

# MASTER IN TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES

## Description of Modules

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Study form: full-time / consecutive

Regular period of study: four terms (two years)





## Table of Contents

Preamble .....	2
Qualification Goals and Fields of Occupation .....	2
Study Focus .....	3
Overall Structure and Course Requirements .....	5
Mobility .....	5
Consultation .....	6
Abbreviations .....	7
Study Plan Major ("Hauptfach", 100%) .....	7
Study Plan Minor ("Begleitfach") .....	10
Description of Modules – Major .....	11
"Introduction to Transcultural Studies" .....	11
"Skills for Transcultural Studies" .....	12
"Focus 1 – Foundations" .....	13
"Focus 2 – Advanced Studies" .....	14
"Mobility and Research 1" .....	15
"Mobility and Research 2" .....	17
"Oral Examination" .....	18
"Master's Thesis" .....	19
Description of Modules – Minor .....	21
"Introduction to Transcultural Studies" .....	21
"Focus 1 – Foundations" .....	22
Model Study Plans .....	23
Example A – Staying in Heidelberg .....	23
Example B – Internship in the third semester .....	24

## **Preamble**

Based on its mission statement and core principles, Heidelberg University provides comprehensive academic education through disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and practical study programmes that qualify students for their later professional careers.

The following competency profile is incorporated into the module descriptions of all disciplines. Furthermore, it is implemented in the specific goals of qualification, the curricula, and the modules of the individual study programmes:

- Develop disciplinary competences with a distinctive research orientation;
- Develop competence in transdisciplinary dialogues;
- Develop competence in practice-oriented problem-solving;
- Develop personal and social competences;
- Promote willingness to assume social responsibility on the basis of the competences acquired.

## **Qualification Goals and Fields of Occupation**

Building on the theoretical and methodological knowledge of their B.A. studies, graduates of the M.A. in Transcultural Studies have expanded their knowledge using transcultural and transdisciplinary approaches. Within the selected study focus they have learned to identify research material in the broad field of transcultural exchange processes between Asia and Europe, to develop innovative research questions, to locate them in the academic state of the art, and to analyse and respond to them in academic English. Graduates are thus able to independently choose and apply an adequate set of theories and methods from a variety of disciplines according to the specific research material and questions at hand.

Drawing on examples of cultural, social, political, and regional entanglements in and between Asia and Europe graduates are experienced in locating complex problems that the world is facing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They have been sensitized to look deeper into the contexts, processes and historical perspectives in these entanglements, and are thus able to critically reflect on their challenges in a global context and to suggest ways of looking at and coping with them.

In selective methodology and/or language courses, graduates have expanded their knowledge of theories and methods from their B.A. degrees and have learned to transfer it to new contexts. Their in-depth disciplinary expertise and competences serve as the basis for their newly acquired, transcultural approach. Graduates are thus capable of undertaking ambitious, innovative research agendas which transcend traditional disciplinary constraints.

In the course of their M.A. studies, graduates have deepened their skills in oral, written, and other forms of argumentation and presentation in the international environment of the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS). They have expanded their competences in analytical research and have acquired skills in collecting various sets of data from all kinds of media (books, manuscripts, film, and other audio-visual media) and analysing them critically, ethically and creatively. This is particularly relevant in a world oversaturated with diverse media that shape knowledge, transfer of knowledge and concepts of (past/present/future) reality. As the research tools developed by the Digital Humanities Unit of Heidelberg University, the Heidelberg Research Architecture, are directly employed in a number of research-based

modules of the programme, graduates hone particular competences in the use of state-of-the-art tools and methods of visualizing knowledge or an argument, and are able to apply these skills in future contexts of research and/or employment.

The high degree of internationality at the HCTS and in the M.A. in Transcultural Studies presupposes an equally high degree of interaction among the students and between students and teacher. This is further fostered by various forms of collaborative work implemented in the modules. Graduates are thus skilled in working collaboratively in and with international teams of experts in their field and other stake-holders.

In line with the above qualification goals, graduates are prepared for future employment in research institutions worldwide with interdisciplinary and transregional emphases, for higher positions in the educational sector and the media, in publishing houses, museums, and archives, in think tanks and in cultural management, human resources, and PR departments of international organizations and the corporate world.

## **Study Focus**

Within the broad repertoire of transregional and interdisciplinary courses offered in the M.A. in Transcultural Studies, each student is required to select one of three study foci after the first term. The selection will be facilitated by individual consultations with the advisor in the respective study focus and/or members of the Chairs involved.

The study focus will indicate and further deepen the student's main disciplinary and research-based methodological and theoretical competences. It will allow for a more specific orientation to match the student's educational background, personal interests, and career goals.

Three study foci are offered, all representing the disciplinary and conceptual pillars on which the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies, with its branches into other Institutes and Centres, rests. They are: "Knowledge, Belief and Religion" (KBR), "Society, Economy and Governance" (SEG), and "Visual, Media and Material Cultures" (VMC).

