

Course Structure of the International M.A. Program in South Asian Studies

Focus I: Language, Literature, Religion and Philosophy

Seme ster	Compulsory courses			Courses of choice	Credit points per semester
1st sem.	Indic Philology and Textual Crit- icism [IND 1] Seminar A (2 spw ¹ , 6 cp)	Philosophy and Religion [IND 3] Seminar A (2 spw, 6 cp)	Approaches to Re- search in Interna- tional South and Central Asian Stu- dies [SKT] Lecture A (1 spw, 2 cp) Colloquium A (1 spw, 4 cp)	6 cp	30
	Term Paper 6 cp				
2nd sem.	Indic Philology and Textual Crit- icism [IND 1] Seminar B (2 spw, 6 cp)	Philosophy and Religion [IND 3] Seminar B (2 spw, 6 cp)	Approaches to Re- search in Interna- tional South and Central Asian Stu- dies [SKT] Lecture B (1 spw, 2 cp) Colloquium B (1 spw, 4 cp)	6 cp	30
	Term Paper 6 cp				
3rd sem.	Semester abroad				30
4th sem.	Final module [IND 5] Master's thesis (25 cp) and oral examination (5 cp)				30
Total Credit Points					120

¹ spw = semester hours per week

Focus II: Modern South Asia

Semester	Compulsory courses			Courses of choice	Credit points per semester
1st sem.	Indic Philology: Grammar, Literature and Media [IND 2] Seminar A (2 spw, 6 cp)	Intellectual and Social History [IND 4] Seminar A (2 spw, 6 cp)	Approaches to Research in International South and Central Asian Studies [SKT] Lecture A (1 spw, 2 cp) Colloquium A (1 spw, 4 cp)	6 cp	30
	Term Paper 6 cp				
2nd sem.	Indic Philology: Grammar, Literature and Media [IND 2] Seminar B (2 spw, 6 cp)	Intellectual and Social History [IND 4] Seminar B (2 spw, 6 cp)	Approaches to Research in International South and Central Asian Studies [SKT] Lecture B (1 spw, 2 CP) Colloquium B (1 spw, 4 CP)	6 cp	30
	Term Paper 6 cp				
3rd sem.	Semester abroad				30
4th sem	Final module [IND 5] Master's thesis (25 cp) and oral examination (5 cp)				30
Total Credit Points					120

Module Description

Indic Philology and Textual Criticism and Indic Philology: Grammar, Literature and Media

Students participating in these modules will acquire knowledge of the languages and literatures of the Indian subcontinent from both a synchronic and diachronic perspective, as well as in reference to cultural and social characteristics. The second module also deals with modern voice media in South Asian countries.

These modules explore the relationships between the South Asian languages, in particular those from the Indo-European group, on a diachronic and synchronic level with respect to their cultural, religious and socio-political functions.

Philosophy and Religion

This module traces the development of philosophical and religious traditions in pre-modern South Asia. Students will learn to read philosophical and religious texts in Sanskrit and analyze structure and content in terms of their historical contexts. In so doing, students are expected to acquire the skills to read and analyze complex philosophical and religious texts in the Sanskrit language.

Intellectual and Social History

This module is designed to provide students with a deeper knowledge of the cultural, social, political and economic developments in South Asian countries since independence (i.e. spanning a period from the 1940s to the present). Students will extend their competency in independent scholarly inquiry into the historical, cultural and ideological bases of these developments. The presenting skills students acquired during the Bachelor's course will be honed further by a presentation based upon sources in the target language, which will likewise improve reading competency in the target language.

The content of this module centers the political, economic, religious and cultural developments on the Indian subcontinent and in the South Asian diasporas and their historical contexts from the 1940s to the present.

Approaches to Research in International South and Central Asian Studies

This module presents current research methodologies, theories, approaches and problems as well as topics in cultural studies using the format of an introductory outline presentation. Participants will discuss paradigmatic papers and exemplary theoretical texts in regard to their context and application. Participants will also attempt to apply a particular research method to a specific text (i.e. formulating research questions and carrying out the analysis) and discuss their work with other participants.

This module introduces students to current approaches to cultural research in South and Central Asian Studies on an international level. It also makes students aware of the differences between the approaches and practices pursued in the various regional disciplines so that they may acquire the skills necessary to formulate precise questions, taking both over-arching research topics and relevant approaches into account. Students who actively participate in this module will thus be able to critically evaluate theoretical and methodological approaches and apply these to primary source materials.

Semester Abroad

Students are required to spend one semester of their studies at a European partner university or at a university in the South Asian region. Students are obliged to attend courses equivalent to 30 credit points. Students, teaching staff at Universität Hamburg and staff at the partner university or other South Asian university will decide jointly on which modules a student should undertake. This should ensure that the selected modules both build on a student's chosen course of study and lead towards his or her Master's thesis. Students are responsible for organizing and financing their semester abroad.

Final Module on the International M.A. Program in South Asian Studies

In the Final Module students prepare and write their Master's thesis and prepare and sit their oral final exam. In doing so students demonstrate their ability to identify and develop scholarly subject matter and problems independently and to present their arguments systematically in both a scholarly piece of writing and a scholarly discussion.

