

Modern East Asian Studies

Master of Arts

Programme Guidelines for MEAS Students (Study Regulations 2018)

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1. General Remarks

Welcome to the MEAS programme! This guideline makes you familiar with the content and structure of the programme and with the specific administrative terminology.

2. Module Structure

Most of you should be familiar with the modular structure of European study programmes. For those who are not: courses are assigned to modules, and each module can comprise one or more courses. Most of our modules contain one to two lectures.

Exams can take the form of module exams (one final exam for several lectures or one exam for one lecture if the corresponding module contains only that lecture) or of “module part exams” if each lecture under that module ends with one separate exam. In the latter case, the grade for the whole module is calculated by the average of the grades acquired for each lecture.

Please note that definite failure in one module part exam (i.e., failure upon the third attempt) means that you have failed the whole module. That is, our Examination Office will not calculate an average grade if one module part exam has not been passed.

3. Lectures and Courses

For the general structure of the MEAS programme, please see the “Study Schedule” section on the MEAS website or the “MEAS General Information” course on OLAT.

A. Language Courses (MEAS 1a, MEAS 1b, MEAS 1c)

During the first two semesters, students undergo language training. Hereby, we provide two study paths which are tailored to meet the needs of two groups of students, namely students with a BA in East Asia-related Cultural Studies and students with a BA in Social Sciences. Please note: the four East Asian languages are offered at different proficiency levels.

Beginners’ courses (MEAS 1a and MEAS 1b):

Students with a background in economics, law, political science or another social science, history or anthropology concentrate on acquiring East Asian language skills on a beginners’ level. Courses offered on a regular basis are Chinese, Japanese, and Indonesian as well as Korean (in German only).¹ Students with a degree in Social Sciences who already possess advanced knowledge of an Asian language may join the advanced language courses.

Advanced courses (MEAS 1c):

Students with a BA in Cultural Studies with advanced knowledge of an East Asian language continue to learn the language of their choice at an advanced level. Courses offered on a regular basis are Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Indonesian. All our advanced language courses require a high proficiency in the target language. You should be able to master the following language level to actively participate in the advanced classes: Chinese HSK 4, 260 points; Japanese JLPT N3; Korean TOPIK level 3; or Indonesian 200 hours of language instruction at the university level. Students with a BA in Cultural Studies who already reached this high proficiency may choose a new East Asian language within the MEAS programme at the beginners’ level. Individual options to attend additional courses on the advanced level might be discussed.

¹ For the time being, Korean beginners’ courses at the department of Korean studies are taught in German only.

Module Structure:

Beginners' courses (MEAS 1a, MEAS 1b): With the exception of Chinese, each semester course corresponds to one module and ends with a module exam or partial module exams (see the study regulations for module descriptions), normally a combination of written and oral exam. Beginner's courses are more time intensive (6 - 10 hours per week, depending on the language) than courses at an advanced level, so that they earn 12 CP per semester.

Advanced courses (MEAS 1c): Each semester's course (or courses, 2 - 4 hours a week, depending on the language and the specific course design) forms a module part (6 CP) and ends with a module part exam, normally a combination of written and oral exam. The winter and summer courses are combined to one complete module (12 CP). That is, you have one module stretching over one year.

Please note, at both beginners' and advanced level you must have completed the winter programme to be allowed to attend the summer course.

Moreover, the majority of our language courses are not offered by the MEAS programme but opened for our students by the departments for East Asian languages and cultures. Those of you who have opted for Chinese, Korean (in German), or Indonesian at beginners' level will attend the courses which the departments for Chinese Studies, Korean Studies, and Southeast Asian Studies offer primarily to their own BA students. That is, most of your fellow students in these courses have just graduated from school, but we have not yet heard of generation clashes between MEAS and other students. MEAS students who learn Indonesian at an advanced level attend the course provided by the MA programme of the Southeast Asia department. Advanced Korean and Chinese learners join the language courses offered during the third and fourth year of the respective BA programmes of the departments for Chinese Studies and Korean Studies. Finally, as far as Japanese is concerned, the MEAS programme offers its own language course at the beginners' and advanced levels.

You will notice that the modular structure of the language programmes provided by these departments sometimes differs from the MEAS modules in that, *e.g.*, a full module according to the MEAS structure is regarded as a module part there, and vice versa. This should not be a matter of concern for you, however, as the examination office receives your grades directly from the language instructors and adapts them to the modular structure of the MEAS programme.

