

CURRICULUM

MASTER'S PROGRAM ON EAST ASIAN ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

Please note: This is an unofficial translation for information purposes only. For the legally binding text, please refer to the German version.

The Senate of the University of Vienna has passed a revision of the Master's Program on East Asian Economy and Society at its May 5, 2011 session. The first revision of the Master's Program on East Asian Economy and Society, which had been decided on April 14, 2011 by a curricular commission on April 14, 2011 (authorized according to section 25, subsection 8, clause 3, and subsection 10 of the 2002 University Law), was published in the Official Gazette of the University of Vienna, issue 25, no. 163, on May 8, 2008 as laid down in the subsequent revised version. The legal bases for the decision are the 2002 University Law¹ and the paragraphs concerning the Statute of the University of Vienna² as amended.

Preamble

The program on East Asian Economy and Society is a learning-based and inter-/transdisciplinary Master's Program which is composed of five modules³. The core of the program is formed by the theoretically and methodologically funded, applied study of contemporary affairs (20th and 21st century) in the region East Asia with a focus on its economy and society. In the curriculum, the region East Asia is represented by China, Japan, North and South Korea, which are subject of research at the Department of East Asian Studies of the University of Vienna. Wherever possible, Southeast Asia is included. Since East Asia is considered as a whole, no particular emphasis is put on any single country.

Section 1: Objectives and qualification profile

(1) The objective of the Master's Program on East Asian Economy and Society at the University of Vienna is to train experts in social science methods who specialize in applying their methodological skills to the region East Asia using a multidisciplinary approach. Accordingly, emphasis is put on transnational and regional issues and on comparative analyses. Students are equipped with academic research skills as well as the ability to apply the acquired knowledge in practice. Graduates of the Master's Program on East Asian Economy and Society are able to conduct profound academic research on one exemplarily chosen and practically relevant topic, mainly based on English-language material that can be complemented by German and original language sources, according to the graduates' previous individual training and abilities. Graduates have acquired key methodological fundamentals of the social sciences and have deepened their existing knowledge of the matter theoretically as well as practically. This particularly, but not exclusively, concerns the areas of economic policy, development policy, political economy and International Relations. Graduates have comprehensive knowledge of the economic, political and cultural characteristics of East Asian countries as well as their development. They are able to apply this knowledge to practically relevant issues.

¹ At the time of adoption BGBl. I No. 120/2002 in the version BGBl. I Nr. 87/2007.

² In the amended version MBl 30.11.2007, 8. Stück, Nr. 40

³ Refer to the University of Vienna Development Plan (Entwicklungsplan der Universität Wien), p. 18.

(2) Depending on their pre-existing qualifications and those qualifications that are acquired within the program, graduates can be employed in all fields where social-scientific, methodologically based knowledge of China, Japan and Korea and, in particular, an understanding of East Asia as a region and of the respective institutional background are required. This includes professional careers in academia, political or economic consultancy, organizations focusing security or development policy or banks and other financial institutions.

(3) Depending on previous training, students have basic knowledge of at least one contemporary East Asian language enabling them to conduct further language studies in the respective target country.

(4) The Master's Program on East Asian Economy and Society is offered exclusively in English. Evidence of the required language skills has to be presented as a condition for admittance to the program.

Section 2: Duration and work load

The amount of work involved in the Master's Program on East Asian Economy and Society amounts to 120 ECTS credits (ECTS)⁴. This corresponds to an expected period of 4 semesters⁵.

Section 3: Admission requirements

(1) The admission to the Master's program requires a Bachelor degree or an equivalent university or college degree in an eligible major acquired at an authorized Austrian or foreign post-secondary educational institution.

(2) Among eligible majors are Bachelor programs in Japanese Studies, Korean Studies, Chinese Studies, Business Administration (Ger. *Betriebswirtschaftslehre*), International Business Administration (Ger. *Internationale Betriebswirtschaftslehre*), Economics (Ger. *Volkswirtschaftslehre*) and Political Studies (Ger. *Politikwissenschaft*), as offered by the University of Vienna.⁶

(3) Given the completed major is equivalent to a Bachelor's degree or if only few additions are missing in order to attain complete equivalence, additional courses and examinations totaling to 30 ECTS credits may be required.

