

Master Programme Science and Technology Studies. Economies, Governance, Life

Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology

Information for Master Students

Latest update: October 2025



Welcome address by the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology	4
Welcome address by the students' representatives of the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology	5
Glossary: all links in one place	6
Studying STS at Goethe University	7
Module Structure	7
Ideal timeline of the STS programme	7
Study and Examination Regulations	8
Credit Points	8
Compulsory Modules	8
Module M1 „Theoretical Intersections“	8
Module M5, M6, M7, and M8, aka the “Research Curriculum”	8
Optional Modules	9
Course offerings	9
Teaching Cooperations	9
How to sign up for seminars	10
Attending Courses from Human Geography and Sociology	10
Internships	10
Module Exams	11
Compulsory Modules	11
Optional Modules (M2-M4)	11
Exam registration	11
Master Thesis	12
Who can supervise my master thesis?	12
Regulations for the master thesis	12
Technical infrastructure	13
E-mail communication with the Institute	13
No private e-mail addresses!	13
How to access your university email account:	13
How to personalize your university e-mail address:	13
No email forwarding!	14
Study and Exam Administration	14
Goethe Campus Online	14
Setting Up a Study Account (QIS)	14
University Portal QIS/LSF	14
Records of Credit Points and Grades	14
Online Learning and Communication	15
BSCW	15
OLAT	15

Hessenbox	15
Videocalls	15
Mattermost	16
Study Abroad	17
When to go	17
Erasmus	17
Our partner institutes	17
Application	18
Health, Accidents and Safety	19
Miscellaneous	20
International Office	20
Libraries	20
University library	20
Libraries at Campus Westend	20
Humanities Library (BzG)	20
Library for Social Sciences and Psychology (BSP)	20
Goethe-Card	20
Semesterticket	21
“KFZ-Referat”	21
Social Media	22
Campus Map	23

Welcome address by the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology

Dear first-year students of the MA programme in Science and Technology Studies!

We are pleased to welcome you to our institute at Goethe University and to our MA programme in Science and Technology Studies. This brochure contains all the important information for your studies.

We want to make the start of your studies as easy as possible. In this brochure you will find important information to help you set up your accounts and start your new life at Goethe University. Further and more specific information can be found on our website and under the other links we have provided. See kaee.uni-frankfurt.de. We encourage you to check our site regularly!

If you need additional information that you cannot find on the website, please send an e-mail to ka-hiwis@em.uni-frankfurt.de. This is the account of the student assistants at the institute, who will be happy to help you! We would also like to encourage you to talk to each other and to older cohorts, including those who have already completed their studies.

We wish you a successful start to your studies!

The staff of the institute



Welcome address by the students' representatives of the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology

Dear first-year students of Science and Technology Studies!

To start something new somewhere is never easy.

We know that. It takes one or two semesters until you know where you find everything, what you should do, and how.

This little brochure should help you to find your way around more easily and answers some questions about your studies and the campus. Well, it answers at least the easy questions. For all others – and believe us, there will be more to come – please contact the higher semester students, the student assistants of the institute, or us, the institute group.

We all like to help.

After all, we have been in the same situation when we started.

We would like to say: we are happy that you are here and wish you a good start in your studies!

Dale Kern, Jonathan Rutschinski, Isabel Luiten, Benjamin Hoffmann.

Glossary: all links in one place

Service name	Description	Link
Goethe Campus Online	Study organization portal: change contact details, overview of payments, print study certificate	https://www.goethe-campus.uni-frankfurt.de
QIS	Courses catalog (all departments), registration for exams, enrollment certification, grades, etc.	https://qis.server.uni-frankfurt.de/
Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology Institute	Website of the institute: latest information on events, all the information on the study process, contacts of the staff	kaee.uni-frankfurt.de
BSCW	You will be invited via email by the lecturer Materials, (additional) information, organizational matters	https://bscw.server.uni-frankfurt.de/
OLAT	Olat (Online Learning and Training) Materials, (additional) information, organizational matters	https://olat-ce.server.uni-frankfurt.de/
HessenBox	University portal for storing, sharing and editing files (secure alternative for Dropbox)	https://next.hessenbox.de
University Email	Link to the university email portal	https://webmail.uni-frankfurt.de
Mattermost	Communication platform within the programme	https://geocom.uni-frankfurt.de/sts/

Studying STS at Goethe University

Module Structure

The MA programme consists of nine modules. To complete the programme, the following modules are required to pass:

- 5 compulsory modules (the Basic Module M1 and the modules in the Research Curriculum M5, M6, M7, and M8)
- 2 out of 3 optional modules (M2, M3, and M4)
- The final module (M9) consists of the MA thesis and the oral defense

