

# Curriculum for the master's programme in East Asian Economy and Society

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2. (Minor) amendment: University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 25 June 2012, 36th edition, number 260
3. (Minor) amendment: University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 29 January 2016, 12th edition, number 70
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5. (Minor) amendment: University Gazette 2002 Universities Act as of 26 March 2021, 25th edition, number 95
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## Preamble

The master's programme in East Asian Economy and Society is a learning-centred and modularised interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary master's programme. It focuses on sound academic and methodological education and is application-oriented. The degree programme explores contemporary aspects of social sciences in relation to the economy and society across the entire East Asian region, emphasising developments from the 20th century to the present day. The Curriculum focuses on the entire region of East Asia and does not emphasise any one country. East Asia is defined as comprising China, Japan and North and South Korea. These countries are the focus of research within the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Vienna. Additionally, Southeast Asia is included when feasible.

## § 1 Objectives and qualification profile

(1) The objective of the master's programme in East Asian Economy and Society at the University of Vienna is to educate experts in social science methods who specialise in applying their methodological skills to the region of East Asia using a multidisciplinary approach. Accordingly, the Curriculum concentrates on transnational and regional issues and comparative analysis. Students acquire skills for academic research and writing as well as the ability to apply the acquired knowledge in practice.

Graduates of the master's programme in East Asian Economy and Society are equipped to conduct academic research on selected illustrative and practically relevant topics. Primarily utilising English-language materials, they may also supplement their research with German and original language sources, depending on their educational background. Graduates gain a solid understanding of key methodological fundamentals in social sciences through coursework and practical applications, expanding their knowledge in various areas. This includes but is not limited to, economic policy, development policy, political economy and international relations. Graduates acquire in-depth

<sup>1</sup> see Development Plan of the University of Vienna, p. 18

knowledge of the economic, political and cultural characteristics of East Asian countries and their development. They are capable of applying this knowledge to address practical, real-world issues.

(2) Based on their existing qualifications and those acquired during the programme, graduates can find employment in various fields that demand knowledge of China, Japan and Korea from a social sciences perspective, along with related methodologies. An understanding of East Asia as a region and familiarity with its institutional background are also valuable assets for these job opportunities. Potential career paths include academia, political or economic consultancy, organisations focussing on security or development policy and roles within banks or insurance companies.

(3) Depending on their previous education, students begin the programme with basic knowledge of at least one contemporary East Asian language. This enables them to conduct further language studies in the respective target country.

## § 2 Duration and scope

The workload for the master's programme in East Asian Economy and Society comprises 120 ECTS credits. This is equivalent to a degree programme duration of four semesters<sup>2</sup>.

## § 3 Entry requirements

(1) To be admitted to the master's programme in East Asian Economy and Society students must have completed an eligible bachelor's programme or an eligible bachelor's programme at a university of applied sciences or an equivalent degree programme at a recognised Austrian or foreign post-secondary educational institution.

(2) The bachelor's programmes in Japanese Studies, Korean Studies, Chinese Studies, Business Administration, International Business Administration, Economics and Political Science at the University of Vienna are certainly eligible.

(3) Supplementary examinations may be required to address substantial disparities in subject matter and must be completed by the end of the second semester of the master's degree program. The rectorate has the authority to designate which supplementary examinations are prerequisites for the examinations outlined in the master's degree program curriculum.

(4) If the substantial differences in subject matter, as outlined in paragraph 3, exceed a total of 30 ECTS credits, the study program is not considered eligible, and admission will not be granted.

(5) The master's programme in East Asian Economy and Society is offered in English only. Proof of relevant language proficiency is a prerequisite for admission.

## § 4 Academic degree

Graduates of the master's programme in East Asian Economy and Society are awarded the degree "Master of Arts", abbreviated as MA. Where the academic degree is stated this must be after the name.