Section 4 Academic title

Graduates of the Master's Program on East Asian Economy and Society receive the academic title "*Master of Arts*" - abbreviated by *MA*. This title may be appended to the name.

⁴ Editor's note: ECTS is an acronym for "European Credit Transfer System", often used as a synonym for "credits". The ECTS number indicates the actual workload consisting of contact hours and homework. One ECTS means an estimated workload of 1 hour per week throughout the semester.

⁵ According to the current legal situation as laid down in the 2002 University law, section 54, subsection 3.

⁶ Editor's comment: Please note that these are just examples. In principle, the program welcomes students from all fields who want to meaningfully complement their existing skills by adding well-funded knowledge on East Asia to get an edge over their peers. This includes graduates of engineering and natural sciences.

Section 5: Structure and descriptions of the modules

The Master's Program on East Asian Economy and Society is composed of the following elements: Contemporary East Asian Language, East Asian Society, East Asian Economy and Politics, Research and Master's Colloquium, Master's Thesis, Oral Master's Examination.

These are offered in the form of the following compulsory modules within which different classes may be chosen:

Module Overview

Module	Name	SH ⁷	ECTS
M1	Compulsory Module: Contemporary East Asian Language	14-16	30
M2	Compulsory Module: East Asian Economy	4	15
M3	Compulsory Module: East Asian Politics	4	15
M4	Compulsory Module: East Asian Society	9-12	20
M5	Compulsory Module: Research and Master's Colloquium	2	10
	Master's Thesis		25
	Oral Master's Examination		5
TOTAL			120

A recommended semester schedule can be found in the appendix.

M1	Compulsory Module: Contemporary East Asian Language
SH	14-16
ECTS	30
Description	The fundamentals of one East Asian language (Chinese, Japanese or Korean) are acquired. Students may choose the language they wish to study according to the capacities of the Department of East Asian Studies (hereafter referred to as "the Department"). Students who have already acquired a Bachelor degree or a similar qualification in one of the languages offered by the Department are required to take courses in a language in which they do not hold such a degree or qualification.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students know the respective pronunciation rules and writing systems - They master the fundamentals of grammar and syntax - They acquire basic vocabulary - They have basic command in listening, speaking, reading and writing which enables them to communicate in everyday situations
Structure	Regular language courses offered by the Department according to the individual requirements
Course type	UE (Ger. <i>Übung</i> , exercise course) ⁸
Course assessment	Successful completion of the courses ⁹

⁷ Editor's Note: SH = semester hours, the number of contact hours per week for the duration of a semester (usually 15 weeks); thus 2 SH means two contact hours per week and a total of about 30 contact hours per semester.

⁸ Editor's note: For a list of course types and their description, please refer to section 8 of this curriculum.

⁹ Editor's note: This usually means that you have to get a grade better than „F“ (or „5“ in the Austrian system).

There is the option to substitute one of the four seminars (see appendix) of the subsequently described modules M2 and M3 by another seminar offered by the Department of East Asian Studies, provided the respective admission requirements are fulfilled. The amount of ECTS must equal the required amount of credits of the seminar which is not taken.

M2	Compulsory Module: East Asian Economy
SH	4
ECTS	15
Description	Students focus on economic aspects of the region East Asia and its countries. These may include subject areas from national economy, business economics or economic history. Static situations as well as dynamic processes are discussed with the prime concern of combining theory, methods and empirical data. The module is composed of the two seminars 2a and 2b, as described in the appendix.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students acquaint themselves with the fundamentals of theories of economic development and economic systems. They acquire the ability to apply these theories to specific cases in East Asia - They understand developmental paths and economic systems of countries in East Asia including their specific characteristics - In particular, students are able to apply methods of the New Institutional Economics to East Asia - They are capable of deriving conclusions for unfamiliar cases, to gather relevant data in order to verify their theses and to conduct appropriate analyses according to the academic standards of the respective subject area - They are familiar with important macroeconomic and structural indicators and are able to apply them to concrete country cases as well as to analyze the obtained results in a scholarly appropriate manner - They have the skill to conduct comparative analyses of similar cases and understand current and future societal effects of the respective systems, also with regard to regionalization
Structure	SE Economic Development in East Asia (2 SH, 8 ECTS) SE Economic Systems in East Asia (2 SH, 7 ECTS)
Course type	SE (seminar)
Course assessment	Successful completion of the courses

