

Mitteilungsblatt – Sondernummer der Universität Salzburg

Studienjahr 2025/2026
25. März 2026
51. Stück

112. Curriculum for the Joint Master's Programme in Political Science – Integration & Governance (PoSIG)

Approved at the Coordinators Board in Salzburg on 26 October 2024

This document details the content and procedures of the *Joint Master's Programme in Political Science – Integration & Governance* (PoSIG), as a shared academic ambition and cooperation between the following university consortium members:

- University of Salzburg (PLUS)
- Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (UKIM)
- European University of Tirana (UET)
- University of Tirana (UTIR)
- University of Business and Technology (UBT) - Pristina
- University of Sarajevo (UNSA)
- Sarajevo School of Science Technology (SSST)
- University of Trieste (UNITS)
- University of Pristina (UP)
- University of Montenegro (UMO)
- University of Belgrade (UBG)
- Tbilisi State University (TSU)
- Georgian Institute for Public Affairs (GIPA)
- Yerevan State University (YSU)
- Eurasia International University (EIU)

The implementation of this curriculum is governed by a declaration about the installation of the Joint Master's Programme *Political Science – Integration & Governance*, signed by these consortium members.

The Joint Master's Programme in *Political Science – Integration & Governance* adheres to international standards and benchmarks for teaching political science in accordance with level 7 of the European Qualification Framework. Each consortium member contributes by its specific academic profile in Comparative Politics, European Integration, International Relations, Public Policy & Administration, or Political Theory. In addition, the Western Balkan and South Caucasus consortium members deliver specific academic competencies regarding political developments in those regions.

PoSIG graduates are qualified for academic careers in all fields of political science and possess additional expertise related to the transition and Europeanisation of the Western Balkan and South Caucasus region.

§ 1 General Provisions

- (1) The language of instruction in all courses of the MA programme is English. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in English at Level B2 or higher as a precondition for registration in the programme.
- (2) This MA programme refers to level 7 of the European Qualification Framework, as defined by the European Parliament and the EU Council.
- (3) The number of ECTS credits necessary to complete the degree in the Joint Master's Programme in *Political Science – Integration and Governance* is 120. This corresponds to four semesters of study.
- (4) Depending on the institution awarding the degree, graduates of this programme will be awarded a joint Master of Arts (MA).
- (5) In order to be admitted to the Joint Master's Programme in *Political Science – Integration & Governance*, students must hold a bachelor's degree in Political Science from a PoSIG consortium member, or a degree in a related field or from another accredited institution of higher education. Students with a bachelor's degree with fewer than 15 ECTS credits in methods training and scientific work practices have to compensate by taking additional courses in those areas.
- (6) If a student's bachelor's degree is deemed not sufficiently equivalent, the student may be required to complete additional coursework for up to 30 ECTS credits, to be completed before graduation. Equivalency and required coursework are determined by the Coordinators Board (composed of the authorized PoSIG consortium member university representatives). Students who are required to complete additional coursework must demonstrate B2-level proficiency in the local teaching language of the respective POSIG consortium member where this work is undertaken (at the University of Salzburg in German).
- (7) All graduation requirements to be fulfilled by students have been assigned ECTS credits. One ECTS credit equals 25-30 hours of study, which corresponds to the average number of hours required to achieve the expected learning objectives. An academic year consists of 1500-1800 hours, corresponding to 60 ECTS credits.
- (8) Students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses must not be discriminated against in their studies. All PoSIG consortium member universities are committed to the basic principles laid out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as subject to local non-discrimination laws and policies of positive action.

§ 2 Overview of the Degree Programme and Professional Skills

(1) Overview of the Degree Programme

- (a) The Joint Master's Programme in *Political Science – Integration and Governance* comprises five modules, from which students must select two specialization modules.

Module 1:	Political Theory
Module 2:	Comparative Politics
Module 3:	Public Policy & Administration
Module 4:	International Relations
Module 5:	European Integration

- (b) The modules of the programme are described in detail in the Annex (Module Descriptions). The specific course programme for each semester will be published via www.posig.info.
- (c) Advanced methodological and applied courses complement the thematic modules. This will enable students to conduct rigorous social science research and develop innovative research strategies and solutions for problems of societal importance.

