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# POLITICAL SCIENCE

ANALYSING POLITICS FROM AN EMPIRICAL-ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVE

Master of Arts

Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences  
University of Cologne



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# UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

## The Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences

The **University of Cologne** is one of the oldest and most prestigious European universities. It has produced several Nobel and Leibniz Prize winners and is part of the only economic cluster of excellence in Germany. Founded in 1388, the University of Cologne is a leader in many disciplines and a member of many international networks as well as a founding member of the CEMS global alliance.

The **Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences** (also known as "WiSo Faculty") is part of the University of Cologne and has over a century of experience in educating new generations of business professionals, economists, social analysts and political experts. As one of Germany's largest educational institutions, the WiSo Faculty regularly ranks among the top providers of management and business education.

As a student of the WiSo Faculty, you benefit from a teaching approach based on theory and methods in combination with research and applications.

The traditional diversity of subjects, top-level research, practical relevance and internationality allow the WiSo Faculty to stand up to national and international comparison and to achieve top positions in international research rankings. Through its interdisciplinary research approach, the Faculty's seminars and institutes make a major contribution to the excellent research at the University of Cologne.

The education provided at our Faculty has benefited from many years of experience in working with companies and visiting lecturers from different professional fields. Several faculty members are professionals and managers who bring important industry experience to the programmes, resulting in sector-specific, up-to-date programme content for our students. True to our motto "Today's ideas. Tomorrow's impact.", this ensures that our interdisciplinary programme reflects the real world and ideally combines practice and theory, while also promoting knowledge sharing.

Global markets have fundamentally changed the situation of economic and political action. It will only be possible to meet the global challenge of society through a change in attitudes and organisations. To achieve this, however, the underlying global interrelationships must be investigated, understood, and considered by decision makers.

By pursuing a degree through this empirical and analytical programme with course offerings across a range of political science areas, you will analyse political phenomena using a range of state-of-the-art research methods and carry out an independent research project. You will be able to embark on a professional career in many areas of politics or continue in a future PhD programme in political science, thus taking responsibility for politics and society in a way that contributes to a better world.



*The M.A. programme in Political Science in Cologne provides a unique study environment. Our programme covers a wide range of thematic areas and provides state-of-the-art training in empirical methods. Students have the opportunity to complete the M.A. programme fully in English. If you choose Cologne, you invest in an excellent education and your professional future."*

Prof. Sven-Oliver Proksch, Academic Director and Professor of Chair for European Politics - Cologne Center for Comparative Politics

# FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE WISO-FACULTY

Studies at the WiSo Faculty of Cologne University help to establish an excellent basis for your further professional and personal career paths. With nearly 9,000 students and a host of departments and academic staff, the WiSo Faculty is one of the largest and most prestigious schools of management, economics and social sciences in Europe.

- ▶ **8,735** national and international students
- ▶ **149** partner universities worldwide\*
- ▶ **97** professors
- ▶ **200** research and teaching assistants
- ▶ more than **100** years in experience

Enrolling in a programme at the WiSo Faculty will give you everything you need to take the next step in furthering your career. One of Germany's largest educational institutions, the Faculty regularly ranks among the top providers of management and business education. The following is an overview of current rankings:



SCM Journal List Ranking ranks the University of Cologne on the 1st place in Germany.



Sociology is ranked #1 in Germany in the Academic Ranking of World Universities.



According WirtschaftsWoche research ranking 2019, the University of Cologne is one of the most research-intensive German speaking universities. It ranks 2nd place within Germany in business administration.



AIS Information Systems Ranking is ranked 2nd in Germany.



CEMS Master's in Management programme is ranked 3rd in Germany in the Financial Times Ranking "Masters in Management 2020"



According to INOMICS (Career Guide for Economists) the school's Cologne Graduate School in Management Economics and Social Sciences is the best place to do a PhD.

State of facts and figures: February 2021

\* The WiSo Faculty maintains excellent partnerships with over 140 leading institutions of higher education across the world on different levels of study, enabling its students to spend time abroad within a range of study and exchange programmes. Students can choose from an attractive range of partner universities, depending on their chosen path of study.

# POLITICAL SCIENCE (M.A.)

## Key Facts



**Degree:**  
Master of Arts



**Duration:**  
4 Semesters



**Language:**  
English, German



**Credits:**  
120 ECTS



**Content:**  
Analysing politics from an empirical-analytical perspective using a wide array of quantitative, qualitative, and computational methods



**International:**  
1 Optional Semester Abroad, Double Master's Programme in European Studies with Maastricht University

## This programme provides you with:

- training in a comprehensive range of political science subfields and the freedom to choose, which offers a lot of flexibility in pursuing your thematic interests.
- a strong emphasis on empirical-analytical training including research design and logic, qualitative methods, and quantitative and computational methods with the statistical software R.
- advanced research projects in which you apply advanced empirical research methods to current research questions in politics, e.g. including training in quantitative text analysis, social media analysis, experiments and causal inference, process tracing, and qualitative comparative analysis.
- an international study environment and the opportunity to complete your degree fully in English

## This programme is right for you if you:

- have successfully completed a bachelor's or equivalent degree in political and/or social science. This could include political science, sociology, economics, public administration, international relations, or modern history.
- have a political or social sciences background with some basic exposure to social science methods training including statistics.
- have mathematical understanding and good verbal and written English language skills. German language skills are also helpful.