M3	Compulsory Module: East Asian Politics
SH	4
ECTS	15
Description	Students focus on political aspects of the region East Asia. These may include national, comparative and international subject areas. Static situations as well as dynamic processes are discussed with the prime concern of combining theory, methods and empirical data. The module is composed of the two seminars 3a and 3b, as described in the appendix.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students master the fundamentals of the theoretical concepts of Comparative Political Science and International Relations - They understand specifics of political systems in East Asia and have the skill to conduct comparative analyses of similar cases as well as understand current and future societal effects of the respective systems - They are capable of analyzing the East Asian security position in a global context as well as the constellation within the region on the basis of accepted theories in an scholarly appropriate manner and are also able to apply this skill to unfamiliar cases
Structure	SE Political Systems in East Asia (2 SH, 7 ECTS) SE International Relations in East Asia (2 SH, 8 ECTS)
Course type	SE (seminar)
Course assessment	Successful completion of the courses

M4	Compulsory Module: East Asian Society
SH	9-12
ECTS	20
Description	In this module, East Asian societies are mainly analyzed from a cultural-historical perspective. The individual societies as well as the region as a whole are examined with regard to major cultural and historical dynamics.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students study the history and culture of the region East Asia comparatively or in-depth and understand the respective fundamentals of the contemporary economic and political systems - They are acquainted with the cultural relevance of the region's languages and writing systems - They are aware of the methods used in East Asian Studies and are able to apply them to their own research
Structure	<p>From the following courses, courses totaling to 16 ECTS have to be selected:¹⁰</p> <p>VO Lecture (or Lecture Series) on East Asian History (2 SH, 4 ECTS)</p> <p>VO Lecture on Intercultural Negotiation Patterns (2 SH, 4 ECTS)</p> <p>VU Lecture and Exercise Course on East Asian History (2 SH, 4 ECTS)</p> <p>VU Lecture and Exercise Course on East Asian Society (2 SH, 4 ECTS)</p> <p>VU Lecture and Exercise Course Introduction to East Asian Languages and Scripts (2 SH, 4 ECTS)</p> <p>VU Lecture and Exercise Course on Methods of East Asian Studies (2 SH, 4 ECTS)</p> <p>VU Lecture and Exercise Course on Governance in East Asia (2 SH, 4 ECTS)</p> <p>VU Lecture and Exercise Course on Regionalism in East Asia (2 SH, 4 ECTS)</p> <p>Additional courses totaling to a minimum of 4 ECTS can be selected from the programs offered by the Department of East Asian Studies, provided the respective admission requirements for these courses are fulfilled. Language courses are excluded from this regulation.</p>
Course type	VO (Ger. <i>Vorlesung</i> , lecture), VU (Ger. <i>Vorlesung und Übung</i> , lecture and exercise course) ¹¹ , SE (seminar), UE (Ger. <i>Übung</i> , exercise course), other types of courses according to the respective curricula where applicable; see also section 9, subsection 5
Course assessment	Successful completion of the courses

¹⁰ Editor's note: For some reason, this module seems to confuse students sometimes, so let me explain what you have to do. You need a total of 20 credits. 16 of these credits have to be earned from among the list of courses that you find under „structure“. The remaining 4 credits can be acquired quite freely as long as they correspond with the basic goals of the module as outlined above.

¹¹ Editor's note: VU is a course type that combines elements of lectures and of more interactive exercise courses. See also section 8 of this curriculum.

M5	Compulsory Module Research and Master's Colloquium
SH	2
ECTS	10
Description	In this module, previously acquired skills are refreshed and applied to a research theme which leads to the Master's thesis.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students recapitulate and practice the academic skills acquired throughout the courses of the program - They find an scholarly ambitious and relevant topic for their Master's thesis - They are able to organize and conduct research on this topic according to academic standards - They master the presentation of complex problems
Structure	SE Research and Master's Colloquium
Course type	SE (seminar)
Course assessment	Successful completion of the courses

Section 6: Master's thesis

(1) The purpose of the Master's thesis is to demonstrate the capability to work on academic topics independently and in a scholarly appropriate manner, as regards contents and methodology. The Master's thesis should be conceptualized in a way that students can finish it within six months.

