



## Sociology (International Track) Master of Arts

### MA Sociology at Bielefeld University Study in a uniquely interdisciplinary environment

Bielefeld University's Faculty of Sociology holds a unique position in Germany: it is the only autonomous faculty of sociology in the country. It is also one of the largest academic institutions of sociology in Europe. The Faculty regularly receives top places in the rankings for its broad range of courses and its exceptional research on current sociological issues. The Faculty is committed to representing sociology as a wide-ranging academic discipline and to promoting both theoretical and empirical research. Its research and teaching profile also encompasses further areas in the social sciences such as political science and social anthropology.

The broad scope of the Faculty and its interdisciplinary relations are reflected in a diverse range of research options. These include social structures and social inequality, organizations, labour and markets, mass media, science and technology, gender issues, transnational relations and migration, and the world society. The Faculty also hosts the Collaborative Research Centre on "From Heterogeneities to Social Inequalities" and the Institute for World Society Studies.

### Excellent in every respect

Modern study courses in 13 faculties, an outstanding infrastructure, exceptional support services, and cooperations throughout the world – Bielefeld University is an excellent choice. Because our students have top priority, the University is continuously setting up and expanding projects designed to improve study courses even further. These efforts have also been acknowledged by the results of a nationwide competition, the "Initiative for excellent teaching". Bielefeld University is one of only six universities in Germany to receive a prize for its unique teaching and study culture.

Bielefeld University offers an inspiring and supportive environment for future scientific staff – an innovative and international atmosphere, scientific independence from an early stage on, exceptionally well-equipped work stations and laboratories, a prize-winning library, and inspirational scientific surroundings. Students can apply for a doctorate in all the research and subject areas offered at Bielefeld University, and Master's Programmes are specially designed to allow a smooth transition to research focuses and post-graduate programmes with an interdisciplinary orientation. A dense network of graduate schools, international and national research training groups, as well as structured doctoral programmes is being expanded and developed continuously to provide the best possible support.

### Optimal conditions for successful studies

Although completing your studies successfully will require curiosity and commitment, you will soon find that very good working conditions are also crucial. Bielefeld University offers a range of advantages that contribute to creating an excellent work and study environment:

- A campus university in which all institutions are close together (our slogan: "everything under one roof")
- An excellent university library with state-of-the-art facilities (ranked by the CHE as the second best in Germany)
- Free and extensive WLAN internet access for students
- Multiple support services for studies and vocational preparation
- Affordable student accommodation in close vicinity to the campus
- Diverse cultural and leisure-time facilities, numerous parks, and the Teutoburg Forest right on your doorstep

### Course Programme

The MA Sociology International Track is a globally oriented study programme for both international and domestic students. Its specially tailored academic programme qualifies students for an international career in academia, public institutions, non-governmental organizations, and private companies in Germany, Europe, or anywhere else in the world.

Students can choose between the following elective courses offered in the MA Sociology:

- Social Structure Analysis and Social Inequality (regular)
- Sociology of the Global World (regular)
- Sociology Theory (irregular)
- Sociological Methods (irregular)
- Sociology of Work and Economics (irregular)
- Political Sociology (irregular)
- Organizational Sociology (irregular)
- Sociology of Gender (irregular)
- Sociology of Science and Technology (irregular)
- Media Sociology (irregular)

Irregular courses, unlike regular courses, are not offered every single year.