Ideal timeline of the STS programme

Semester	Compulsory Modules		Optional Modules 2 out of 3
	Basic Module	Research Curriculum	Exemplary field
1	M1 Theoretical Intersections 1.1 Introduction to STS 1.2 Epistemic Practices	M5 Introduction to Research Methods 5.1. Ethnographic Encounters 5.2 Method Toolbox 5.3 STS in/as practice	M2 Governance: Data, Control, Politics M3 Economies: Markets, Mobilities, Infrastructures
2	M1 Theoretical Intersections 1.3 Recent Debates	M6 Research Design 6.1 Research Design 6.2 Proposal Writing 6.3 Fieldwork	M4 Life: Bodies, NatureCultures, Environments
3		M7 Fieldwork 7.1 Research Colloquium 7.2 Theory/Concept Lab 7.3 Fieldwork	
4		M8 Analysis and Writing 8.1 Writing Lab 8.2 Performing Research	
		M9 Master Thesis	

The structure of our programme allows you to complete your studies within four semesters. However, you will *not* be exmatriculated in the event of a delay.

Study and Examination Regulations

The study and examination regulations are the most important reference document for questions concerning your studies of STS at Goethe University. Here you will find all the important general rules as well as information about the organization of the studies and the exams. A detailed reading is not only obligatory, but also recommended, as this important document will answer many of your questions.

Currently the study regulations are only in German, we apologize and hope to have the English translation soon:

https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/177376423/FB_09_Master_Science_and_Technology_Studies_2025.pdf

Module description for earlier cohorts in English (before WiSe 2025/26) is available. It is not identical, but can help you understand the structure:

https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/67301715/Module_Handbook_MA_STS_Economies_Governance_Life.pdf

Credit Points

There is an obligation to regularly attend the courses to receive the credit points (CPs) for the course. You must be present at least 80 % of the sessions of each course.

Compulsory Modules

All compulsory modules are offered by the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology, which manages the MA programme.

Module M1 „Theoretical Intersections“

M1 extends over the course of two semesters and introduces students to the basic concepts and most important approaches in Science and Technology Studies (STS):

- part 1 consists of two courses (winter term)
- part 2 consists of one course (summer term)
- Exam: Term paper or portfolio (winter or summer term)

We strongly recommend to complete this module within the first two terms!

Module M5, M6, M7, and M8, aka the “Research Curriculum”

Each module extends over one semester. Together they constitute a series, supporting and reflecting the process of writing your MA thesis. We recommend that you complete one of the modules per semester in the suggested order. Module M5 in the first semester focuses

on methodological issues. With module M6 in the second semester, you will start your research for your MA thesis, which will then be further supported in modules M7 and M8. Module M9 concludes the curriculum with the MA thesis and the oral defense.

Optional Modules

There are three courses per module which can be split between terms. Three topical modules are on offer, from which **you choose two**:

- M2 Governance: Data, Control, Politics, Technologies of Governance
- M3 Economies: Markets, Mobilities, Infrastructures, Markets and Cultures
- M4 Life: Bodies, NatureCultures, Environments, Economies of Life

! Only two of the three modules must be completed. To successfully complete an Optional Module, you must complete three courses listed for that Optional Module and take the module exam which consists of two elements: a term paper written in one of the three courses of the module and a reflection paper called "progress report". You can write the term paper without having completed all three courses in the module already.

Classes are offered by the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology, by the Department of Sociology and by the Department of Human Geography. On the semester schedule you find who is offering the courses.

Course offerings

You find the online course catalogue on the university portal QIS/LSF:

<https://qis.server.uni-frankfurt.de/qisserver/>

Go to Course Overview -> Courses of the Faculty of Linguistics, Cultural Studies and Art -> Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology -> Master Science and Technology Studies

Teaching Cooperations

Courses are offered by the Institute of Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology, which manages the programme, and our cooperation partners in Sociology and Human Geography.

- Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology
- Human Geography
- Sociology

The courses offered by the cooperation partners are also listed in the mentioned course overview on QIS/LSF.

How to sign up for seminars

For the compulsory courses, you will be invited via email/into the BSCW works space by our teaching staff (M1, M5, M6, M7, M8, and M9). The BSCW is an online platform for collaborative working and is used by the institute for teaching. Some lecturers might use different platforms.

For courses in M2, M3, and M4: please check the courses on the university portal QIS/LSF and

- either register directly in QIS/LSF if possible (normally offered for the courses by our cooperating institutes sociology and human geography)
- or register via email to the teacher (mostly for teaching staff at our institute)

Here can find the registration deadlines on our homepage:

https://www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/108854649/For_MA_Students?category=Dates+and+Deadlines

! Please use your student email address only!