### Knowledge, Belief and Religion (KBR)

This focus offers insight into the dynamic histories, circulations and practices of knowledge, beliefs and religion. It highlights relations between, and entanglements of, political and ideological, social and cultural, linguistic, and artistic aspects in and between Asia and Europe. Of particular interest are disciplines such as philosophy, history and art history, religious studies and philology, and anthropology. This focus emphasises students' engagement with a variety of resources and sources, from archival, to textual to visual and material matter. In combination with a unique interest in social and institutional agents, the study focus offers new approaches to the exploration of fields such as religious movements and worldviews, the migration of ideas and concepts (e.g., democracy, enlightenment), the rise or decline of intellectual cosmopolitan elites or the institutionalisation of knowledge in educational contexts.

Study content (selection):

- Inner-Asian Buddhist networks and institutions
- Indian Ocean/Atlantic as a religio-cultural contact zone

- Philosophical encounters between Asia and Europe
- Histories of technology and science
- Human-nature relations (anthropocene)
- Christian-Muslim relations in the Euromediterranean

### Society, Economy and Governance (SEG)

This focus explores issues of Society, Economy and Governance from an explicitly transcultural, anthropological, and historical perspective. There is much interest in the deep and complex histories of globalization and transregional connectivities. Key themes here are the social, political, and cultural dimensions of market dynamics and networks, the shaping and governance of social systems (e.g., civil society), consumer cultures, transregional migration, demographic change, global governance, and urbanization processes.

Study content (selection):

- Concepts and methods of migration studies
- Korean pop-culture and social transformation in East Asia
- Migration of political ideas
- Mediterranean economy (300–1500)
- Global economic history
- Japanese and East Asian law in a European context
- Political ecology

### Visual, Media and Material Cultures (VMC)

This focus investigates the production, proliferation, and reception of images and objects as well as their collection, display, and reconfiguration with a view to the human agency involved. A transcultural perspective calls for recovering the ways in which experiences and processes of mobility and braidedness are constitutive for the actors and visual regimes involved in these processes. Transculturality also addresses the enmeshing of visual technologies, institutional practices, placemaking, and im/mobility in ways that cut across bipolar asymmetries. Of relevance is the role of diverse agencies, both local and trans-regional, in the negotiation of power and the production of knowledge. This can range from archival, artistic, and exhibition practice to architecture and urban planning to film and advertising. Interdisciplinary conversations and research-based projects help reach into literary, linguistic, musical, performative or ritual dimensions of creative cultures, whose meanings can be more fully apprehended through a range of experiences centering on the social agents, spaces, and sensoriums.

Study content (selection):

- Curating cultures: art and exhibition practices
- Art, film and migration in the Global South
- Cityscapes in Asia: transcultural placemaking
- Orientalist architecture
- Europe and the arts of Islam

## Overall Structure and Course Requirements

The two-year, full-time, major-only M.A. in Transcultural Studies requires a total of 120 Credit Points (CP) to be accumulated over four semesters. Modules in the first year are designed to expand the students' theoretical and methodological knowledge and to transfer it to new, transcultural contexts. The third semester either continues with advanced, research-based courses in the M.A. Transcultural Studies or in related study programmes at Heidelberg University, or students may spend it at a research institute, for fieldwork or a research internship (see more below under "Mobility"). During this time students are expected to define the topic of their master's thesis and to identify a suitable supervisor. The final semester is dedicated to writing the thesis, accompanied by a research colloquium. The final oral examination may be taken either in the third or the fourth semester, depending on completion of the required modules.

Requirements to receive full or partial credits for courses are defined by the teachers and are given in the course descriptions published on the "LSF" for each semester (see <http://lsf.uni-heidelberg.de>). All courses require active student participation, including the preparation of course material and continuous, independent reading of secondary literature. This particularly applies to seminars, which make up the majority of courses.

Typical forms of examination include oral presentations (15–30 min = 1–2CP), brief reflection papers (overall 10–15 pp of 1–3 pp each = 1–2CP), longer course papers (15–20 pp = 2–3CP), written examinations (1,5 h = 2CP), visual essays (2–3CP), and research/excursion/internship reports (CP depending on scope of the report).

Students should be prepared to write two longer course papers (or equivalent) per term on average. They can obtain reduced credits for courses only where specifically outlined in the module description.

Some modules allow the transfer of courses (course import) from partner institutes at Heidelberg University. These are the Centre for East Asian Studies (ZO), the South Asia Institute (SAI), the Institute of Anthropology and the Centre for European History and Culture (ZEGK). In individual cases, course import from other institutes may also be possible. To ensure that the chosen classes will fit the student's study focus, the student must consult with the respective focus advisor in advance.

## Mobility

Due to the transregional nature of the M.A. Transcultural Studies, spending the third semester abroad may be a valid option to further expand one's transcultural background, to deepen one's language skills, or to acquire research experience "in the field". As such kinds of mobility require time and effort to plan and organise, students should consider the related options of studying at a research institution related to the M.A. Transcultural Studies, or conducting a guided, research-oriented internship at the beginning of the programme.