(2) The topic of the Master's thesis has to be chosen based on the contents of the compulsory modules M2, M3 or M4. The research questions of the Master's Thesis should concern transnational and regional phenomena. Comparative theses are permitted. Theses which focus on only one East Asian country are generally not accepted.

(3) The Master's thesis is credited with 25 ECTS points.

Section 7: Master's examination

(1) In order to be admitted for the Master's exam, students have to successfully complete all of the compulsory modules and examinations as well as the Master's thesis.

(2) The Master's examination is a public defense taken as a general examination in front of a commission (Prüfungssenat).

(3) The Master's examination is credited with 5 ECTS points.

Section 8: Classification of the courses

(1) Lecture (Ger. "Vorlesung", abbr. VO)¹²:

Students are didactically guided towards the main areas and methodologies of the field of study; they are introduced to the main facts and schools of thought; state-of-the-art academic research is discussed. "Lectures" consist of individual lectures or other forms of presentation by one or more course instructors (e.g. lecture series, Ger. "Ringvorlesung"). A lecture course is completed by an oral and/or written examination on the contents of the lecture and the related literature. Attendance is not compulsory.

(2) Lecture and exercise course (Ger. "Vorlesung und Übung", abbr. VU)¹³:

This type of course is subject to continuous assessment of course work. It combines lectures held by course instructors with students active participation, such as written assignments or presentations. The course assessment is based on at least one written examination. Attendance is compulsory.

(3) Seminar (abbr. SE)¹⁴:

Seminars include a continuous assessment of course work. They serve the purpose of engaging students with in-depth examination of exemplary topics and help them practicing independent conduct of research by combining methods, empiricism and analyses. Course instructors

¹² Editor's note: This is a classical monologue; the lecturer speaks, the students listen and at the end have the opportunity to ask a few questions. There is usually only one exam at the end of the course that can in case of failure be repeated a few times according to Austrian legal provisions.

¹³ Editor's note: Beware of another possible misunderstanding. This is only ONE course, not a lecture AND an exercise course. It combines elements of a lecture, i.e. a high percentage of lecturing, and of exercise courses, i.e. a dialogue between lecturer and students as well as the requirement of continuous student contributions.

¹⁴ This is the most intense course type, characterized by a heavy workload and dialogue being the main way of classroom communication. A seminar typically involves an extensive term/research paper. Don't underestimate the needed resources: you should not take more than two seminars per semester.

introduce new subjects, which are treated and critically questioned by the students. The participants show theoretically funded competence to solve problems regarding the independent development, discussion and presentation of academic contents in oral and written form. In addition to multiple written and/or oral contributions, the participants are required to write a self-developed term paper (Ger. "Seminararbeit"). Attendance is compulsory. The number of participants is limited to 25.

(4) Exercise courses (Ger. "Übungen", abbr. UE):

Exercise courses serve the purpose to work out selected problems and topics collectively. Attendance is compulsory. Exercise course are examined by continuous assessment of course work. Students are involved in working out the subject matter continuously and actively. In the case of language courses, theory and practice of the respective contemporary language are conveyed. According to requirements, teaching methods can vary from instructor-centered teaching to independent work in small groups.

(5) Other types of courses:

Further unlisted types of courses offered by other divisions of the Department of East Asian Studies are subject to regulations as laid down in the respective curricula.

Section 9: Courses with limited participation

(1) If the number of applications for courses with limited participation surpasses the maximum limit, preference is given to students who attend the course as part of a compulsory module.

(2) Instructors are entitled to make exceptions to paragraph 1 for some courses in consultation with the authorized academic organ.

Section 10: Assessment regulations

(1) Course assessment

Pursuant to the University Statutes, course instructors are required to announce objectives, contents and assessment of the course.

(2) Workload

The extent of contents relevant for preparing and holding examinations has to be in accordance with the course's total assessment load in ECTS-credits.

(3) Interdiction of double accreditation

Courses and examinations, which were completed as part of the program required for admission to the Master's program on East Asian Society and Economy, must not be accredited again.