Attending Courses from Human Geography and Sociology

If you are attending a seminar for the optional modules M2-M4 in sociology or in human geography, you must submit an “Academic Confirmation” for successful participation to your lecturer. They will hand in the confirmation to the institute, unless otherwise specified (ongoing exception: Prof Dr Thomas Scheffer and members of his team). If you would like to take your module examination at a partner institute, please additionally submit an Academic Confirmation for the examination. Both forms can be found on the homepage of our institute (https://www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/108856210/STS_Programme).

Internships

Generally, internships are not mandatory in this degree program.

In one of the optional modules one of the courses can be substituted with a professional internship (BPr). That is an experience of professional work through active participation, usually outside the university, under on-site supervision and usually with technical and methodological support from a teacher. Since it only accounts for three credit points, it only needs to comprise 90 hours (roughly 2 weeks).

You can complete an internship in M6 or M7 as part of your research process/field research. Your fieldwork will not be assessed by grade.

Please contact a member of the institute to arrange that.

Module Exams

Compulsory Modules

Module exams for compulsory modules vary: M1 and M5 are completed with a term paper or a portfolio. Modules M6 and M7 are completed with an oral group exam and M8 is completed without an exam, but by attendance to the two courses. Please check with the course instructors for changes.

Optional Modules (M2-M4)

Module exams for optional modules consist of a term paper written in one of the three seminars of a given module and a final progress report.

The term paper comprises approximately 3,250 words and is written on one of the seminars in this module. It accounts for 95% of the grade. Please approach the lecturer of the seminar you would like to write your exam in to negotiate the topic and scope of the paper.

The progress report comprises 500-700 words and discusses the module topic based on STS-informed reflection on all three completed courses. The report accounts for 5% of the grade.

Exam registration

! You must register electronically via the university portal QIS/LSF (examination registration and electronic course catalog) for all exams. The registration period is announced in class and on the institute's website. You can deregister within the registration period. Once you are registered and do not deregister, you must take the exam. You have three chances to complete the exam. If you do not take or pass the repeat exams twice, you will not be able to complete your studies

For the exams in the optional modules, only one name from the group of all examiners is mentioned at QIS/LSF for technical reasons. The important point is that you registered for the right module exam – so don't worry if it is not the right lecturer.

If you are ill on an examination date and present a medical certificate, this attempt will not be counted, and you will still have three attempts. Only the form provided on the examination office website will be accepted!

You can download the certificate of your exam registration from QIS/LSF. Your grades will be entered and your credit points will be booked there. You can also have your transcript of records created there. <https://qis.server.uni-frankfurt.de>

Please do not forget to hand in the academic confirmation of the attendance and the exam, if the lecturer is not from our institute. Usually, it can be handled via email, but sometimes

the lecturer might ask you to print it out before attending the final seminar, where they will sign the form.

Master Thesis

Who can supervise my master thesis?

- Any member of teaching staff involved in the STS MA program can act as a supervisor of your MA thesis (Erstgutachter). You also need a second examiner (Zweitgutachter). At least one of the two has to be a Professor from our institute.
- For information on particular research interests and expertise of the teaching staff please consult the institute's website and [LASST](#) (Lab for Studies in Science and Technology).

Regulations for the master thesis

The Master's thesis is worth 25 credit points, which corresponds to a written paper of about 15,000 words. Students typically base their M.A. thesis on the work they conducted during the research curriculum. After registering the thesis, the processing period is five months. The thesis must be written in English.

Admission to the Master's thesis requires successful completion of the modules **M5, M6, and M7**.

You can download general recommendations for the Master Thesis here:

<https://www.goethe-university-frankfurt.de/153766870.pdf>

Technical infrastructure

E-mail communication with the Institute

No private e-mail addresses!

E-mail communication with the Institute - and with Goethe University in general - is exclusively via your university e-mail address. Private e-mail addresses are not accepted.

How to access your university email account:

You can access your new student e-mail via webmail server:
<https://webmail.uni-frankfurt.de>

As a student, you will receive an e-mail address from the IT services (HRZ) of Goethe University. Your e-mail address consists of numbers preceded by an "s", e.g. s0123456@stud.uni-frankfurt.de. To access your new e-mail, your user name is "s012345" and your password.

On this page <https://www.rz.uni-frankfurt.de/43919132/Einrichten> you will find step-by-step instructions on how to set up your e-mail account on your mobile device.