(2) Professional Skills and Competences (Learning Outcomes)

Upon completion of this Master's programme, students will have developed the following skills and competences:

Competence in the field of study, in particular:
- comprehensive knowledge of theories of political science, political concepts, actors, institutions, processes, norms and central policy fields;
- the ability to understand, assess and apply political science research with high methodological standards to other modules;
- the ability to analyse political and societal problems, based on social science concepts and theories.
Methods competences, in particular:
- the ability and knowledge to thoughtfully and critically apply the methodological instruments of empirical-analytical political science research, including the ability to use statistical software, and to plan and carry out independent research;
- the ability to cooperate with others (across disciplines and/or in groups), to carry out research in a team setting;
- the ability to present complex research and its results persuasively in front of an audience.
Competence in sound reasoning and judgement, in particular:
- the ability to understand social and political science literature and to critically analyse and assess it by drawing on the insights of neighbouring disciplines (such as law, economics, sociology, history);
- the ability to assess the presentation of scientific research outcomes, to make comparisons and to give feedback;
- the ability to debate and compare one's own insights and positions in light of those of others and to modify them, if necessary.
Competence in responsive action, in particular:
- the ability to grasp political and social problems, to develop practical strategies and contributions to policy reform and to present them in public debates;
- the ability to connect science and political practice;
- the ability to engage in politics effectively on the basis of scientific insights;
- the ability to work within the scope of the standards of academic and professional integrity and ethics.

(3) Importance and Relevance of the Degree for Society, the Scientific Community and the Labour Market

Alumni of this programme will possess a unique academic profile. This profile draws on the fields of specialisation, the international body of students and teachers and an individual mobility path between EU, Western Balkan and South Caucasus PoSIG consortium members. A compulsory internship provides students with practical experience in an organisational setting. In this context, alumni will acquire specific expertise about social, economic and political processes in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus.

Through their Master's Thesis projects, students are encouraged to carry out innovative research relevant for the social, economic and political development of these regions. Graduates will be able to contribute to the processes related to Europeanisation and the political debates surrounding these transformations.

Typical professional fields of graduates of the Joint Master's Programme in *Political Science – Integration and Governance* include:

- employment in public administration, parliaments and political parties, non-governmental organisations, interest groups and trade unions, the business sector, media and public relations at the local and national level;
- employment in international organisations, foreign services (careers in diplomacy), in institutions of the European Union and in international profit and non-profit organizations, development agencies and NGOs;
- employment in civic and political education (foundations, academies, educational institutes, think tanks etc.);
- academic careers (PhDs, teaching and research at universities and research institutions).

The participating institutions actively support their students and alumni in identifying placements for internships and developing a PoSIG alumni network via www.posig.info and social media activities.

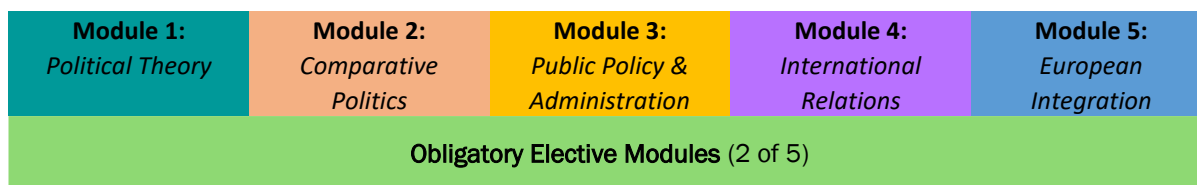
§ 3 Structure of the Programme

The Master's programme consists of 10 obligatory courses, 1 internship, 24 ECTS credits of additional courses (including methodology, if required according to § 1 Paragraph 5), and a Master's Thesis, with a total number of 120 ECTS credits.

The Master's Thesis accounts for 30 ECTS credits, including 2 ECTS credits for the preparation and defence of the Master's Thesis.

	ECTS
Obligatory Elective Modules (2 of 5)	36
Political Theory	(18)
Comparative Politics	(18)
Public Policy & Administration	(18)
International Relations	(18)
European Integration	(18)
Obligatory Courses	24
Internship	(6)
Course Methods in Political Science I	(6)
Course Methods in Political Science II	(6)
Master's Thesis Seminar	(6)
Obligatory Elective Course (1 of 2)	6
Advanced Methods in Political Science	(6)
Applied Course	(6)
Additional Courses	24
Master's Thesis	28
Master's Thesis Defence	2
Total	120

Space for interdisciplinary qualification is provided through 24 ECTS credits of optional courses, a 6 ECTS credits Internship and the Master's Thesis.