All mobility should be linked to the concept of the master's thesis. It is thus of utmost importance that students consult with the academic focus advisor and supervisor when planning their mobility and research modules. Equally important is the accreditation of the external workload, for which students should consult the examination officer (see also below under "Consultation").

Up-to-date information on partner programmes, Erasmus exchange, internship options, etc. is provided on the programme's website: [www.transcultural.uni-hd.de](http://www.transcultural.uni-hd.de).

## **Consultation**

We aim to provide our students with excellent guidance throughout the M.A. in Transcultural Studies and beyond. Consultation is divided between the programme coordinator, the examination officer, and the academic focus advisors.

Students should address all general questions regarding the programme to the programme coordinator, who will assist students or refer them to the focus advisors or professors. For all issues related to the overall examination regulations and the accreditation of courses, students should consult the examination officer. Inquiries regarding the academic content of courses, the study focus, or options for mobility and research should be addressed to the respective academic focus advisor. For planning the master's thesis students should contact the respective professors. Finally, details of specific courses are best clarified directly with the course teacher.

We strongly advise students to consult with the programme coordinator and/or the academic focus advisors to finalize their choice of study focus after the first semester, and to plan the mobility options.

Students should familiarise themselves with the regulations and structure of the programme as well as with the consultation hours of the above-mentioned persons and should make appointments where necessary. All relevant documents, contact details and office hours are up to date on the website of the M.A. Transcultural Studies: [www.transcultural.uni-hd.de](http://www.transcultural.uni-hd.de). Students should also include a brief note on what they wish to clarify during the appointment.



## Abbreviations

<b>CP</b>	Credit Points ("Leistungspunkte")
<b>PM</b>	Required Module ("Pflichtmodul")
<b>WPM</b>	Required Elective Module ("Wahlpflichtmodul")
<b>WM</b>	Elective Module ("Wahlmodul")
<b>Sem.</b>	Semester
<b>n.s.</b>	not specified
<b>n.a.</b>	not applicable
<b>SWS</b>	Hours per week per term ("Semesterwochenstunden")
<b>PST</b>	Active participation, regular preparation, and study time
<b>OER</b>	Oral exam requirements
<b>WER</b>	Written exam requirements
<b>SEG</b>	Society, Economy and Governance
<b>KBR</b>	Knowledge, Belief and Religion
<b>VMC</b>	Visual, Media and Material Culture

## Study Plan Major ("Hauptfach", 100%)

If not otherwise specified, all courses must be graded. The module grades are based on the individual course grades, weighted by their credit points.

Credit points given in brackets ( ) indicate the number of credit points needed in full or partial achievement of a module through courses attended at other institutes (import).

### Module "Introduction to Transcultural Studies" (PM, 14 CP)

Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Requirements
1	Lecture "Introduction to Transcultural Studies"	4	2	- PST (2 CP) - WER (2 CP)
1	Tutorium "Introduction to Transcultural Studies" (ungraded)	1	2	- PST (1 CP)
1	Tutorium "Research Skills" (ungraded)	1	2	- PST (1 CP)
1	Introductory seminar to Transcultural Studies	8	2	- PST (2 CP) - OER (2 CP) - WER (4 CP)

### Module "Skills for Transcultural Studies" (PM, 12 CP)

Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Requirements
1 – 2	Language and/or method classes offered in the MA TS or in a master programme at partner institutes at Heidelberg University in consultation with focus advisor	(12)	n.s.	Credit points, SWS, as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended.

**Note:** Upon consultation with the focus advisor it is also possible to attend seminars offered in the MA TS in partial or complete fulfilment of the module.

**Module "Focus 1 – Foundations" (PM, 16 CP)**

Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Requirements
1 – 2	Seminar in the chosen study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	8	2	- PST (2 CP) - OER (2 CP) - WER (4 CP)
1 – 2	Seminar in the chosen study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	8	2	- PST (2 CP) - OER (2 CP) - WER (4 CP)
<b>OR</b>				
1 – 2	Seminar in the chosen study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	8	2	- PST (2 CP) - OER (2 CP) - WER (4 CP)
1 – 2	Reduced seminar in the chosen study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	4	2	- PST (2 CP) - WER (2 CP)
1 – 2	Reduced seminar in the chosen study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	4	2	- PST (2 CP) - WER (2 CP)

**Module "Focus 2 – Advanced Studies" (PM, 16 CP)**

Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Requirements
2	Seminar in the chosen study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	8	2	- PST (2 CP) - OER (2 CP) - WER (4 CP)
2	Seminar in the chosen study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	8	2	- PST (2 CP) - OER (2 CP) - WER (4 CP)

**Module "Mobility and Research 1" (PM, 16 CP)**

Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Requirements
3	Seminar in the chosen study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	8	2	- PST (2 CP) - OER (2 CP) - WER (4 CP)
3	Seminar in the chosen study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)  OR Seminar/s in master programmes at partner institutes at Heidelberg University	8  (8)	2  n.s.	- PST (2 CP) - OER (2 CP) - WER (4 CP)  Credit points, SWS, as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the seminars attended. Overall at least two term papers must be written in this module.
<b>OR</b>				
3	Courses in master programmes at a university abroad	(16)	n.s.	Credit points, SWS, as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended. At least two of these courses must include a term paper as a requirement.
<b>OR</b>				
3	Research related internship under the guidance of one of the thesis advisors	16	n.s.	Credit points for the internship depend on the transferable working hours within the internship (PST) and a written research report graded by the thesis advisor (WER). The grade of the report is the grade of the module.