As an email service we recommend Thunderbird (<https://www.thunderbird.net>) with S/MIME Certificates. Set up the certificates for privacy following the guide here:
https://www.rz.uni-frankfurt.de/146950635/Nutzerzertifikate_zur_E-Mail_Signierung_und_Verschl%C3%BCsslung.

How to personalize your university e-mail address:

Please replace the original e-mail address with the numbers and letters with your name:
YourName@stud.uni-frankfurt.de

You will need to make the replacement yourself. Here's how:

1. Log in with your HRZ account on the webmail server, Goethe University's e-mail service.
2. Click on "More" in the top menu bar.
3. Click on "Alias address" under the user settings.
4. Follow the instructions and replace the sequence of numbers and letters with your name.

Please create a signature in your e-mail which contains your name and your student ID (Matrikelnummer)! We encourage you to also include your preferred pronouns.

No email forwarding!

Do not forward your university e-mail address to your private e-mail address because private providers sometimes do not deliver university e-mails and you may not receive important information. For more information, please visit the Goethe University IT Services page.

! Check your university e-mail account regularly during workdays!

Study and Exam Administration

Goethe Campus Online

At Goethe Campus Online (<https://www.goethe-campus.uni-frankfurt.de>), you can change your contact details and print out study and semester certificates. Your completed and outstanding payments are also listed there. **If you wish to continue your studies in the following semester, you must re-register by transferring the semester fee.** You will receive an instruction email from the university as soon as you can transfer the amount, and a reminder email shortly before the deadline. You are solely responsible for re-registering on time!

Setting Up a Study Account (QIS)

At the beginning of your first semester, you must set up a study account in the university portal QIS/LSF (examination registration and electronic course catalog), to which all credit points and examinations can then be registered. For this you need to fill out an application and send it to the exam administration.

The application to open an account goes by the name “Zulassung Master-Prüfung” (Application for Master Exam Admission). For download, please see the “Download” page on the institute website.

! You must have your study account set up before you register for your first module exam so that the exam office can record your registration for an exam, as well as CPs and grades.

University Portal QIS/LSF

After logging into the university portal QIS/LSF, you have access to your account. Please check regularly whether your credit points and exam grades are recorded correctly. It might take a couple weeks to be shown in your account.

Records of Credit Points and Grades

Please take note: the staff of the institute does not have access to the study and exam administration system. If you have any questions or problems concerning your study account, please first contact the study and exam administration office first.

Online Learning and Communication

The institute uses two main eLearning platforms in teaching: BSCW and OLAT. Our cooperation partners in Sociology and Geography may use additional platforms. If you take part in a seminar, you will be given access to the platform used for the seminar by the lecturers.

As a chat platform, we use Mattermost.

If you are new to these systems and not yet registered, you will receive an invitation by email with the necessary registration instructions and information.

BSCW

BSCW is the abbreviation for Basic Support for Cooperative Work. BSCW is hosted by the Goethe University Computing Centre and is not public. It also fulfills the requirements for data storage in compliance with the data protection and privacy regulation and hence can be used to store research data.

<https://bscw.server.uni-frankfurt.de/>

OLAT

OLAT is the abbreviation for Online Learning and Training. OLAT is hosted by the University Computer Center of Goethe University and is not public. Mostly used by Sociology and Human Geography departments.

<https://olat-ce.server.uni-frankfurt.de/>

Hessenbox

Hessenbox is a cloud-based storage suggested by Goethe University. Here you can store and edit documents and files, as well as collaborate with your colleagues. Use your university credentials to log in.

<https://next.hessenbox.de>

Videocalls

For teaching, online consultation, and online exams, Goethe University currently provides two licensed communication tools, BigBlueButton and ZoomX. The lecturers provide course participants with a link to the virtual room before the meeting.

Use this guide to set up Zoom using your HRZ account:

<https://www.rz.uni-frankfurt.de/162710548/Videokonferenzsysteme>

Mattermost

Mattermost is a chat server hosted by our colleagues at the Human Geography Department. We use mattermost across the programme both for formal course related discussions as well as informal chats. You can use it to interact with your fellow students via direct messages or in private channels that you set up for yourselves. Mattermost includes a KANBAN-style project management board interface that you can use for your group tasks.

<https://geocom.uni-frankfurt.de/sts/>

Study Abroad

Master students may conduct a semester abroad.