Specialisation I (18 ECTS)	Specialisation II (18 ECTS)
Course Basic Texts	Course Basic Texts
Course I	Course I
Course II	Course II

Obligatory Courses (24 ECTS)					
Internship	Course Methods in Political Science I	Course Methods in Political Science II	Master's Seminar	Thesis	

Obligatory Elective Course (1 of 2) (6 ECTS)	
Advanced Methods in Political Science	Applied Course

Additional Courses (24 ECTS)	Master's Thesis incl. Defence (30 ECTS)	Total: 120 ECTS
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§ 4 Course Types

The programme offers different types of courses, defined by the different HEI regulation systems of each PoSIG consortium member institution. These courses provide students with in-depth knowledge, skills, and competences in the respective areas and encourage discussion and reflection on scientific topics through the active participation of students. In all courses, student performance is assessed through obligatory participation, written examinations, and seminar papers.

The ECTS workload of courses is specified in the course descriptions.

The ECTS workload of each course is 4 or 6 credits.

The programme contains the following course types:

- **Proseminar (PS)** is a scientifically oriented, introductory seminar-style course as a prerequisite for advanced seminars. Based on their accomplished theoretical and practical work, students will acquire foundational knowledge and abilities to engage in scientific work and research and thereby contribute actively to class discussions. Student performance is assessed continuously throughout the course and attendance is compulsory.
- **Seminar (SE)** is an academically advanced course. It provides in-depth knowledge in a specific subject area and encourages discussion and reflection on scientific themes through active participation of students. Students' performance is assessed continuously throughout the course and attendance is compulsory.
- **Exercise Course with Lecture (UV)** connects the theoretical introduction to a field with practical exercises. Students' performance is assessed continuously throughout the course and attendance is compulsory.

§ 5 Course Content and Plan of Study

This section presents a list of modules and courses. The division into semesters serves as a recommendation designed to ensure that the sequence in which the courses are taken builds upon the knowledge, skills and competences acquired successively, and that the workload of 60 ECTS credits in an academic year is not exceeded. Where no prerequisites are specified, modules and courses may be completed in a different sequence, in accordance with § 11.

Detailed descriptions of the modules including the knowledge, skills, and competences to be acquired are provided in the *Annex: Module Descriptions*.

According to § 9, courses may be completed at a minimum of two and maximum of four PoSIG consortium member universities. The table below specifies which courses PoSIG consortium members offer during which term, and how students may plan their mobility track. *How to read the table:* The courses marked with PLUS in term 1+2 will be offered at the University of Salzburg and are designated as Proseminar (PS) or Seminar (SE) or Exercise Course with Lecture (UV).