## § 5 Structure and module descriptions

The master's programme in East Asian Economy and Society consists of the following core elements: Contemporary East Asian Language, East Asian Society, East Asian Economy and Politics, Research and Master's Colloquium, Master's Thesis and Oral Master's Examination. These are offered in the form of the following compulsory modules, in which students can choose courses:

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<sup>2</sup> According to the current legal foundation, see 2002 Universities Act, section 54, para. 3  
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## Overview of modules

Module	Designation	SWS <sub>3</sub>	ECTS credits
M1	Compulsory module: Contemporary East Asian Language	10-16	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
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>120</b>

A semester plan can be found in the appendix.

<b>M1</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Contemporary East Asian Language</b>
SWS	10-16
ECTS credits	30
Description	Students learn the fundamentals of one East Asian language (Chinese, Japanese or Korean). Subject to the capacities of the Department of East Asian Studies (hereinafter: "the Department"), students may choose the language they wish to learn. Students who already hold a bachelor's degree or a comparable qualification in one of the languages offered by the Department must take courses in a language in which they do not hold a degree or qualification.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students know the pronunciation rules and script.</li> <li>- They master the fundamentals of grammar and syntax.</li> <li>- They know the basic vocabulary.</li> <li>- They can use the target language (listening, speaking, reading and writing) in everyday situations.</li> </ul>
Structure	Regular language courses are offered by the Department according to the individual prerequisites.
Type of course	Continuous assessment and non-continuous assessment
Proof of performance	Successful completion of the courses.

Students are allowed to substitute either the VU Economic Development in East Asia (module M2) or the VU International Relations in East Asia (Module M3) with another course offered by the University of Vienna or another university provided that the course is equivalent in terms of content and ECTS credits.

<b>M2</b>	<b>Compulsory module: East Asian Economy</b>
SWS	6
ECTS credits	15
Description	Students focus on the economic aspects of the region of East Asia and its countries. These may include subject areas from the national economy, business economics or economic history. Static situations, as well as dynamic processes, are discussed with the prime concern of combining methods and empirical research in a meaningful way.
Objectives	Students are familiarised with the fundamentals of different theories of economic development and economic systems. They acquire the ability to apply these theories to specific cases in East Asia.

<sup>3</sup>SWS = hours per week per semester, number of the average contact hours per week per semester.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They understand developmental paths and economic systems in countries in East Asia, including their particular characteristics.</li> <li>- In particular, students are able to apply methods of the New Institutional Economics to East Asia.</li> <li>- They can derive conclusions for unfamiliar cases, gather relevant data to verify their theses and conduct appropriate analyses according to the academic standards of the respective subject area.</li> <li>- They are familiar with important macroeconomic and structural indicators and are able to apply them to concrete country cases as well as to analyse the obtained results in an appropriate scholarly manner.</li> <li>- They can conduct comparative analyses of similar cases and understand current and future societal effects of the respective systems, also concerning regionalisation.</li> </ul>
Structure	VU Economic Development in East Asia (2 SWS, 4 ECTS credits) SE Economic Systems in East Asia (2 SWS, 7 ECTS credits) UE Exercise for the Economic Systems in East Asia Seminar (2 SWS, 4 ECTS credits)  Students have to complete the seminar and the related exercise in the same semester.
Type of course	VU; SE, UE
Proof of performance	Successful completion of the courses.

<b>M3</b>	<b>Compulsory module: East Asian Politics</b>
SWS	6
ECTS credits	15
Description	Students focus on the political aspects of the region of East Asia and its countries. These may include national, comparative and international subject areas. Static situations, as well as dynamic processes, are discussed with the prime concern of combining methods and empirical research in a meaningful way.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students master the fundamentals of the theoretical concepts of comparative political science and international relations.</li> <li>- They understand the specifics of current political systems and societies in East Asia and have the skill to conduct comparative analyses of similar cases as well as to understand the current and future societal effects of the respective systems.</li> <li>- They are capable of correctly analysing the East Asian security position in a global context as well as the constellation within the region based on accepted theories in an appropriate scholarly manner and are also able to apply this skill to unfamiliar cases.</li> </ul>
Structure	VU International Relations in East Asia (2 SWS, 4 ECTS credits) SE Political Systems in East Asia (2 SWS, 7 ECTS credits) UE Exercise for the Political Systems in East Asia Seminar (2 SWS, 4 ECTS credits)  Students have to complete the seminar and the related exercise in the same semester.
Type of course	VU, SE, UE
Proof of performance	Successful completion of the courses.