**Module "Mobility and Research 2" (PM, 12 CP)**

Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Requirements
3	Courses in master programmes at partner institutes at Heidelberg University or in the MA TS	(12)	n.s.	Credit points, SWS, as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended.
<b>OR</b>				
3	Courses in master programmes at a university abroad	(12)	n.s.	Credit points, SWS, as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended.
<b>OR</b>				
3	Research related internship under the guidance of one of the thesis advisors	12	n.s.	Credit points for the internship depend on the transferable working hours within the internship (PST) and a written research report graded by the thesis advisor (WER). The grade of the report is the grade of the module.

**Module "Oral Examination" (PM, 4 CP)**

Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Requirements
3 / 4	Oral Examination	4	n.a.	- Oral examination (30 min.) on overall knowledge in the field of Transcultural Studies plus one topic from the chosen study focus

**Module "Master's Thesis" (PM, 30 CP)**

Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Requirements
4	Research Colloquium	2	2	- PST (1 CP) - OER = oral presentation of thesis (1 CP)
4	Master's Thesis	28	n.a.	- Master's thesis of approx. 25,000 words on a topic within the chosen study focus

## Study Plan Minor ("Begleitfach")

If not otherwise specified, all courses must be graded. The module grades are based on the individual course grades, weighted by their credit points.

### Module "Introduction to Transcultural Studies" (PM, 12 CP)

Sem	Course	CP	SWS	Requirements
.				
1	Lecture "Introduction to Transcultural Studies"	4	2	- PST (2 CP) - WER (2 CP)
1 / 3	Introductory seminar to Transcultural Studies	8	2	- PST (2 CP) - OER (2 CP) - WER (4 CP)

### Module "Focus 1 – Foundations" (PM, 8 CP)

Prerequisite for module "Focus 1" is the successful completion of module "Introduction to Transcultural Studies".

Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Requirements
2–4	Seminar in one of the study foci (KBR / SEG / VMC)	8	2	- PST (2 CP) - OER (2 CP) - WER (4 CP)

## Description of Modules – Major

<b>"Introduction to Transcultural Studies"</b>				
<b>Form of Module:</b> Required Module (PM)				
<b>Credit Points:</b> 14 (= 420 working hours, including 120 contact hours)				
<b>Frequency:</b> Offered every winter semester				
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> First semester   one semester				
<p><b>Content of module:</b></p> <p>This module introduces students to concepts, methods, and theories of transcultural studies. It is made up of four parts. The introductory lecture, co-taught by professors representing the three study foci (KBR, SEG, VMC), provides students in the first part with an overview of the history and basic concepts of the transcultural approach. The second part illustrates this approach with selected examples from each study focus. Topics include transcultural perspectives on themes such as language, space, knowledge, markets, migration, citizenship, urbanity, institutions, art, and visuality. The mandatory tutorial is devoted to practicing, clarifying, and discussing problems raised in the lecture. The tutorial "Research Skills" introduces students to advanced techniques of research and writing in the context of Heidelberg's research infrastructure. The introductory seminar is designed to apply the skills, theories and concepts from the other parts of the module in a specific thematic area.</p>				
<p><b>Objectives of module:</b></p> <p>With the completion of the module students have acquired the following competences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Broad knowledge of the basic concepts, methods, and theories of transcultural studies</li> <li>- A nuanced understanding of transcultural phenomena in Asia and Europe, past and present</li> <li>- Basic skills in applying concepts, methods, and theories of transcultural studies to specific problems in the three study foci</li> <li>- Basic skills in independent research</li> <li>- Proficiency in utilizing the university's research infrastructure</li> <li>- Ability to present and write in academic English</li> </ul>				
<b>Use of module:</b> Prerequisite for modules "Oral Examination" and "Master's Thesis"				
<b>Conditions for participation:</b> n.a.				
<b>Grade of module:</b> Average of grades, weighted by the number of credit points				
Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Study and Examination Requirements
1	Lecture "Introduction to Transcultural Studies"	4	2	PST (2 CP) WER (2 CP)
1	Tutorium "Introduction to Transcultural Studies" (ungraded)	1	2	PST (1 CP)

1	Tutorium "Research Skills" (ungraded)	1	2	PST (1 CP)
1	Introductory seminar to Transcultural Studies	8	2	PST (2 CP) OER (2 CP) WER (4 CP)