B. Core Lecture (MEAS 2)

The core lectures form the backbone of the master programme. During the core lectures, students learn to apply concepts, theories and methods of social scientific disciplines to East Asia. They can choose two out of four lectures covering economics, law, political science and history. There will be one to two core lectures per semester, such as: "Institutions and innovations" by Prof. Storz; "Law in East Asia" by Prof. Bälz; "State and Society in Greater China" by Prof. Holbig; and "Transformations in China since 1800" by Prof. Amelung. Your choice should reflect your disciplinary and regional focus within your MEAS studies.

Module Structure:

Students have to attend two different core lectures to complete the module. Each core lecture ends with a “module part exam” which normally takes the form of a written exam.

Please note that you do not have to take the core lectures in two consecutive semesters but may wait until your favorite is on the schedule. We make sure that all four lectures are offered within your 4 semesters of study. Our current schedule reads:

WiSe 21/22	SoSe 22	WiSe 22/23	SoSe 23	WiSe 23/24	SoSe 24	WiSe 24/25	SoSe 25	WiSe 25/26	SoSe 26
Holbig	Storz								
Bälz			Amelung	Bälz			Amelung	Bälz	

Abbreviations: SoSe = summer semester; WiSe = winter semester

Please pay attention to potential changes in this schedule due to the periodic research leave of the respective professors.

C. Electives (MEAS 4a, MEAS 4b)

During the entire MEAS Programme, students can choose among various elective courses on empirical phenomena encountered in East Asian countries. This broad variety regarding topics, disciplines and regional perspectives is made possible through cooperation with the departments for East Asian languages and cultures, and the faculties of law, economics, and political sciences. Thus, you do not only find electives specially *offered for* MEAS students but also those *opened to* MEAS students (these are the so-called “import modules”). Here you will meet and mingle with students from the respective departments and faculties. The variety of electives allows you to specialize in a certain area of interest and to build up your study profile reflected in the choice of core lectures.

Depending on your study background, you will attend one to two elective modules in the first year. In comparison to students with a BA in Social Sciences, those with a BA in Cultural Sciences spend less hours in language courses and will attend two more elective seminars. Some electives are organized as “block seminars”, others are held as regular weekly seminars (normally 2 hours per week).

Module Structure:

Each elective seminar earns you 6 CP, while the elective module (MEAS 4a) comprises of two seminars. The main form of examination in the electives part of the programme is term papers, and each paper forms a “module part exam”. Students choosing the Research Track in the third semester will additionally attend an elective module (MEAS 4b). While all elective seminars in MEAS 4a have to be related to East Asia, elective seminars in MEAS 4b do not necessarily have to be so.

D. Research Skills (MEAS 3a, MEAS 3b)

The Research Skills module (MEAS 3a) aims to prepare students for their master thesis. It contains the Young Scholars Forum (YSF) and Skills & Competences (S&C) seminars, which teach how to do research and what is important in academic work.

Young Scholar Forum

This is a paper reading colloquium, which focuses on current research regarding economic, legal and social scientific developments in East Asia. Through interdisciplinary group work, students reflect research trends and paradigms, research methods, and theories.

Skills & Competences

These seminars provide students with the opportunity to deepen their skills in a particular area of interest by attending advanced courses on quantitative or qualitative methods used in the social sciences. It also includes courses on academic writing and the academic specifics of East Asian languages.

Module Structure

Attending the Young Scholars Forum will gain you 4 CP, while the Skills & Competences seminar will be completed with 6 CP and a module exam, *i.e.* a seminar paper. Please note that the Young Scholars Forum is only offered during the winter semester. Students choosing the Research Track in the third semester will complete an additional Research Skills module of the same structure (MEAS 3b).

4. Study Tracks

In the third semester, the programme opens the opportunity for further specialization in one of three different tracks. Please note: They require students to plan ahead as early as possible, at the latest in the second semester. For more information on the Study Tracks, students enrolled in the MEAS programme can access the “MEAS General Information” course on OLAT.

Please note that the denomination of two tracks changed: for students who started their studies by 2020, MEAS 5 is the Professional Track and MEAS 7 is the Research Track. The content and structure of the two tracks remains the same.

