

CONSTRUCTION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

- Module A:** Introduction to Comparative Democracy: History, Approaches, and Debates
- Module B:** Concepts of Democracy – Past, Present, Future
- Module C:** Designing Democracy Research
- Module D1:** Citizens: Perceptions, Preferences, & Behavior
- Module D2:** Interest Aggregation & Representation
- Module D3:** Public Policy-Making
- Module E1:** Practicing Research on Democracy: Internship
- Module E2:** Practicing research on Democracy: Research Seminar
- Module F:** Colloquium, Thesis, and Defense

QUICK OVERVIEW

<b>Degree</b>	Master of Arts
<b>Duration</b>	4 Semesters
<b>Start</b>	Only Winter Semester
<b>Restricted Admission</b>	Yes

REQUIREMENTS & APPLICATION

You should have a strong interest in the theoretical and empirical study of comparative politics and a willingness to engage in self-organized learning.

All information on the application procedure, deadlines and formal requirements, the documents to be submitted and the link to the application portal (Uni-Assist) can be found here:



FURTHER QUESTIONS?

More Information about the Study Program ‚Comparative Democracy M.A.‘



Please feel free to contact our student counselling service at:

**studienfachberatung.fb03@soz.uni-frankfurt.de**

Or just drop by! You can find the office hours and further information here:



A service of the Department of Social Sciences at Goethe University. As of February 2023. For up-to-date information, please visit the websites linked via QR code. Picture credits: *Outside f.l.t.r.*: Cover photo: Pixabay, CC0; Uwe Dettmar, Goethe-Universität. *Inside f.l.t.r.*: Uwe Dettmar, Goethe-Universität ; Uwe Dettmar, Goethe-Universität; (c) Kyle Glenn; (c) Kristin Langholz.



**Comparative Democracy**  
Master of Arts

STUDYING IN FRANKFURT

**About Goethe University**

Goethe University is a strong research university in the European financial metropolis of Frankfurt. Lively, urban and cosmopolitan, it has a unique degree of independence as a foundation university.

Founded in 1914 by Frankfurt citizens as Germany’s first foundation university, Goethe University is Germany’s third largest university with over 43,000 students. Hosting many of Europe’s leading social scientists, Goethe University has a vibrant research and teaching community. Close practical contacts contribute to political, social, economic and cultural solutions. On the basis of the wide range of subjects offered by the comprehensive university, the Goethe University is committed to an educational ideal in the spirit of Humboldt.

**Frankfurt - surprisingly different!**

A metropolis in miniature: Frankfurt is more than its stock exchange, skyline and airport. Global thinking and local traditions stand side by side. An international audience meets village structures and lively club life. Whether opera and theatre, zoo and Palmengarten, sports and museums, international trade fairs or quaint apple cider pubs - the centre of the Rhein-Main region offers something for almost every taste. In short: Frankfurt is definitely worth a second look!





## ABOUT THE STUDY PROGRAM

Comparative politics and comparative democracy studies are core components of political science and not least due to current challenges such as the rise of populism and nationalism, extremism, disenchantment with politics and various structural socio-economic challenges (e.g. globalisation, deindustrialisation, technological change) are topical, relevant and exciting. In this area, the Master programme offers a comprehensive range of courses that teach theoretical, analytical, methodological and empirical skills in a pluralistic and structured manner.

The degree program aims at four main goals:

- To enable you to gain an in-depth understanding of the conceptual, behavioral, institutional, and structural bases of modern democracy in light of contextual prerequisites and challenges.
- To provide the theoretical, analytical, and methodological skills to successfully conduct relevant empirical research on problems of contemporary democracy.
- To prepare you to successfully pursue a career in academic research or in research-oriented positions in governmental or non-governmental organizations.
- To facilitate academic research and co-operation in an international environment

The curriculum of the Master program evolves on the basis of nine intertwined modules. With these modules, the program aims to advance cumulative learning. Furthermore, it aims to blend training in basic research skills with problem-oriented perspectives on the issue of democratic governance. With its problem-oriented approach the program aims to further an active and creative learning en-

vironment that helps students to develop an open minded and critical approach to academic learning and democracy as the program's main subject.

The introductory phase of the program (Modules A, B, C) provide you with a broad Master-level introduction to the study of comparative democracy. It equips you with the theoretical, methodological, and practical skills to analyze politics and lays the foundation for your entire study program. We strive to facilitate close contact between you and your teachers in order to closely supervise your academic development during this phase of your studies.

The three mandatory modules D1, D2, D3 are designed to study key topics that evolve from comparative research on democracy. The three modules cover comparative democracy research from a sociological, institutional, and policy perspective. All modules stress cross-national but also longitudinal comparisons as a means to explore core issues in democratic governance. The organizational logic of the modules follows the 'policy cycle' from citizens (their preferences, norms, values, behavior, culture, etc.) via interest aggregation and representation (for example through parties, unions, employers, lobby groups, etc.) to the output side of public policy-making (covering crucial areas such as welfare states, varieties of capitalism, patterns of inequalities, etc.) as well as the policies' impact back citizens. Students thus receive and are equipped both with a broad overview as well as with detailed insights into the political processes of "comparative democracy"

## Gaining practical experience in an internship

With module E1: „Internship“ we enable you to gain first insights into later professional fields. The internship can be completed e.g. in public institutions, associations, non-governmental organizations or private companies - also abroad. In order to share your experiences with your fellow students, the internship concludes with a study day. Here you have the opportunity to talk about your experiences and possible career prospects.

## Independent research through research internship

A special feature of the Master Comparative Democracy is the integration of research-based learning in Module E2: „Practicing Research on Democracy: Research Seminar“. Here you learn to apply methods of empirical social research in practice under professional guidance, to make independent decisions in developing your own research design and to present and defend your results appropriately.

## Internationally connected

The Master programme Comparative Democracy is - like political science in general - internationally oriented. We offer a large number of courses in English and you have the opportunity to spend a semester abroad at one of the faculty's more than 80 partner universities worldwide. Therefore you can take advantage of the extensive Erasmus+ programme offered by the Department of International Relations at the Faculty of Social Sciences as well as numerous university-wide exchange opportunities of Goethe University. It is also possible to do the internship module abroad. The department offers a flexible recognition procedure with the so-called „application for prior recognition of academic achievements taken abroad“ as well as study counselling.

## PERSPECTIVES

Based on the professional qualifications and competencies acquired in your studies, a wide range of occupational fields are open to you. As this MA-program is research-oriented, you will be equipped with all necessary skills to pursue an academic career or research-focused career in non-academic contexts. Additional occupational fields could be

- Offices and authorities,
- associations and foundations,
- press and public relations,
- ministries or political consulting.

Following the master programme, a PhD is also possible

## ABOUT THE INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Institute of Political Science at Goethe University Frankfurt is the largest of its kind in Germany. It is characterized by a combination of academic pluralism and excellence in research which is unique in Germany. It also has close links with a range of other research institutes such as the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) and the House of Finance. The Department of Social Science is home to some of Europe's leading social scientists and looks forward to welcoming you in Frankfurt!

**More Information about the Institute of Political Science at Goethe University Frankfurt**