<b>"Skills for Transcultural Studies"</b>				
<b>Form of Module:</b> Required Module (PM)				
<b>Credit Points:</b> 12 (= 360 working hours, including at least 60 contact hours)				
<b>Frequency:</b> offered every semester				
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> First and / or second semester   one to two semesters				
<b>Content of module:</b> This module provides students with the specific skills necessary for advanced research in transcultural studies. Depending on their desired specialization, students choose seminars with a focus on qualitative methodology (including philological, historical, and ethnographic methods as well as visual and media analysis) or language courses.				
<b>Objectives of module:</b> With the successful completion of this module students have acquired the following competences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advanced linguistic or methodological skills necessary to develop research questions related to specific transcultural problems</li> <li>- Ability to design independent research in the form of textual analysis, image/media analysis, archival research, or ethnographic fieldwork</li> <li>- Skills to organize and manage material and data resources effectively.</li> </ul>				
<b>Use of module:</b> Prerequisite for modules "Oral Examination" and "Master's Thesis"				
<b>Conditions for participation:</b> Attendance or completion of module "Introduction to Transcultural Studies"				
<b>Grade of module:</b> Average of grades, weighted by the number of credit points				
<b>Sem.</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>SWS</b>	<b>Study and Examination Requirements</b>
1 – 2	Language and/or method classes offered in the MA TS or in a master programme at partner institutes at Heidelberg University in consultation with focus advisor	(12)	n.s.	Credit points, SWS as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended.

## "Focus 1 – Foundations"

**Form of Module:** Required Module (PM)

**Credit Points: 16** (= 480 working hours, including 60–90 contact hours)

**Frequency:** Offered every study year

**Semester / Duration:** First and / or second semester | one to two semesters

**Content of module:**

This module, which consists of two seminars, builds upon the qualifications the students have acquired through the module "Introduction to Transcultural Studies". In the introductory seminar, students receive an overview of genres of primary sources and empirical data relevant to the chosen study focus (KBR, SEG, VMC). They are introduced to and engage with the relevant theoretical and methodological debates in structured discussions and learn to apply their insights to concrete case studies. In the second seminar, students gain more in-depth knowledge of specific topics and regions within their study focus. They apply the acquired methodological tools to discuss and analyze primary and secondary sources in the framework of current academic discussions. Both seminars require a high degree of active engagement, including oral discussions and presentations as well as written assignments, to help students prepare for their master's thesis.

**Objectives of module:**

With the successful completion of this module students have acquired the following competences:

- Theoretical and empirical knowledge of regions, topics, methods, and theories relevant to their study focus
- Ability to identify and analyze relevant sources and empirical data
- Ability to adapt methodological approaches to specific research topics
- Ability to present and discuss their findings both in writing and speech and integrate audiovisual media

**Use of module:** Prerequisite for modules "Oral Examination" and "Master's Thesis"

**Conditions for participation:** Module "Introduction to Transcultural Studies"

**Grade of module:** Average of grades, weighted by the number of credit points

Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Study and Examination Requirements
1-2	Seminar in the chosen study focus ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	8	2	PST (2 CP) OER (2 CP) WER (4 CP)
1-2	Seminar in the chosen study focus ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	8	2	PST (2 CP) OER (2 CP) WER (4 CP)
	OR			
	Reduced seminar in the chosen study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	4	2	PST (2 CP) WER (2 CP)
	Reduced seminar in the chosen study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	4	2	PST (2 CP) WER (2 CP)

## "Focus 2 – Advanced Studies"

**Form of Module:** Required Module (PM)

**Credit Points: 16** (= 480 working hours, including 60 contact hours)

**Frequency:** Offered every study year

**Suggested Semester / Duration:** Second semester | one semester

**Content of module:**

This module, which consists of two seminars, builds upon the skills students have acquired in "Focus 1 – Foundations". The advanced seminars provide intensified engagement with concepts, theories, and methods applied to sources and data relevant to the study focus (KBR, SEG, VMC) chosen by the student. In research-oriented courses, students learn to design their own specialized projects and conduct them effectively. They transfer the methods and skills acquired in previous modules to concrete cases in their own field of specialization. Both seminars require a high degree of active engagement, including oral discussions and presentations as well as written assignments, to prepare students for their master's thesis.

**Objectives of module:**

With the successful completion of this module students have acquired the following competences:

- Advanced theoretical and empirical knowledge of regions, topics, methods and theories relevant to their study focus
- Ability to apply methodological approaches to specific research topics
- Ability to analyze relevant sources and empirical data and connect them to current debates
- Ability to present and discuss their findings both in writing and speech and integrate audiovisual media

**Use of module:** Prerequisite for modules "Oral Examination" and "Master's Thesis"

**Conditions for participation:** Completion of module "Introduction to Transcultural Studies"; attendance or completion of module "Focus 1"

**Grade of module:** Average of grades, weighted by the number of credit points

Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Study and Examination Requirements
2	Seminar in the chosen study focus ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	8	2	PST (2 CP) OER (2 CP) WER (4 CP)
2	Seminar in the chosen study focus ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	8	2	PST (2 CP) OER (2 CP) WER (4 CP)



## "Mobility and Research 1"

**Form of Module:** Required Module (PM)

**Credit Points: 16** (= 480 working hours)

**Frequency:** offered every winter semester

**Suggested Semester / Duration:** Third semester | one semester

### **Content of module:**

The module "Mobility and Research 1" builds on the theoretical, methodological, and regional competences acquired in the first year of study and allows for further specialization in line with the individual study goals of the students in preparation for their master's thesis. It further complements the module "Mobility and Research 2" by advancing and practising methodological skills and their application to theoretical and research-related questions.