Obligatory Elective Modules (2 modules out of 5):	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Political Theory				
Basic Texts in Political Theory: Democracy and Legitimacy Courses	GIPA, TSU, YSU, EIU	UNITS		
	GIPA, YSU, TSU, UKIM	UNITS, UKIM	UKIM, UNSA, UTIR, UET, UNITS, GIPA, TSU, YSU, EIU	UKIM, UTIR, UET, EIU
Comparative Politics				
Basic Texts Comparative Politics Courses	PLUS, UKIM, YSU, GIPA	UKIM		
	PLUS, UKIM, SSST, GIPA, YSU, EIU	PLUS, UKIM, YSU	UKIM, UTIR, UNSA, SSST, UET, PLUS, GIPA, YSU	UKIM, UTIR, SSST, UET, PLUS
Public Policy & Administration				
Basic Texts Public Policy & Administration Courses	UP, GIPA, TSU	YSU		
	UP, GIPA, TSU, UKIM	UKIM	UTIR, UKIM, UP, GIPA, TSU, YSU, EIU	UTIR, UKIM, EIU
International Relations				
Basic Texts International Relations Courses	SSST, PLUS, GIPA, YSU, TSU, EIU			
	PLUS, UKIM, SSST, YSU, EIU, GIPA, TSU	PLUS, UKIM, UNITS, YSU	UKIM, UNSA, SSST, UTIR, UET, UBT, GIPA, TSU, YSU	UKIM, SSST, UTIR, UET, UBT
European Integration				
Basic Texts European Integration – Multilevel Politics Courses	PLUS, UKIM, EIU	UKIM, YSU		
	PLUS, SSST, UKIM, TSU	PLUS, UKIM, YSU	UTIR, UKIM, SSST, UNSA, PLUS, TSU	UTIR, UKIM, SSST, PLUS
Obligatory Courses				
Course Methods in Political Science I	PLUS, UKIM, SSST, UP, GIPA, TSU, YSU, EIU			
Course Methods in Political Science II		PLUS, UNITS, UKIM, YSU		
Master's Thesis Seminar			PLUS, UKIM, UTIR, SSST, UET, GIPA, TSU, YSU, EIU	PLUS, UKIM, UTIR, SSST, UET, YSU
Obligatory Elective Courses				
Advanced Methods in Political Science	PLUS	UNITS	PLUS	
Applied Course	SSST, UKIM, YSU, GIPA, TSU	PLUS, UKIM, YSU	UKIM, UET, UNSA, SSST, GIPA, EIU, TSU	UKIM, UET, SSST, PLUS, EIU
Additional Courses				
Optional Courses	PLUS, UKIM, UP UBT SSST UNSA UNITS UTIR, UET, EIU, TSU, YSU	PLUS, UKIM, UNITS, YSU	PLUS, UKIM, UP UBT, SSST, UNSA, UNITS UTIR, UET, EIU TSU YSU UET	PLUS, UKIM, UP UBT, SSST, UNSA UNITS, UTIR, UET

§ 6 Obligatory Elective Modules, Obligatory Course and Obligatory Elective Courses

Students in the PoSIG Master's programme must select two modules out of the programme's five modules (see § 2 Paragraph 1, and *Annex: Module Descriptions*).

All students must complete three obligatory courses: Course Methods in Political Science I, Course Methods in Political Science II and the Master's Thesis Seminar.

In addition, students must choose either one course that offers advanced methods in political science or one course in applied politics (obligatory elective course).

§ 7 Additional Courses

- (1) Students are required to complete additional courses totalling 24 ECTS credits. These additional courses aim to develop professional skills and strengthen individual areas of academic focus. They may be selected from the elective modules, from other courses in this curriculum, or from other areas as listed in Paragraph 2.
- (2) The recommended areas for additional courses include:
 - European Studies
 - Gender Studies
 - Geography and Spatial Planning
 - Communication Science
 - Law (e.g., Public/Constitutional Law, International Law, European Law, Private Law)
 - Regional Studies
 - Sociology, Social Psychology and Educational Science
 - Sustainability Studies
 - Political Economy
 - Contemporary History
 - Psychology and Political Psychology
 - Development Studies

§ 8 Master's Thesis

- (1) The Master's Thesis serves to demonstrate that students have acquired the ability to conduct independent academic research in political science, following rigorous scholarly methods and standards. The thesis is an individual research project in the student's fields of specialisation. It is overseen by two supervisors and should be connected to their field of teaching and/or research.
- (2) The topic of the Master's Thesis must relate to one or two of the obligatory elective modules according to § 2. The student may suggest a topic or select from those offered by available thesis advisors.
- (3) The length of the Master's Thesis should be between 25,000 and 30,000 words (excluding annexes, tables and bibliography).
- (4) Students must attend the Master's Thesis Seminar. The purpose of this seminar is to support students with the development of their theses. The supervision of a student's Master's Thesis is the shared responsibility of two supervisors, from two PoSIG consortium member universities where a candidate was enrolled during the PoSIG programme. The supervisors also act as examiners during the MA examination, according to § 13. The requirements and the formal and procedural aspects regarding the supervision of the Master's Thesis are defined in the syllabus of the thesis seminar.
- (5) The supervision of the Master's Thesis is documented in the student's portfolio. This documentation is to include at a minimum the following elements:
 - an exposé with the research question and the methodological approach;

- the supervisors' statements on the student's exposé;
- the Master's Thesis;
- the thesis evaluation statements from both supervisors.