### Counselling:

**International student information and counselling:**  
International Office: [io@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:io@uni-bielefeld.de)

**General admission information**  
Student Office: [application@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:application@uni-bielefeld.de)

**Student counselling MA Sociology**  
Undergraduate administrators:  
[soziologie.studienberatung@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:soziologie.studienberatung@uni-bielefeld.de)

**Student counselling MA Sociology International Track**  
Eveline Reisenauer: [international.soc@uni-bielefeld.de](mailto:international.soc@uni-bielefeld.de)

### Publisher:

Universität Bielefeld  
Fakultät für Soziologie  
Postfach 10 01 31  
33501 Bielefeld

[www.uni-bielefeld.de/soz](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/soz)

V. i. S. d. P.: Fakultät für Soziologie, Stand: April 2012  
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The course programme consists of three elements:

Study element	Semester
Introductory module (lectures in theory and methods)	1–2
Six elective modules (Twelve courses)	1–3
Conclusion module (master thesis)	4

The programme offers every student the opportunity to carry out empirical work in a student research project. They are free to choose their own topics within the framework of one of their elective modules. In addition, students can take academic language training courses in English, German, and other languages. They are also encouraged to integrate one or two semesters abroad into their study programme – the Faculty of Sociology cooperates with numerous partner universities and has more than 50 bilateral agreements within the ERASMUS/Socrates exchange programme. For further information, go to the website of the MA Sociology International Track:

[www.uni-bielefeld.de/soz/international-track](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/soz/international-track)



## Admission requirements and application

Students must have a BA degree in Sociology or a related discipline acquired in a study programme lasting at least 3 years. Students with other academic backgrounds may apply for admission, and those with well-founded cases will be accepted. Further requirements are a diploma certificate and a transcript of courses.

Students must provide proof that their current English language proficiency meets the International Track's minimum entry requirements. This can be a TOEFL (iBT) with a minimum of 87 points, telc English with a minimum grade of B2, or equivalent English-language tests. A study qualification or study degree received at an English-language institution is also sufficient proof of English proficiency.

Although students can commence the programme in either the winter (October) or the summer semester (April), the course schedule is geared to a winter start. A summer start could delay the course of your studies.

For further information, application deadlines, and the online application form, go to the Students' Office website:

[www.uni-bielefeld.de/application](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/application)

## Services and Support for International Students

In addition to the many services and facilities available to all students, the International Office offers a wide range of specially tailored services to help you adjust to your new surroundings and take full advantage of your studies. In addition to a wide-ranging leisure-time programme, Bielefeld University provides the Brother-Sister programme: a personal tutoring programme for all first-year international students in which student mentors look after international students who are new to Bielefeld and help them to get everything organized and handle any necessary bureaucracy during their first semester.

The International Office also hosts an accommodation agency. This can give you advice on renting student apartments in Germany and it is a source of information from people with apartments to let.

## Fees and costs

In spring 2011 the government of North-Rhine Westphalia decided to abolish tuition fees. All you have to pay now is the social fees for your semester ticket. Currently, this costs 210 EUR per semester. This ticket also entitles you to use public transport free of charge throughout the region. Approx. 700 EUR per month should cover all your personal expenses, including mandatory health insurance.

The University Society "Westfälisch-Lippische Universitätsgesellschaft" awards some part-cost grants for international Master students.

## Doing a doctorate (dissertation)

Students interested in an academic career after completing their master's degree may apply to join the Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology (BGHS). This graduate school offers a well-structured, international, and multifaceted doctoral programme for post-graduates in History and Sociology. It is being funded by the German government's Initiative for Excellence. Currently, 160 doctoral candidates are doing research on topics drawn from the Faculty of Sociology and the Faculty of History, Philosophy and Theology.

Further information:

[www.uni-bielefeld.de/bghs](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/bghs)

[www.uni-bielefeld.de/nachwuchs](http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/nachwuchs)



## Career opportunities

The skills acquired in the MA Sociology International Track serve as an excellent springboard for a wide range of career options. With its international focus and additional language training, the programme prepares students for a global labour market and qualifies them for international careers both inside and outside of Germany.

Typical career fields

- International Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations
- Public Relations Firms
- Marketing Firms and Market Research Companies
- Administration, Unions, Political Parties, and Labour Unions
- Human Resources
- Publishing Companies, Newspapers, Radio and TV
- Universities and other Institutions of Higher Education and Research Centres