To allow a maximum of academic mobility, students may complete this module by

- (1) attending research based seminars at Heidelberg University or at a partner university abroad (study exchange). They engage in advanced discussions to identify and evaluate theories and methods specifically relevant to their master's thesis. In the two term papers students apply the acquired knowledge on small scale research projects of their own design, analyse their findings and discuss and evaluate analytical and theoretical problems with regard to the master's thesis.
- (2) organising and completing a research-related internship at an extramural institution in Germany or abroad. Possible institutions include cultural organisations (e.g. museums), non-profit organisations (e.g. GTZ), and companies engaged in international contexts. The internship allows an analytical insight into concrete applications. Alternatively, guided field or archival work is possible. Each option is closely mentored by the supervisor of the planned master's thesis with whom students design a small-scale research project to be realized in line with their internship or through the field/archival work. Upon completion of the project, students submit a written report to the supervisor. In this report students apply their acquired knowledge, analyse the collected data, and discuss and evaluate their findings and analytical and theoretical problems.

The respective focus advisor and the supervisor of the master's thesis will guide the student in choosing between these options and in the concrete planning of the course schedule or internship, respectively. To this end, students are required to formulate and discuss their plans for the module "Mobility and Research 1" with their focus advisor in due time. "Mobility and Research 1 & 2" may be organised together or separately.

### **Objectives of module:**

With the completion of the module students have acquired the following competences:

- Advanced theoretical and empirical knowledge of regions, topics, methodologies, and theories necessary to design and realise their individual study and research goals;
- Ability to plan, structure and realize an independent time and work plan for a small-scale research project in preparation for the master's thesis;

- Ability to modify and apply theoretical and methodological approaches to small-scale research projects of their own design
- Ability to present and discuss their findings in writing and oral presentations in line with international academic standards.

**Use of module:** Prerequisite for module "Master's Thesis"

**Conditions for participation:** Completion of modules "Introduction to Transcultural Studies", "Skills for Transcultural Studies", "Focus 1" and "Focus 2"

**Grade of module:** Average of grades, weighted by the number of credit points. In case of a research internship, the grade of the written report is the module grade.

Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Study and Examination Requirements
3	Seminar in the chosen study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	8	2	- PST (2 CP) - OER (2 CP) - WER (4 CP)
3	Seminar in the chosen study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)  OR Seminar/s in master programmes at partner institutes at Heidelberg university	8  (8)	2  n.s.	- PST (2 CP) - OER (2 CP) - WER (4 CP)  Credit points, SWS, as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the seminars attended. Overall at least two term papers must be written in this module.
<b>OR</b>				
3	Courses in master programmes at a university abroad	(16)	n.s.	Credit points, SWS, and study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended. At least two of these courses must include a term paper as requirement.
<b>OR</b>				
3	Research related internship mentored by one of the supervisors of the master's thesis	16	n.s.	Credit points for the internship depend on the transferable working hours within the internship (PST) and a written research report graded by the thesis advisor (WER). The grade of the report is the grade of the module.

## "Mobility and Research 2"

**Form of Module:** Required Module (PM)

**Credit Points:** 12 (= 360 working hours)

**Frequency:** offered every winter semester

**Suggested Semester / Duration:** Third semester / one semester

### **Content of module:**

The module "Mobility and Research 2" builds on the theoretical, methodological, and regional competences acquired in the first year of study and complements module "Mobility and Research 1". The module allows for further concentration on specific methodological and linguistic skills in line with the student's individual study goals and the preparation for their master's thesis.

To allow a maximum of academic mobility, students may complete this module by

- (1) attending advanced courses at Heidelberg University or at a partner university abroad (study exchange). Students acquire advanced training in research skills, methodologies and theories specifically relevant to their individually planned master's thesis. In presentations and written assignments in class they develop these skills further and apply them to a small-scale research project of their own design.
- (2) organising and completing a research-related internship at an extramural institution in Germany or abroad. Possible institutions include cultural organisations (e.g. museums), non-profit organisations (e.g. GTZ), and companies engaged in international contexts. The internship allows an analytical insight into concrete applications. Alternatively, guided field or archival work is possible. Both options are closely mentored by the supervisor of the planned master's thesis with whom the students design a small-scale research project to be realized in line with their internship or through the field/archival work. Upon completion of the project, students submit a written report to the supervisor. In this report students apply their acquired knowledge on research in practice, analyse the collected data, and discuss and evaluate their findings and analytical and theoretical problems.

The respective focus advisor and the supervisor of the master's thesis will guide the student in choosing between these options and in the concrete planning of the course schedule or internship, respectively. To this end, students are required to formulate and discuss their plans for the module "Mobility and Research 1" with their focus advisor in due time. "Mobility and Research 1 & 2" may be organised together or separately.