To apply for a year abroad you must request consultation the responsible staff member, in this case it is Timotheus Kartmann (kartmann@em.uni-frankfurt.de)

When to go

- We recommend the third semester for going abroad.
- Courses completed at the partner university will be converted via the ECTS-System (in coordination with the lecturer).
- It is possible to study abroad with the Erasmus Exchange Programme

Erasmus

It is possible to organize the semester abroad through the Erasmus programme. Erasmus covers any tuition fees that may be incurred at host universities and pays a monthly pocket money as well as additional costs depending on where you go and depending on which funding you are entitled to.

Our partner institutes

- University of Jyväskylä (Jyväskylä, Finland)
- University of the Aegean (Mytilene, Greece)
- Sapienza University of Rome (Rome, Italy)
- University of Graz (Graz, Austria)
- University of Vienna (Vienna, Austria)
- University of Lisbon (Lisbon, Portugal)
- Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznan, Poland)
- University of Fribourg (Fribourg, Switzerland)
- Middle East Technical University (Ankara, Turkey)
- University of Cyprus (Nicosia, Cyprus)
- Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Madrid, Spain)

Application

Application documents:

- Fill in the application form (with passport photo) + submit 2x (1x original + 1x copy)
- Transcript of Records (also 2x)
- Letter of motivation (1-2 pages)
- Language certificate B2 English
- Certificate of study

See additional information:

Global Office https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/98454891/Planung_Ihres_Auslandsaufenthalts

German Academic Exchange Service

<https://eu.daad.de/de/>

(<https://eu.daad.de/infos-fuer-einzelpersonen/foerderung-fuer-studierende-und-graduierte/auslandsstudium/de/>)

Health, Accidents and Safety

In Germany, as a student you are insured against accidents and illnesses caused by your work of studying within the immediate organisational context of the university. We expect students to take note of these short health & safety instructions (English language instructions at end of the document)

<https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/146540530.pdf>

Our insurer is the Unfallkasse Hessen.

These regulations are important because: if your case is accepted by the insurance

- then the insurance covers both your professional and social rehabilitation,
- then the insurance offers financial support, for instance with payout for injured people or for carework by others,
- then the insurance has, in principle, to offer life-long care consultation.

In sum, the services of this insurer exceed the services of the standard personal insurance of students (public or private health insurance).

Miscellaneous

International Office

https://www.uni-frankfurt.de/101960730/International_Student_Services

Please find useful information on studying and living in Frankfurt for international students at Goethe-University on Goethe University's website. The International Student Service Center serves as the central point of contact for international students regarding questions and concerns, particularly for the issuance of documents and certificates required by authorities.

Libraries

University library

With its extensive holdings and collections, the University Library of Frankfurt am Main is one of the central academic libraries in the Federal Republic of Germany. Please see the university library webpages. The library offers students many publications for download.

Libraries at Campus Westend

Humanities Library (BzG)

- Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology IG, Q6: 2nd floor (2.611/2.612)
- Philosophy IG, Q6: 1st floor (1.621) 2nd floor (2.621)

Library for Social Sciences and Psychology (BSP)

- Sociology PEG: ground floor
- Human Geography PEG: ground floor

Goethe-Card

The Goethe-Card is a multi-functional chip card. The white plastic card makes student life more convenient, as it offers a variety of functions:

- Student ID card
- Print / Copy (Wallet)
- Cafeteria (wallet)
- Keys for lockers
- Entrance ticket for the famous Frankfurt Botanical Garden
- Library card
- Entrance ticket for some museums in Frankfurt

- (<https://www.museumsufer.de/en/admission-tickets/free-admission/cultural-pass-for-frankfurts-students/>)

Learn more about Goethe-Card here:

https://www.rz.uni-frankfurt.de/118996600/Goethe_Card_Erstsemester_Info

Semesterticket

The semester ticket is issued exclusively as a digital ticket, the link can be found here:

<https://asta-frankfurt.de/angebote/kultur-mobilitaet/semesterticket>

The terms of use correspond to those of the Deutschlandticket. Further information can be found here: <https://asta-frankfurt.de/angebote/kultur-mobilitaet/semesterticket>

“KFZ-Referat”

Cheap car rental directly at the university on campus Bockenheim.

- Phone: 069–79823048
- Email: transporter@kfz-referat.de

Social Media



Follow us within the Fediverse, via Mastodon

<https://assemblag.es/@KAEEGoetheUni>



Follow us on Bluesky:

KAEE & STS: Goethe Uni

https: <https://bsky.app/profile/kaee-sts-goetheuni.bsky.social>



Follow us on Instagram

KAEE & STS: Goethe Uni

@kaeegoetheuni https://instagram.com/KAEE_GoetheUni

Campus Map

Find us (Institute for Cultural Anthropology and European Ethnology) in building 1, IG-Farben-Haus (IG) at the first level, near the Rotunda  .