Your family background and financial situation do not play a role in studies. However, you should be aware that despite the fact that there are no tuition fees at German public universities, living and studying in Germany may require substantial funds, especially for international students from outside the European Union who need to take visa regulations into account. Information regarding accommodation and scholarships can be found on our website.





*"The M.A. Political Science degree from the University of Cologne equips students with the unique opportunity to study multiple scientific fields within the programme. I chose the interdisciplinary studies because it sharpens students' critical thinking to become highly qualified experts in a professional career."*

**Mariya-Yelyzaveta**  
Student of M.A. Political Science at the WiSo Faculty

# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

## Preparing you for future challenges

The Cologne Master in Political Science offers a research-oriented study programme with course offerings across a range of political science areas. Thematic areas include:

- Comparative Political Institutions
- Comparative Political Economy
- Empirical Democratic Theory
- International Relations
- European and Multi-level Politics
- Political Science Methods

The empirical and analytical focus of the programme enables you to analyse political phenomena using state-of-the-art research methods and to carry out an independent research project. Upon graduating from the programme, you will be ready for a professional career in many areas of politics or for the continuation of your studies through a PhD programme in political science.

## Strong Research Track

The Department hosts numerous research projects funded by international and national funding agencies (such as the European Research Council), providing Master students the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in conducting political science research as student assistants. The associated research center Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP), brings together junior and senior political scientists at the department who work on comparative research related to electoral politics and representation, political institutions, political economy, and political methodology. Moreover, professors at the CCCP are part of the Cluster of Excellence "ECONtribute: Markets and Public Policy", a joint research center at the Universities of Cologne and Bonn funded by the German Excellence Strategy.



# CURRICULUM

<div><div>Core Section</div><div>18 ECTS</div><div>Choose 3 (of 5) Introductory Lectures:</div></div>	<div><div>Core Section</div><div>18 ECTS</div><div>Take 3 methods courses:</div></div>
<div>Comporative Political Institutions</div>	<div>Research Design</div>
<div>Comporative Political Economy</div>	<div>Quantitative Methods</div>
<div>Democratic Theory and Practice</div>	
<div>International Relations</div>	<div>Qualitative Methods</div>
<div>European Politics</div>	
<div><div>Specialisation Section</div><div>24 ECTS</div><div>Choose 2 Advanced Seminars and 2 Research Projects offered in the thematic areas Political Institutions and Representation and Comporative Political Economy and International Relations</div></div>	
<div>Political Institutions and Representation</div>	<div>Comparative Political Economy and International Relations</div>
<div><div>Supplemmentary Section</div><div>24 ECTS</div><div>Select courses from adjacent areas at WiSo and other faculties such as Economics, Economic Psychology, Data Analytics, or Sociology</div></div>	
<div><div>Specialisation Section</div><div>Present your MA Thesis project in a Research Seminar</div><div>6 ECTS</div></div>	
<div><div>Master Thesis</div><div>Write your MA thesis in your Specialisation</div><div>30 ECTS</div></div>	

## Emphasis on empirical-analytical training

The M.A. programme includes a module area "Political Science Research Methods", which offers training in foundations of research methods, including research design and logic, qualitative methods, and quantitative and computational methods with the statistical software R.

In addition to these foundational methods courses, advanced research projects are offered, in which you apply advanced empirical research methods to current research questions in politics. For instance, past M.A. courses included training in quantitative text analysis, social media analysis, experiments and causal inference, process tracing, and qualitative comparative analysis.

The master's thesis is written towards the end of the programme and can be research or practice oriented corresponding to your interest.



# INTERNATIONAL

## International Programme

The Cologne M.A. in Political Science provides an international study environment in Germany with a high percentage of international students enrolling into the programme. This M.A. programme can be completed fully in English, but selected courses are also offered in German.

More than 25 % of our students have an international background. \* Moreover, we also have several faculty who have received their PhDs and worked abroad, thereby bringing international experience to the programme.

## Political Science is an international topic

Relations between states form an important subarea of study but also the international comparison of political systems or economies, and the analysis of international organisations and structures such as the European Union are set against an international background.

We are keen to include different perspectives brought into our seminars by students from abroad. We also receive a number of Erasmus exchange students each year, and about a quarter of students in the Political Science Master make use of the opportunity to spend a semester abroad. International experience is an asset for a number of employers in the field of political science.