<b>M4</b>	<b>Compulsory module: East Asian Society</b>
SWS	10 - 13
ECTS credits	20
Description	This module mainly analyses East Asian societies from the perspective of cultural history. The individual societies as well as the region as a whole are examined with regard to major cultural and historical movements.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students are further familiarised with the history and culture of the region of East Asia comparatively and understand the respective fundamentals of the contemporary economic and political systems.</li> <li>- They understand the cultural relevance of the region's languages and scripts.</li> <li>- They know the methods in East Asian Studies and can apply them to their research.</li> </ul>
Structure	<p>Students have to select courses comprising 16 ECTS credits in total from the following range of courses:</p> <p>VO Lecture on East Asian History (2 SWS, 4 ECTS credits) VO Intercultural Negotiation Patterns (2 SWS, 4 ECTS credits) VU on East Asian History (2 SWS, 4 ECTS credits)</p> <p>VU on East Asian Society (2 SWS, 4 ECTS credits)</p> <p>VU Introduction to East Asian Languages and Scripts (2 SWS, 4 ECTS credits) VU Methods in East Asian Studies (2 SWS, 4 ECTS credits)</p> <p>VU Governance in East Asia (2 SWS, 4 ECTS credits) VU Regionalism in East Asia (2 SWS, 4 ECTS credits)</p> <p>Students may complete courses, except for language courses, comprising 4 ECTS credits from all degree programmes offered by the Department, provided that they fulfil the respective prerequisites.</p>
Type of course	VO, VU, SE, UE, if applicable, other types of courses according to the respective curricula; see section 9, subsection 5
Proof of performance	Continuous assessment, except for lectures. Successful completion of the courses.

<b>M5</b>	<b>Compulsory module: Research and Master's Colloquium</b>
SWS	2
ECTS credits	10
Description	In this module, students consolidate previously acquired knowledge and, under supervision, apply this knowledge to a research topic that leads to the master's thesis. In the first part, the colloquium serves the purpose of recapitulating the topics covered, the discussion of different methodological approaches and their application to concrete fields of research. In the second half, the topic and structure of the master's thesis as well as the methodology used are discussed. Students present their projects and give peer feedback.
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students demonstrate and practice the skills of academic research and writing acquired throughout the degree programme.</li> <li>- They find an ambitious and currently relevant topic for their master's thesis.</li> <li>- They can organise and conduct research on this topic according to academic standards.</li> <li>- They are able to present complex problems.</li> </ul>
Structure	SE Research and Master's Colloquium (2 SWS, 10 ECTS credits)
Type of course	SE
Proof of performance	Successful completion of the course.

## § 6 Master's thesis

- (1) The master's thesis serves to demonstrate the student's ability to achieve adequate standards of content and methodology when independently addressing academic topics. The assignment for the master's thesis must be chosen in a way that the student can reasonably be expected to complete within six months.
- (2) The topic of the master's thesis must be taken from one of the compulsory modules M2, M3 or M4. The research questions of the master's thesis address transnational and regional phenomena. Comparative theses are permitted. Theses that focus on one East Asian country only are usually not permitted.
- (3) The master's thesis comprises 25 ECTS credits.

## § 7 Master's examination

- (1) To be admitted to a master's examination the student must have successfully passed all required modules and examinations and the master's thesis must have been positively assessed.
- (2) The master's examination is a public defence. This form of examination consists of a defence and an examination of the academic disciplines related to the master's thesis. Grading will be conducted as stipulated in the Statutes of the University of Vienna.
- (3) The master's examination comprises 5 ECTS credits.

## § 8 Course classification

### (1) Lectures (*Vorlesung, VO*):

Lectures are courses with non-continuous assessment. Lectures introduce students to the main areas and methodologies of the degree programme in a didactic way. Students are introduced to the main facts and schools of thought in the discipline. State-of-the-art academic research is discussed. Lectures consist of individual lectures by one or more teachers (e.g. lecture series) and/or other forms of presentation. A lecture is completed by an oral and/or written exam.