§ 9 International Mobility

Students must study at a minimum of two and a maximum of four PoSIG consortium member universities.

Each international mobility stay lasts at least one academic term. Students must submit a mobility plan when applying to the programme. Each application must specify the selected fields of specialisation (2 modules out of 5, as defined in § 2 and § 5), and the universities for the first and second semesters. Students also need to declare at which institution they intend to spend the third and fourth semester; the latter choice may be changed before the end of the second semester.

Where the international legal conditions for the recognition of documents by consortium member universities are missing, mobilities are not possible.

Internships in accordance with § 10 do not count as international mobility as defined in this paragraph.

The recognition of courses for the PoSIG curriculum is granted in accordance with the PoSIG course programme published via www.posig.info. The recognition of a course not listed in the PoSIG course programme requires approval from all coordinators of the PoSIG consortium members attended by the student.

Students must comply with the following conditions during their international mobility activities:

- At least 30 ECTS credits must be achieved in each semester of study.
- Courses completed at one PoSIG consortium member university must not be identical to courses already completed at another PoSIG consortium member university.

In addition to field-specific knowledge, skills, and competences students are expected to gain the following qualifications as part of their academic international mobility:

- acquisition and consolidation of field-specific knowledge in a foreign language;
- acquisition and consolidation of organisational skills by navigating through the bureaucracy and organisational structure of a university abroad as well as daily challenges of student life abroad;
- broadening one's perspectives in one's own field of study;
- acquisition and consolidation of intercultural communication skills.

Students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses will be assisted in organizing their international mobility by the relevant support units of the single PoSIG consortium member university.

§ 10 Obligatory Internship

Students are to complete an obligatory internship, which carries a workload of 6 ECTS credits and involves a 4-week full-time work placement experience. This workload may be completed with a full-time internship contract, or with an equivalent part-time internship contract at up to two different places of employment.

The recognition of an internship requires for the student to complete a report on the work experience, reflecting the relevance of the conducted work and acquired experience with respect to the academic objectives and learning outcomes of the PoSIG curriculum. The report must include a work timetable, a confirmation of the work time and a statement about the student's performance by the employer. This report must be approved by a supervising lecturer of a PoSIG consortium member in order to be recognised as internship. A form for the internship confirmation is available at www.posig.info.

Students are encouraged to complete their internship at local, national or international institutions as listed in § 2 Paragraph 3. The internship should allow students to reflect on their PoSIG study experience and it could also be used to develop their thesis projects.

The PoSIG consortium members support the students by providing a list of contact addresses of possible employers and sources for financial support (national or others, such as Erasmus+ internship grants).

§ 11 Admission Requirements for Exams

Students are recommended to follow the suggested plan of study in accordance with § 5, in particular with regard to the following courses:

- the completion of the *Course Methods in Political Science I* before the *Course Methods in Political Science II*,
- the completion of the course *Basic Texts* and one other course in the two obligatory elective modules during the first two terms of the programme (to learn about a variety of possible topics for the Master's Thesis),
- the completion of the Master's Thesis Seminar during the third or fourth semester, to develop a research proposal for the Master's Thesis. The seminar will allow faculty members to supervise the student's research work during the thesis project.

§ 12 Examination Regulations and Grading Scale

- (1) In all courses, student performance is assessed via written and/or oral assignments.
- (2) Module grades are calculated as a weighted average of individual course grades.
- (3) PoSIG consortium member universities apply their local examination and grading regulations.
- (4) For students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses, alternative examination regulations suitable for each individual case will be offered in cooperation with the relevant support units of the PoSIG consortium member universities.