### **Objectives of module:**

With the completion of the module students have acquired the following competences:

- Advanced methodological and / or linguistic competences necessary to design and realize their study and research
- Ability to present and discuss their findings in writing and speech in line with international academic standards.

**Use of module:** Prerequisite for module "Master's Thesis"

<b>Conditions for participation:</b> Completion of modules "Introduction to Transcultural Studies", "Skills for Transcultural Studies", "Focus 1" and "Focus 2"				
<b>Grade of module:</b> Average of grades, weighted by the number of credit points. In case of a research internship, the grade of the written report is the module grade.				
Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Study and Examination Requirements
3	Courses in master programmes at partner institutes at Heidelberg University or in the MA TS	(12)	n.s.	Credit points, SWS, as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended.
<b>OR</b>				
3	Courses in master programmes at a university abroad	(12)	n.s.	Credit points, SWS, as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended.
<b>OR</b>				
3	Research-related internship mentored by one of the supervisors of the master thesis	12	n.s.	Credit points for the internship depend on the transferable working hours within the internship (PST) and a written research report graded by the thesis advisor (WER). The grade of the report is the grade of the module.

<b>"Oral Examination"</b>
<b>Form of Module:</b> Required Module (PM)
<b>Credit Points:</b> 4 (= 120 working hours)
<b>Frequency:</b> offered every study year
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> Third or fourth semester   one semester
<p><b>Content of module:</b></p> <p>The oral examination lasts approximately 30 minutes. The examination is held by two examiners. The first examiner is the supervisor of the master's thesis. Student and supervisor agree on three topics for the examination from the general field of Transcultural Studies and the chosen study focus. In the oral examination, students demonstrate their knowledge of the state of art in the chosen topics and their ability to contextualize specific research questions in the larger disciplinary contexts of transcultural studies.</p>
<p><b>Objectives of module:</b></p> <p>With the successful completion of this module students have acquired the following competences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to present, analyse, and critically discuss the state of the art of their exam topics;</li> <li>- Ability to critically relate specific research questions to a broader disciplinary field;</li> </ul>

- Ability to present arguments in line with academic standards.				
<b>Use of module:</b> Registration or completion prerequisite for module "Master's Thesis"				
<b>Conditions for participation:</b> Completion of modules "Introduction to Transcultural Studies", "Skills for Transcultural Studies", "Focus 1" and "Focus 2"				
<b>Grade of module:</b> Grade of the oral examination				
Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Study and Examination Requirements
3 / 4	oral examination of 30 minutes; no class	4	n.a.	OER (4 CP) = Oral examination of 30 minutes on three topics from the general field of Transcultural Studies and the chosen study focus

<b>"Master's Thesis"</b>	
<b>Form of Module:</b> Required Module (PM)	
<b>Credit Points: 30</b> (= 900 working hours, including 30 contact hours)	
<b>Frequency:</b> offered every study year	
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> Fourth semester   one semester	
<p><b>Content of module:</b></p> <p>This module comprises a research colloquium and the master's thesis. During the colloquium students develop, present, and discuss their research plans in front of their supervisors and fellow students. Furthermore, writing samples from the master's thesis are presented and discussed. This regular feedback will facilitate a structured completion of the thesis.</p> <p>In the master's thesis students apply relevant methodologies and theories of Transcultural Studies, as well as linguistic competences, regional knowledge, and project management skills to a research project of their own design and in line with the chosen study focus. In consultation with their supervisor, students develop a specific research question and select relevant methods and research material. They contextualize their project within the state of the art of scientific debates and present their findings in written academic English. Students have a maximum of five months to complete their master's thesis.</p>	
<p><b>Objectives of module:</b></p> <p>With the successful completion of this module students have acquired the following competences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to independently design and realise a research project (research question, line of argumentation etc.)</li> <li>- Ability to relate and critically discuss complex research issues within the field of Transcultural Studies</li> <li>- Advanced time and project management skills.</li> </ul>	
<b>Use of module:</b> n.a.	
<b>Conditions for participation:</b> Registration or completion of module "Oral examination"	
<b>Grade of module:</b> Grade of the master's thesis	

<b>Sem.</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>SWS</b>	<b>Study and Examination Requirements</b>
2	Research colloquium (not graded)	2	2	PST (1 CP) OER (1 CP)
2	Master's Thesis	28	n.a.	Master's thesis on a topic within the chosen study focus (approx. 25,000 words = approx. 150,000 characters)