Research Track (MEAS 3b, MEAS 4b, MEAS 5)

Students choosing the Research Track concentrate on empirical research. This specialization requires them to additionally attend seminars within the Elective (MEAS 4b) and Research Skills (MEAS 3b) modules (see above). Moreover, they attend the Research Training module, which consists of two parts:

In “Scientific Lectures” (see module description MEAS 5.1), students gain insights into the newest research topics in East Asia related fields. They attend conferences, workshops and/or talks at the Interdisciplinary Centre for East Asian Studies (IZO), but can also participate in similar academic events outside of Frankfurt. You can choose freely, but your presence has to be confirmed by a university professor – by signature on the “Scientific Lecture” form (see OLAT course “MEAS General Information”). Moreover, you have to submit a short report to the MEAS coordinator to reflect the content of the talks. All in all, the module is completed by attending 8 lectures which can be distributed over the four semesters of your studies.

Additionally, students are introduced to independent research by means of their own “Empirical Project” (MEAS 5.2). Here, you dig in a self-selected social science subject, apply methods, theories, concepts and work techniques learned in other courses. Talk to one of the MEAS professors to make sure your project makes sense and is feasible. As a result, you may either write a proper research proposal with a detailed research design. Alternatively, if you are able to conduct the research in

the given time, you may also write a research report including your analysis and findings. Please note: the topic of this project cannot be identical to the master thesis. However, the master thesis may build on the empirical project and continue the work previously done.

Language Track (MEAS 6)

Students refine their language abilities in the respective East Asian country and enhance their communicative skills for a later career and research activities. According to their language focus in the MEAS programme, they enroll in a university in the Sinophone world (mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, or Macao), Japan, South Korea, or Indonesia. Beginners and advanced students will attend different courses and in accordance with their respective language level. The module Language Study in Asia is completed with a standardized language test in the chosen language:

Students of the MEAS language courses for beginners have to pass either HSK 4, JLPT N4, TOPIK 2, or Indonesian at level B1 (GER). Students of the MEAS advanced language classes have to pass either HSK 5 with at least 230 points, JLPT N2, TOPIK 4 with at least 170 points, or Indonesian at level B2 (GER). HSK, JLPT and TOPIK are standardized examinations which are carried out at fixed dates in many cities of the respective destination country as well as in Germany. Thus, if you fail the exam during your semester abroad, you can still repeat it later in Frankfurt.

Students will organize their stay abroad themselves. Respective information is provided in our study track guidelines and by the MEAS coordinator. Before going abroad, students should inform the MEAS coordinator and make sure the respective language courses can be accepted for the module.

Professional Track (MEAS 7)

Students reflect and extend their academic know-how in an East Asia related professional environment via internship. The internship should take place in NGOs, international organizations, or private companies, *etc.* related to Japan, China, Korea or Indonesia. All in all, it has to cover 20 weeks of fulltime work but can be divided into several shorter or half-time internships. These can take place during the semester or the semester break.

The internship module is completed with a comprehensive internship report and an internship colloquium. The former refers to the professional content of the internship, practical merits, and the relation to academic knowledge and education. This internship report has to be submitted to the MEAS coordinator and to be presented at the internship colloquium. The colloquium will take place after all internships are completed and scheduled accordingly.

Students are required to secure an internship by themselves. Respective information is provided in our study track guidelines. Before starting the internship, students should inform the MEAS coordinator and make sure the respective internship can be accepted within the programme. Afterwards, they submit a certificate of the internship institution confirming its content and working hours.

Studying Abroad (besides the Language Track)

If students plan ahead very well, they can also manage to combine the Research or the Practical Track with studying abroad without extending the overall study period of 4 semesters. By way of example: in the second semester, students could take the required language courses and up to three

Elective seminars at a university in East Asia. For the third semester, they then return to Goethe University to concentrate on the Research Track. Please note that this requires students' early planning, preferably during the application phase.

5. Registration for Courses and Exams

Registration for course attendance

We do not have a uniform regulation of course attendance registration. Some lecturers require registration via Email or QIS/LSF (a computer platform), others just wait and see how many students will show up to attend their first lecture. Our QIS server, which you can use after you have received your university account by the Student Service Center, lists all lectures that will be offered during the semester. You can find individual lectures easily by entering the name of the respective lecturer under "search for persons". Under "courses", you find a list of lectures offered by that particular lecturer during the semester, and if you click on the corresponding lecture, you can find out whether he/she requires attendance registration, with the corresponding instructions. Since some of this information is in German, Ms. Kiradjieva will send you all necessary information on the semester's schedule and registration requirements via email. The information will also be uploaded to the OLAT learning platform ("MEAS General Information" course: <https://olat-ce.server.uni-frankfurt.de/olat/auth/RepositoryEntry/9270460493?2>) that you can access upon receiving your access data for your HRZ account.

