching colloquium.

Study Plan for the Programme

	1st Trimester January – March (20 SP)	2nd Trimester April – July (20 SP)	3rd Trimester August – December (20 SP)
Modules 1–6			
	Module 1: Historical Developments (6 SP)		
	Module 2: Basic Regional Knowledge (14 SP)		
		Module 3: Regionalism: Theoretical Introduction (8 SP)	
		Module 4: Specialisation I: Politics and Culture(12 SP)	
		As an alternative to Module 4	
		Module 5: Specialisation II: Economics (12 SP)	
			Module 6: Final Paper (20 SP)

Appendix 2:

Modules 1–2 of the Introductory Phase (20 SP)

Module 1: Historical Developments in the Baltic Sea Region (6 SP)

Content:

Module 1 is designed to provide an overview of the historical changes in the Baltic Sea Region. Both important aspects of the history of the individual Baltic nations and their historical relations with one another will be examined. This historical knowledge serves as the basis for a subtly differentiated understanding of current processes in the region.

The module consists of:

VL Historical Developments in the Baltic Sea Region	2 SP
UE Historical Developments in the Baltic Sea Region	3 SP
MAP	1 SP

Study Points:

6 SPs are earned in Module 1 after all the courses within the module have been completed and the Module Completion Exam has been passed.

Module Completion Exam:

30-minute oral examination

Module 2: Basic Regional Knowledge in Politics, Culture, Economics and Media (14 SP)

Content:

Module 2 is aimed at the acquisition of basic knowledge in the fields of economics, politics, culture and media in the Baltic Sea Region. The comparison of political and economic systems takes centre stage. At the same time, basic common features and differences in the individual countries' cultural policies and media scene will be examined. In addition, the students will become acquainted with current problems in the region. The basic knowledge acquired in Module 2 represents the foundation for the modules of the subsequent deepening phase.

The Module consists of:

VL Basic Regional Knowledge in Politics, Culture, Economics and Media	2 SP
UE Political Aspects of Regionalisation	3 SP
UE Cultural Aspects of Regionalisation	3 SP
UE Economic Aspects of Regionalisation	3 SP
MAP	3 SP

Study Points:

14 SPs are earned in Module 2 after all the courses within the module have been completed and the Module Completion Exam has been passed.

Module Completion Exam:

Three 5-page essays **or** one 30-minute oral exam **or** one 2-hour written test.

Appendix 3:

Modules 3 and 4 and/or 5 of the Deepening Phase (20 SP) – Specialisation I: Politics and Culture, or Specialisation II: Economics

Module 3: Regions and Regionalism: Theoretical Introduction (8 SP)

Content:

Module 3 is aimed at imparting knowledge on current debates pertaining to regional integration processes and their political, cultural and economic dynamics. Various theoretical approaches are presented and discussed. The students develop the theoretical and methodological knowledge necessary for an independent analysis of the transformation processes in the Baltic Sea Region. Particular attention is paid to recent theories of the Baltic Sea Region as a post-modern region. In addition, the relations between regionalization and globalisation are examined.

The Module consists of:

GK Theories of Regionalism	4 SP
UE Methods of Regional Research	3 SP
MAP	1 SP

Study Points:

8 SPs are earned in Module 3 after all the courses within the module have been completed and the Module Completion Exam has been passed.

Module Completion Exam:

One 7-page essay

Module 4: Specialisation I: Politics and Culture (12 SP)

Content:

Module 5 is aimed at imparting specialised knowledge pertaining to individual current political issues and problem areas as well as at practising project work in groups. The courses should analyse current political and/or cultural issues and problem fields such as political structures, democratisation processes, human rights, national and regional identities, cultural and minority policies.

The Module consists of a lecture for all students in which the above-named issues are discussed. Parallel to this, the students work on case studies pertaining to special questions in a graduate seminar (either HS I or HS II) and in autonomous project groups.

The module consists of:

VL Problem Area Politics/Culture	2 SP
HS I Regional Security Policy	5 SP
Project paper: Regional Security Policy	2 SP

or

HS II Societal Transformation Processes and Democratisation in the Baltic Sea Region	5 SP
Project paper: Societal Transformation Processes and Democratisation in the Baltic Sea Region	2 SP
MAP	3 SP

Study Points:

12 SPs are earned in Module 4 after all the courses within the module have been completed and the Module Completion Exam has been passed.

Module Completion Exam:

One 20-page project paper (at least two, at most four students per group)

or

Module 5: Specialisation II: Economics (12 SP)

Content:

Module 5 is aimed at imparting specialised knowledge pertaining to individual current economic issues and problem areas of the Baltic Sea Region as well as at practising project work in groups. The courses should analyse current economic issues and problem areas, e.g. the comparison of the economic systems of the Northern and Eastern European countries, market liberalisation, the restructuring of production and property relations, currency systems, labour markets and unemployment, or investment perspectives.

The module consists of a lecture for all students in which the above-named issues are discussed. Parallel to this, the students work on case studies pertaining to special questions in a graduate seminar and in autonomous project groups.

The module consists of:

VL Problem Area Economics	2 SP
HS Regional Economic Transformation Processes	5 SP
Project paper: Regional Economic Transformation Processes	2 SP
MAP	3 SP

Study Points:

12 SPs are earned in Module 5 after all the courses within the module have been completed and the Module Completion Exam has been passed.

Module Completion Exam:

One 20-page project paper (at least two, at most four students per group)

Appendix 4:

Module 6: Final Paper: Master's Thesis, Defence and Research Colloquium (20SP)

Content: In Module 6 the students demonstrate their ability to work independently. In a Master's thesis a self-chosen research topic is developed with the appropriate methodology using a problem approach. The normally 35 to 40-page Master's thesis is completed within three months. The half-hour defence occurs three weeks following the submission of the Master's thesis; it encompasses a 15-minute speech and a subsequent 15-minute discussion. Parallel to the writing of the Master's thesis, the students meet once a week in a colloquium in order to discuss the progress of the Master's theses and methodological approaches. The Module consists of:

CO	2 SP
Master's thesis	16 SP
Defence	2 SP

Study Points:

20 SPs are earned in Module 6 after all the courses within the module have been completed and the Module Completion Exam has been passed.

Module Completion Exam:

Graded Master's thesis and defence