## International Option: Double Master's Programme in European Studies

We offer a double degree Master in European Studies in combination with the University of Maastricht. This alternate programme gives you the opportunity to benefit from the expertise of two top-ranking universities in two different countries:

- Enjoy the advantages offered by the interdisciplinary approach and the participation of two renowned universities: the University of Cologne and Maastricht University.
- Study at each university for one year and graduate with two master's degrees: spend your first year in Maastricht followed by your second year in Cologne.





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# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Our M.A. programme opens the door to start your professional career in many areas of politics, including:

- Political Consulting
- Public Administration
- International Organisations
- European Union Institutions
- Political Parties
- Interest Groups
- Data Science Companies
- Private Media Enterprises

For those who wish to stay in academia, the WiSo faculty offers its own PhD programme through their Cologne Graduate School.

The Political Science department also closely cooperates with the Max Planck International Research School on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy. Former graduates have embarked on PhD programmes at renowned universities such as the London School of Economics and Political Sciences or the European University Institute in Florence. Some have become professors themselves, for example at the University of Konstanz, the University of Düsseldorf or the University of Innsbruck.

Additionally, we offer career perspectives workshops specifically for political science students, during which you will be able to meet potential future employers.

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*"I really enjoyed that students of political science in Cologne were allowed a high degree of freedom of choice, enabling us to specialise according to our own thematic interests."*



Dennis Höfer, Officer for family affairs, children and youth, Europe and international affairs, faction of the Free Democratic Party, state parliament North-Rhine Westphalia, Düsseldorf and Alumnus of the WiSo Faculty (M.A. Political Science 2017)



*"Excellent training in research methods is one of the strong points of the Cologne Master in Political Science".*

Dr. Armin Mertens, Data scientist, German Economic Institute, Cologne and Alumnus of the WiSo Faculty (M.A. Political Science 2016, Ph.D. 2019)

# COLOGNE

## an open minded and science-centred city!

Cologne is located within a metropolitan area of about 13 million people in the heart of Germany's economy which makes it easy for students and faculty to collaborate with great companies. It is one of Germany's most attractive locations and offers a vibrant student life.

With around 100,000 students and a lively start-up culture, Cologne is the economic and scientific centre of the Rhineland region. In addition to 17 universities and business schools, the area is also home to numerous internationally renowned research institutions as ESA European Space Agency or Gesis – Leibniz Institute for Social Sciences, with knowledge transfer to industry and society playing a key role. Successful transfer structures include the university's Excellence Start-Up Center GATEWAY start-up service, the start-up network cologne e.V. and the Digital Hub Cologne.

Cologne is also proud of its reputation as a vibrant and tolerant city and at the same time being both multicultural – with 18% non-German residents – and strong in its local identity. Karneval, Cologne's famous carnival season every February, and the popular local beer "Kölsch", brewed exclusively in Cologne, are only two examples of the vivid cultivation of the city's traditions.

- ▶ Over **1 million** inhabitants in the city of Cologne
- ▶ **13 million** inhabitants in the metropolitan area of Cologne
- ▶ More than **100,000** students in Cologne
- ▶ Over **one third** of Cologne's total area is covered by public parks, sports grounds and nature areas
- ▶ **1** famous Gothic cathedral, the "Kölner Dom"
- ▶ **Unlimited** opportunities to fall in love with the city

Latest issue official Cologne Facts & Figures 2017





# INFORMATION

## Application information and requirements

Application process and deadline:

- Applicants with a German bachelor degree apply via the WiSo Faculty's master application portal
- Applicants with a non-German bachelor degree apply via the WiSo Faculty's master application portal and additionally via uni-assist
- Application deadline is **June 15th**.

Requirements and selection procedure:

A Bachelor degree or equivalent in the respective field (worth at least 180 ECTS credits) and an overall grade point average of at least 2.7 (German grade). Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- At least 36 ECTS credits in Political Science
- At least 9 further ECTS credits in in Methodology and Empirical Social Research
- English language skills level B2 CEFR

The Admissions Board will communicate its decision by the end of July. Enrolment usually takes place in August.

## Detailed information and contact

We are happy to support you in your ambitions: for students the WiSo Student Service Point offers not only advice on studying but also support on all aspects of career choice, career planning and the application process:

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WiSo Student Service Point  
Phone: +49 (0) 221/470-8818  
[wiso-studentservice.uni-koeln.de](mailto:wiso-studentservice.uni-koeln.de)







*"Being one of the largest Faculties of Business, Economics, and Social Sciences worldwide, we bring together excellent researchers, students, alumni, and organisations in a friendly and stimulating environment to jointly address today's challenges. Our Faculty is part of an outstanding network of universities. Furthermore, we have a truly international campus, that attracts many international students and partners. All this leads to a great reputation in teaching and research, which is reflected in our excellent rankings."*

**Prof. Ulrich W. Thonemann, PhD**  
Dean



Today's ideas.  
Tomorrow's impact.

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