

FAQ

1. Is this the right programme for me?

The Master's in Transcultural Studies is an English taught and research-oriented programme, which aims at preparing students for a future career in academia. Students should also have a keen research interest in the regions of Europe and Asia. As such, the Master's in Transcultural Studies relies heavily on theory-driven work and only to a very limited extent on applied and/or practical sciences. For almost all courses, students are required to give oral presentations, write term papers and prepare extensive reading materials before class.

To avoid misunderstandings or failed expectations: The Master's in Transcultural Studies is not concerned with studies in Intercultural Communication, International Relations and Diplomacy, all aspects of applied economics (such as banking, marketing, management and business administration), linguistics and translation studies.

2. Can I do part-time studies?

No. The MATS is a full-time study programme (app. 40 hrs. of work per week).

3. Is it possible to choose a second major or a minor subject in addition to Transcultural Studies?

No. The MA Transcultural Studies is a 100% major programme. The study plan stipulates two years of studies (i.e. four semesters), in which students have to earn a total of 120 credit points.

4. Is it possible to take Transcultural Studies as minor subject?

Yes. You can choose transcultural Studies as a minor, in which case you have to earn a total of 20 credit points (for details please have a look at the description of modules).

5. Do I have to pay tuition fees?

An administrative semester fee is imposed by the University which must be paid by all students. Furthermore, as of winter semester 2017/18 international students from non-EU or

non-EEA countries enrolled in undergraduate degree programmes and consecutive Master's degree programmes at institutions of higher education in Baden-Württemberg are subject to tuition fees. Tuition fees must also be paid by all German and international students studying for a second degree.

6. Are there scholarships available?

No. Unfortunately, the HCTS cannot offer students scholarships. However, Heidelberg University has compiled an extensive list of external scholarship opportunities you can consult.

7. Am I an eligible applicant?

Generally, if you hold a BA degree from a relevant discipline of the humanities, cultural or social sciences and fulfill our formal admission and language requirements (see below for details) you can apply for a place in the Master's in Transcultural Studies. Our Terms and Regulations of Admission (Zulassungsordnung) require candidates to hold a BA degree in a discipline of the humanities, cultural or social sciences. **However**, our programme is a research-oriented Master, which means that your BA degree had to be research-oriented as well. Degrees in applied sciences like Business Administration, Management, Marketing, Communication etc. generally do not qualify as relevant degrees for our programme.

8. What to do if I have not finished my BA/received my diploma yet?

If you have not finished your degree or have not yet received your final diploma yet, you have to provide an official letter from your programme coordinator, stating your current average grade and affirming that you are expected to finish your studies by the beginning of the winter term in Heidelberg (keep in mind that you will have to present your final diploma upon enrolment at Heidelberg University).

9. How do I prove language skills?

You do not have to prove your English language proficiency if a) English is your mother tongue or b) you have earned your BA degree from a university in an English-speaking country. In all other cases, you have to provide one of the certificates listed on our website.

Keep in mind that your mother tongue is counted as one of the additional two languages (unless it is English) and you do not have to provide proof for it.

Official language tests are the easiest way to prove your proficiency level of at least B1 according to CEFR (e.g. TestDaf for German, DELF/DALF for French, JLPT for Japanese). We also accept certificates from respective language departments of your university or proof through your transcript in case language studies were part of your BA programme (language course have to amount to 28 ECTS or 20% of your BA). Under certain circumstances, your High School diploma can also be accepted as proof (especially, if the language of instruction was not your mother tongue).

Generally, language certificates older than four years will not be accepted!

10. When to apply for the Master's in Transcultural Studies?

The online application via heiCO opens in spring (at around April). While there is no fixed deadline, it is highly recommended to submit the application online by the middle of June. This is very important for international applicants from NON-EU-countries in order to insure a timely enrolment.

Generally speaking, please submit your application by mid-September at the latest.

All applicants will be notified via email after the admission board has finalized its decisions!

11. Who needs to submit an APS-certificate?

If you have obtained your B.A. degree in the People's Republic of China, India or Vietnam, you need to include an APS certificate from the German embassy in your application documents.

12. How will I be notified about the result of my application?

All applicants will be notified about the result of his/her application via the online application system heiCO. Successful applicants will receive electronically the official letter of admission which is the legally relevant document, entitling you to enroll at Heidelberg University.