### (2) Lecture with exercises (*Vorlesung und Übung, VU*):

This type of course with continuous assessment combines lectures by teachers and students' active participation, such as written assignments or presentations. The assessment is based on at least one written exam. Attendance is mandatory.

### (3) Seminars (*Seminar, SE*):

Seminars are courses with continuous assessment. They serve the purpose of addressing exemplary topics and practising independent academic research by combining methods, empiricism and analyses. New content is imparted by teachers as well as developed and scrutinised by students. The participants have problem-solving competence based on theory to independently acquire, discuss and present academic content in oral and written form. In addition to regular written and/or oral contributions, the participants are required to independently write a seminar paper. Attendance is compulsory. The maximum number of participants is limited to 25.

### (4) Exercises (*Übungen, UE*)

Exercises serve the purpose of jointly preparing selected problems and topics. Attendance in all exercises is compulsory. Exercises are courses with continuous assessment.

Students are continuously and actively involved in preparing the subject matter. Language courses convey the theory and practice of the respective contemporary language. Depending on the needs, the teaching methods can vary between lectures and work in small groups.

(5) Other course types

To course types not listed here and offered by other divisions of the Department of East Asian Studies, the provisions of the related curricula apply.

## **§ 9 Courses with a limited number of participants**

(1) If for courses with a limited number of students, the number of registrations exceeds the number of available places according to section 8, students attending the course as part of the compulsory module are given preference.

(2) The lecturers are entitled to grant exceptions from the provision in para. 1 for certain courses in agreement with the competent body responsible for study matters.

## **§ 10 Examination regulations**

(1) Proof of performance in courses

The lecturer must announce the learning outcomes, contents and type of assessment in accordance with the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

(2) Examination content

The examination content relevant to preparing and holding examinations must be in line with the required number of ECTS credits.

(3) No double recognition

Courses taken and examinations passed in the degree programme, which constitutes entry requirements for the master's programme, cannot be recognised again in the master's programme.

## **§ 11 Stay abroad**

Students are strongly recommended to complete a stay abroad to consolidate their linguistic, methodical and/or empirical knowledge. The competent academic body decides on the recognition of examinations.

## **§ 12 Entry into force**

(1) This Curriculum will enter into force upon announcement in the University Gazette of the University of Vienna as of 1 October 2008.

(2) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 11 May 2011, number 98, 18th edition enter into force on 1 October 2011.

(3) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 25 June 2012, number 260, 36th edition enter into force on 1 October 2012.

(4) Students who began their degree programme before 1 October 2011 are entitled to write all written papers and the master's thesis to be completed according to the Curriculum in German and to take the master's examination in German by 30 September 2013.

(5) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 29 January 2016, number 70, 12th edition enter into force on 1 October 2016.

(6) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 24 January 2020, number 47, 7th edition enter into force on 1 October 2020.

(7) The amendments to the Curriculum as stated in the University Gazette of 26 March 2021, number 95, 25th edition enter into force on 1 October 2021.

## APPENDIX

### Semester plan4

Semester	Module	Course	ECTS credits	Total
<b>1st semester</b>	M1	Contemporary East Asian Language	15	
	M3	VU International Relations in East Asia	4	
	M4	Course(s) that can be selected subject to the module	4+4+4	
<b>2nd semester</b>	M1	Contemporary East Asian Language	15	
	M2	VU Economic Development in East Asia	4	
	M3	SE Political Systems in East Asia	7	
		UE Exercise for the Political Systems in East Asia Seminar	4	
<b>3rd semester</b>	M2	SE Economic Systems in East Asia	7	
		UE Exercise for the Economic Systems in East Asia Seminar	4	
	M4	Course(s) that can be selected subject to the module	4+4	
	M5	SE Research and Master's Colloquium	10	
<b>4th semester</b>	M5	Master's Thesis	25	
	M5	Master's Examination (public defence)	5	
				<b>120</b>

*The semester plan serves as a recommendation and is not binding for students in terms of prerequisites.*