§ 13 Master's Thesis Defence

- (1) The programme concludes with a Master's Thesis Defence.
- (2) This defence is a public examination before an examination board.
- (3) The examination board consists of at least (depending on local regulations) one instructor from each university the student has attended during their study (minimum 2, maximum 4 instructors), teaching in the student's selected fields, and is chaired by the PoSIG coordinator of the PoSIG consortium member where the student finished their study. The grade for the Master's Thesis and Defence has to be decided by the examination board by consensus. If consensus is not reached, PoSIG coordinators of the other PoSIG consortium members where the student took courses during the international mobility decide together with the examination board by a 2/3 majority decision.
- (4) The defence lasts for a maximum of 60 minutes.
- (5) The defence at PoSIG consortium member universities in the Western Balkans and South Caucasus can be organised with the participation of examiners and coordinators via video conference.
- (6) Students must have successfully completed all of the required courses and the Master's Thesis to be eligible for the Master's Thesis Defence.
- (7) The defence is part of the 30 ECTS credits assigned to the Master's Thesis. In countries where the Master's Thesis and its defence are graded separately
 - the defence counts for 2 ECTS credits out of the 30 ECTS credits for the Master's Thesis;
 - the examination board decides both on the grade of the Master's Thesis and the grade of the defence according to the regulation as defined in § 13 Paragraph 3.

§ 14 Selection of Students

Students are selected and registered as joint degree candidates by the Coordinators Board, based on shared admission criteria: academic performance (final grade, exam results), motivation, reference letters, results of a personal interview, English language proficiency.

In their application for the Programme, candidates must select:

- their modules of specialisation, and
- the PoSIG consortium member university they will attend during their first year of study (both semesters).

§ 15 Effective Date

The curriculum will become effective on 1 October 2026.

Annex: Module Descriptions

Module Description: Political Theory

Module name	Political Theory
Module code	M1
Total workload	18 ECTS credit points
Intended learning outcomes	<p>Within this module, students acquire ...</p> <p>Knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - comprehensive knowledge about contemporary and historical normative debates on legitimacy, power and democracy; - knowledge of empirical political theories concerning power, democracy and contemporary political movements; - specific knowledge on approaches critical to modern political ideology. <p>Competence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ability to critically read and assess theoretical approaches concerning questions of legitimacy, power and democracy; - the ability to interpret political reality in the light of normative/empirical theories; - the ability to analyse recent political movements and ideologies on the basis of normative political concepts; - the ability to understand different aspects of social critique and to apply such criticism to current political issues. <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ability to conduct independent and innovative research in the field of political theory and the history of political ideas; - the ability to follow current political developments from the perspective of normative/empirical political theory; - the ability to critically examine political ideologies and to understand them in their social and historical contexts; - the ability to offer alternatives to mainstream political philosophies/theories.
Type of assessment	All courses in module <i>M1 - Political Theory</i> continuously evaluate student performance. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed through written and/or oral assignments.
Teaching approaches/methods	The course Basic Texts and theme-specific courses in module <i>M1 - Political Theory</i> will include various teaching approaches and methods, primarily lectures/seminars, with a focus on the active participation of students (presentations, group discussion, teamwork, simulations, case studies, etc.).
Module content	<p>The module <i>M1 - Political Theory</i> covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - normative political theories (both contemporary and historical), especially on fundamental questions of political legitimacy, power and democracy (e.g. representation and political participation; democracy and its critics); - empirical political theories, especially those concerning state power, democracy and contemporary political movements (e.g. populism and nationalism); - modern political ideologies and approaches critical to ideology (e.g. critical theory on crucial questions of political anthropology and identity politics).

Courses	[M1.1 Basic Texts in Political Theory: Democracy and Legitimacy (6 ECTS)] [M1.2 Theme-specific seminar I (6 ECTS)] [M1.3 Theme-specific seminar II (6 ECTS)]
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Module Description: Comparative Politics

Module name	Comparative Politics
Module code	M2
Total workload	18 ECTS credit points
Intended learning outcomes	<p>Within this module, students acquire ...</p> <p>Knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - comprehensive knowledge on political institutions, political actors and decision-making processes in a comparative perspective; - knowledge about the specific theories and theoretical debates concerning comparative political systems, comparative political processes and interactions across different levels; - practical knowledge about the political processes of South-East Europe and the post-Soviet region. <p>Competence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - detailed understanding of research, analytical methods and theories in the thematic area of comparative politics; - the ability to summarise and assess highly specialised literature in the thematic area of comparative politics; - the ability to analyse complex scientific and policy problems and draw correct conclusions by employing qualitative and/or quantitative methods and analyses; - the ability to develop independently innovative research questions, communicate own ideas clearly and convincingly, and write scientific papers. <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ability to connect research and practice and to implement practice-oriented research projects - the ability to analyse theoretic approaches critically and apply it to new political developments - the ability to follow current political developments from a comparative perspective - the competence to apply the knowledge acquired throughout the programme concerning the processes within institutions and the competences of different actors, and to work with or within these institutions - the ability to participate in and conduct complex decision-making procedures.
Type of assessment	All courses in module <i>M2 - Comparative Politics</i> continuously evaluate student performance. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed through written and/or oral assignments.
Teaching approaches/methods	The core course and theme-specific courses in module <i>M2 - Comparative Politics</i> will include various teaching approaches and methods, primarily lectures/seminars, with a focus on the active participation of students (presentations, group discussions, teamwork, simulations, case studies, etc.).
Module content	The module <i>M2 - Comparative Politics</i> covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the functioning and effects of political institutions, especially electoral