Section 11: Study visits abroad

Students are strongly recommended to conduct a study visit abroad in order to strengthen their linguistic, methodical and/or empirical skills. The accreditation of respective certificates has to be decided on by the authorized academic organ.

Section 12: Taking effect

The changes of the curriculum as outlined in the Official Gazette of May 11, 2011, no. 98, issue 18, become effective on October 1, 2011.

APPENDIX

Semester schedule¹⁵

Module		SH	ECTS
	1st semester		
M1	Contemporary East Asian Language	7-10	15
M2	East Asian Economy	2	7
M3	East Asian Politics	2	8
			30
	2nd semester		
M1	Contemporary East Asian Language	5-8	15
M2	East Asian Economy	2	8
M3	East Asian Politics	2	7
			30
	3rd semester		
M4	East Asian Society	9-12	20
M5	Research and Master's Colloquium	2	10
			30
	4th semester		
	Master's thesis		25
	Oral Master's examination		5
			30

¹⁵ The semester schedule serves as a suggestion to the students and is not binding.

Description of the two seminars in module M2

M2: SE 2a	<i>Seminar Economic Development in East Asia</i>
SH	2
ECTS	8
Description	The focus is set on the dynamic process of economic development and the corresponding role of the state. By means of reading and discussing specialized texts, students gather or deepen their knowledge of the main theories of economic development. On this basis and in particular against the background of the different models of economic development existing in East Asia (liberal-democratic vs. authoritarian-socialist), comparative analyses of East Asian cases are conducted.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students master the fundamentals of different theories of economic development; this is particularly the case for classical/neoclassical theory, Marxism, Keynesianism, dependency theory, dirigisme, structuralism and neo-liberalism - They understand the developmental paths of individual East Asian countries both from a general perspective and with regard to their characteristics - They are able to conduct comparative, method-based country case analyses and to apply the imparted knowledge to current developments
Type of course	SE
Course assessment	Successful completion of the courses

M2: SE 2b	<i>Seminar Economic Systems in East Asia</i>
SH	2
ECTS	7
Description	The focus is set on static analyses of the current situation. By means of reading and discussing specialized texts, students gather or deepen their knowledge of the main theories of economic systems. On this basis, a comparative analysis of the current situation in East Asia is conducted.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students acquaint themselves with the fundamentals of theories of economic systems (liberal or socialist systems etc.) - They are familiar with important macroeconomic and structural indicators and are able to practice their application to concrete country cases as well as analyze the obtained results in a scholarly manner - They know and understand the specific situation of contemporary East Asian economic systems including economic policy, financial policy, fiscal policy, regulatory policy, foreign trade policy, role of markets etc. - They develop and practice the skill to conduct comparative analyses of similar cases and comprehend current and future societal effects of the respective systems, also with regard to regionalization
Type of course	SE
Course assessment	Successful completion of the courses

Description of the two seminars in module M3

M3: SE 3a	<i>Seminar Political Systems in East Asia</i>
SH	2
ECTS	7
Description	By means of reading and discussing specialized texts, students gather or deepen their knowledge of main theories of political systems. On this basis, a comparative analysis of the current situation in China, Japan, North and South Korea is conducted.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students master the fundamentals of different theories of political systems (authoritarian, democratic systems etc.) and are able to apply them to concrete cases - They are aware of the specific situation of contemporary East Asian political systems including respective ruling bodies, power structures, institutions etc. - They are able to conduct comparative analyses of similar cases and understand current and future societal effects of the respective systems
Type of course	SE
Course assessment	Successful completion of the courses

M3: SE 3b	<i>Seminar International Relations in East Asia</i>
SH	2
ECTS	8
Description	By means of reading and discussing specialized texts, students gather or deepen their knowledge of main theories of International Relations. On this basis, an analysis of the situation in East Asia with focus on security policy is conducted.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students know and understand the fundamentals of different theories of International Relations (esp. liberalism and neo-realism, but also constructivism, rationalism, postmodernism, critical theory etc.) and are able to apply them to concrete cases - They are able to analyze the East Asian security position in a global context - They master the analysis of specific core themes of the field of International Relations in East Asia
Type of course	SE
Course assessment	Successful completion of the courses