## Description of Modules – Minor

<b>"Introduction to Transcultural Studies"</b>				
<b>Form of Module:</b> Required Module (PM)				
<b>Credit Points:</b> 12 (= 360 working hours, including 60 contact hours)				
<b>Frequency:</b> Offered every winter semester				
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> First semester   one semester				
<p><b>Content of module:</b></p> <p>This module introduces students to concepts, methods, and theories of transcultural studies. The introductory lecture, co-taught by professors representing the three study foci (KBR, SEG, VMC), provides students in the first part with an overview of the history and basic concepts of the transcultural approach. The second part illustrates this approach with selected examples from each study focus. Topics include transcultural perspectives on themes such as language, space, knowledge, markets, migration, citizenship, urbanity, institutions, art, and visuality. The introductory seminar is designed to apply the skills, theories and concepts from the other parts of the module in a specific thematic area.</p>				
<p><b>Objectives of module:</b></p> <p>With the completion of the module students have acquired the following competences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Broad knowledge of the basic concepts, methods, and theories of transcultural studies</li> <li>- A nuanced understanding of transcultural phenomena in Asia and Europe, past and present</li> <li>- Basic skills in applying concepts, methods, and theories of transcultural studies to specific problems in the three study foci</li> <li>- Ability to present and write in academic English</li> </ul>				
<b>Use of module:</b> Attendance or completion prerequisite for module "Focus 1"				
<b>Conditions for participation:</b> n.a.				
<b>Grade of module:</b> Average of grades, weighted by the number of credit points				
Sem.	Course	CP	SWS	Study and Examination Requirements
1	Lecture "Introduction to Transcultural Studies"	4	2	PST (2 CP) WER (2 CP)
1	Introductory seminar to Transcultural Studies	8	2	PST (2 CP) OER (2 CP) WER (4 CP)

**"Focus 1 – Foundations"**

**Form of Module:** Required Module (PM)

**Credit Points: 8** (= 240 working hours, including 30 contact hours)

**Frequency:** Offered every study year

**Semester / Duration:** First and / or second semester | one to two semesters

**Content of module:**

This module builds upon the qualifications the students have acquired through the module "Introduction to Transcultural Studies". In the seminar, students receive an overview of genres of primary sources and empirical data relevant to the chosen study focus (KBR, SEG, VMC). They are introduced to and engage with the relevant theoretical and methodological debates in structured discussions and learn to apply their insights to concrete case studies. The seminar requires a high degree of active engagement, including oral discussions and presentations as well as written assignments.

**Objectives of module:**

With the successful completion of this module students have acquired the following competences:

- Theoretical and empirical knowledge of regions, topics, methods, and theories relevant to their study focus

**Use of module:** n.a.

**Conditions for participation:** Attendance or completion of module "Introduction to Transcultural Studies"

**Grade of module:** Grade of seminar

<b>Sem.</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>CP</b>	<b>SWS</b>	<b>Study and Examination Requirements</b>
1-2	Seminar in one of the study foci ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	8	2	PST (2 CP) OER (2 CP) WER (4 CP)



## Model Study Plans

### Example A – Staying in Heidelberg

#### 1<sup>st</sup> semester

Module	Course	CP / Course	SWS
Introduction to Transcultural Studies	Lecture "Introduction to TS"	4	2
	Tutorium "Introduction to TS"	1	2
	Tutorium "Research Skills"	1	2
	Introductory seminar	8	2
Skills for Transcultural Studies	Language Class	6	4
Focus 1	Introductory seminar to study focus	8	2
		<b>= 28</b>	<b>14</b>

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

Module	Course	CP / Course	SWS
Focus 1	Reduced seminar	4	2
	Reduced seminar	4	2
Skills for Transcultural Studies	Language class	6	4
Focus 2	Seminar	8	2
	Seminar	8	2
		<b>= 30</b>	<b>12</b>

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> semester

Module	Course	CP / Course	SWS
Mobility and Research 1	Seminar (MATS)	8	2
	Seminar (MATS)	8	2
Mobility and Research 2	Method course (partner institute)	6	2
	Language class	6	4
Oral Examination	Oral examination	4	n.a.
		<b>= 32</b>	<b>10</b>

#### 4<sup>th</sup> semester

Module	Course	CP / Course	SWS
Master's Thesis	Research Colloquium	2	2
	Master's Thesis	28	n.a.
		<b>= 30</b>	<b>2</b>

## Example B – Internship in the third semester

### 1<sup>st</sup> semester

Module	Course	CP / Course	SWS
Introduction to Transcultural Studies	Lecture “Introduction to TS”	4	2
	Tutorium “Introduction to TS”	1	2
	Tutorium “Research Skills”	1	2
	Introductory seminar	8	2
Skills for Transcultural Studies	Method course (partner institute)	6	2
Focus 1	Introductory seminar to study focus	8	2
		<b>= 28</b>	<b>12</b>

### 2<sup>nd</sup> semester

Module	Course	CP / Course	SWS
Skills for Transcultural Studies	Method course (partner institute)	6	2
Focus 1	Seminar	8	2
Focus 2	Seminar	8	2
	Seminar	8	2
		<b>= 30</b>	<b>10</b>

### 3<sup>rd</sup> semester

Module	Course	CP / Course	SWS
Mobility and Research 1	Seminar (MA TS)	8	2
	Seminar (partner institute)	6	2
	Lecture (partner institute)	2	2
Mobility and Research 2	Guided research internship	12	n.a.
		<b>= 28</b>	<b>10</b>

### 4<sup>th</sup> semester

Module	Course	CP / Course	SWS
Oral Examination	Oral examination	4	n.a.
Master’s Thesis	Research Colloquium	2	2
	Master’s Thesis	28	n.a.
		<b>= 34</b>	<b>2</b>



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