	<p>systems and government structures;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the functioning of parliaments, especially with regard to questions of representation and representativeness; - characteristics of political parties and party systems; - aspects of political participation and new forms of participation; - characteristics and differences of regional and local governments; - analyses of civil society, public opinion, electoral behaviour and elections; - differences in the structure of states and constitutional design; - nationalism and its influence on regional and global politics; - specific characteristics of authoritarian regimes and their development; - democratization, political violence and regime changes; - analyses of gender-specific and economic inequality; - approaches and characteristics of human rights policies in different political environments; - analyses of specific public policies (i.e. comparative social policies).
Courses	[M2.1 Basic Texts Comparative Politics (6 ECTS)] [M2.2 Theme-specific course I (6 ECTS)] [M2.3 Theme-specific course II (6 ECTS)]

Module Description: Public Policy & Administration

Module name	Public Policy & Administration
Module code	M3
Total workload	18 ECTS credit points
Intended learning outcomes	<p>Within this module, students acquire ...</p> <p>Knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - comprehensive knowledge on political and administrative institutions, political and administrative actors and decision-making processes; - knowledge about the specific theories and theoretical debates concerning public policy and administrative systems at a national and supra-national perspective; - practical knowledge about public policy and administrative processes in a comparative perspective. <p>Competence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a detailed understanding of research, analytical methods and theories in the thematic areas of public policy and public administration; - the competence to summarise and assess highly specialised literature in the thematic areas of public policy and public administration; - the ability to analyse complex scientific problems and draw correct conclusions by employing qualitative and/or quantitative methods and analyses; - the ability to develop independently innovative research questions, communicate their own ideas clearly and convincingly, and to write scientific papers. <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ability to connect research and practice and to implement practice-oriented research projects;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ability to analyse theoretic approaches critically and apply them to new political and/or policy developments; - the ability to follow current policy and/or administrative developments; - the ability to apply the knowledge acquired throughout the programme concerning the processes within political and administrative institutions and the competences of different actors, and work with or within these institutions; - the ability to participate in and conduct complex political and/or administrative decision-making procedures.
Type of assessment	All courses in the module <i>M3 - Public Policy & Administration</i> continuously evaluate student performance. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed through written and/or oral assignments.
Teaching approaches/ methods	The core course and theme-specific courses in module <i>M3 - Public Policy & Administration</i> will include various teaching approaches and methods, primarily lectures/seminars, with a focus on the active participation of students (presentations, group discussion, teamwork, simulations, case studies, etc.).
Module content	<p>The module <i>M3 - Public Policy & Administration</i> module covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the functioning and effects of administrative institutions, especially core administrative systems (state administration, public services, civil service); - an understanding of leadership concepts, different approaches and abilities to apply them to actual organisational contexts; - characteristics of policy cycles and their importance in the system of public administration; - the significance and impact of administrative procedures in the functioning of the government; - differences in the structure of constitutional design regarding public policy and public administration; - an analysis of specific public policies.
Courses	[M3.1 Basic texts Public Policy & Administration (6 ECTS)] [M3.2 Theme-specific course I (6 ECTS)] [M3.3 Theme-specific course II (6 ECTS)]

Module Description: International Relations

Module name	International Relations
Module code	M4
Total workload	18 ECTS credit points
Intended learning outcomes	<p>Within this module, students acquire ...</p> <p>Knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - specialised empirical knowledge about international relations, for example, with regard to the functioning of international organisations or international trade policies; - detailed knowledge of relevant theories in the field of international relations, and how to distinguish and critically evaluate them. <p>Competence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ability to infer explanations from relevant theories to explain current political problems or new phenomena;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an understanding of research design and methods in current research on international relations and an ability to challenge methodological approaches critically; - an ability to assess the strengths and weaknesses of these methods. <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ability to develop interesting and innovative research questions in the field of International Relations, and the capacity to answer these questions using the appropriate research design; - the ability to communicate their knowledge of international politics and argue in support of the conclusions they derive from their research on international relations clearly and convincingly.
Type of assessment	All courses in module <i>M4 - International Relations</i> continuously evaluate student performance. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed through written and/or oral assignments.
Teaching approaches/ methods	The course Basic Texts and theme-specific courses in module <i>M4 - International Relations</i> will include various teaching approaches and methods, primarily lectures/seminars with a focus on the active participation of students (presentations, group discussion, teamwork, simulations, case studies, etc.).
Module content	The module <i>M4 - International Relations</i> covers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - theories of international relations, such as Realism and Neorealism, Institutionalism, liberal theory of International Relations, social constructivist approaches; - the most important debates in international relations, including the functioning of international organisations, the design of international institutions, the role of public international law in international relations, and the role of transnational actors and the causes of war and peace; - a selection of current research topics, for example on peace and conflict research, foreign policy analysis, international institutions, international environmental policy, international cooperation, diplomacy, international political economy, or transnational actors.
Courses	[M4.1 Basic texts European Integration – Multilevel Politics (6 ECTS)] [M4.2 Theme specific seminar I (6 ECTS)] [M4.3 Theme specific seminar II (6 ECTS)]

Module Description: European Integration

Module name	European Integration
Module code	M5
Total workload	18 ECTS credit points
Intended learning outcomes	<p>Within this module, students acquire ...</p> <p>Knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a comprehensive knowledge on institutions, actors, decision-making processes, policy fields and norms of the European Union, including the functioning of the European multilevel system; - a knowledge about the specific theories and theoretic debates concerning European integration, political processes and interactions across different levels, ability to analyse this critically and apply it to new political developments; - the ability to understand current research and academic debate in the

	<p>field of European integration, and to transfer their knowledge to other thematic areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - practical knowledge about the political processes at EU level (acquired e.g. in simulation games); - understanding the research design and the methods of current research concerning European integration, and the multilevel system, and an ability to assess them critically. <p>Competence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ability to individually set up a research design and to conduct research within the area of European integration, and to apply the different methodological and theoretical approaches; - the ability to write seminar papers according to academic standards and to give policy recommendations (“speaking to practice”); - the ability to cooperate with others (promoting a regional and international co-operation model), and to conduct research projects together; - the ability to present complex research results, including the results of their own research projects. <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the ability to connect research and practice, and to implement practice-oriented research projects; - the ability to apply the knowledge acquired throughout the programme concerning the processes within institutions, and the competences of different actors, and to work with or within these institutions; - the ability to participate in and conduct multi/bi-lateral negotiations (complex decision-making processes).
Type of assessment	All courses in module <i>M5 - European Integration</i> continuously evaluate student performance. The achievement of teaching and learning objectives is assessed through written and/or oral assignments.
Teaching approaches/ methods	The course Basic Texts and theme-specific courses in module <i>M5 - European Integration</i> will include various teaching approaches and methods, primarily lectures/seminars, with a focus on the active participation of students (presentations, group discussion, teamwork, simulations, case studies, etc.).
Module content	<p>The module <i>M5 - European Integration</i> covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - European integration theories - current research topics in European, regional and multi-level politics, - (historic) development of European integration - European institutions, actors, and decision-making procedures - governance in a multilevel system - EU policies - enlargement process - EU and the wider world/ European Neighbourhood Policy
Courses	<p>[M5.1 Basic Texts European Integration - Multilevel Politics (6 ECTS)]</p> <p>[M5.2 Theme-specific seminar I (6 ECTS)]</p> <p>[M5.3 Theme-specific seminar II (6 ECTS)]</p>

Impressum
Herausgeber und Verleger:
Rektor der Universität Salzburg
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Bernhard Fügenschuh
Redaktion: Stefan Bohuny
alle: Kapitelgasse 4-6
A-5020 Salzburg