Registration for exams

Step one: Register at the Examination Office

All module/partial module exams in the MEAS programme are calculated in the final grade, they are all part of your master exam. Therefore, you have to first register at the Examination Office, which means opening something like an "examination account" where all your exams can be duly recorded. To get registered, you have to fill out the following form and send it to Ms. Marx, head of the examination office (Marx@em.uni-frankfurt.de):

<https://www.pgks.de/faecher/modern-east-asian-studies-meas-master-ab-ws-2018-19>
(scroll down to downloads to find the "Application For Master's Exam Admission" form).

Please note that you can only register for individual exams (see below) **after** you have applied for admission to the master exam. Our colleagues from the examination office would also appreciate it very much if you register by the end of November, and not in the very last minute.

Step two: Register for individual exams

Registration for exams is regulated. In most cases, you have to register via QIS/LSF. For details, please see the examination office's webpage <https://www.pgks.de/faecher/modern-east-asian-studies-meas-master-ab-ws-2018-19> and click "Information on registering Exams via QIS/LSF".

In general, after you have registered for an exam, you have until one week before the deadline to rethink your decision and, if you change your mind, to withdraw your registration.

Please note that once you are finally registered (*i.e.* after the expiration of the deadline for withdrawal) you have to participate in the exam – absence during the exam or non-submission of the term paper will earn you the grade “failed”.

6. Taking Courses outside of the MEAS Curriculum

Under certain conditions, it is possible to take courses outside of the MEAS curriculum – at the cooperating faculties or similar study programmes at other universities. However, they have to be equivalent to the courses offered in the MEAS programme regarding content and workload. The MEAS module supervisor decides whether this is the case. You find the person in charge in the list of module supervisors in the “MEAS General Information” course on OLAT.

Recognition of courses outside of the MEAS curriculum is not possible for the Young Scholars Forum (YSF), but mainly refers to elective and S&C seminars. Please note that only seminars with an East Asia focus can be recognized as elective seminars in the module MEAS 4a. **Only within the framework of the module MEAS 4b, which is part of the Research Track, can courses without an East Asia focus be recognized as elective seminars.**

The department of economics generally opens the following courses for MEAS students, you do not have to ask for recognition for these courses. Please note that no other courses offered by the department are eligible for recognition within the MEAS programme:

Skills & Competences (MEAS 3a, MEAS 3b):

- Fundamentals of Econometrics (FECO)

Elective Seminar within the Research Track only (MEAS 4b module):

- Advanced Management (ADMA)
- Corporate Development Strategies (CODE)
- Compensation and Benefits (CBEN)
- Strategic Market Management (SMMA)
- Multinational Enterprises – Theories and Strategies (METS)

When asking for recognition of a course, please provide the following information to the module supervisor via email:

- course title;
- professor, faculty and university offering the course;
- course date and time (including semester, hours per week);
- course description, topic schedule, literature list;
- course requirements (presentation, seminar paper etc.);
- fulfilled course requirements *i.e.* the PPT, the term paper as documents.

Please note:

- When planning to attend a seminar outside the MEAS curriculum, we strongly recommend to contact the module supervisor before enrolling in the course and ask whether the recognition of this course is possible.

- While all our professors are proficient in at least one Asian language, we recommend to give all information in English.
- Courses can never be counted double – within the MEAS and in another study programme of yours at the same time.

7. FAQ

The programme offers more courses than I need to complete the Elective or Research Skills modules. Can I take more exams than designed within the study schedule and assign afterwards only those to the respective modules in which I have acquired the best grades?

That is not possible, the seminars completed first count.

What happens if I become sick and cannot take part in an exam / submit my paper in time?

According to our study regulations, proof of illness must be furnished immediately to the lecturer and/or the examination office (at latest three working days after absence/failure to submit the term paper).

What happens if I am absent during the first exam or if I do not submit my term paper upon expiration of the first deadline without valid excuse?

The exam or term paper will be graded as “failed” and you will have a second chance to participate in the repeat exam or to submit your paper upon expiration of the second deadline. Such “failed” grades will not negatively impact on your final grade because only the grades of the passed exams will be counted. The “failed” marks will, however, appear in your final transcripts. Most universities in Germany proceed this way. That is, potential employers should be able to interpret your transcripts correctly.

How many times am I allowed to repeat an exam?

Please note: some seminars and language courses are offered by cooperating departments and opened to MEAS students. In that case, the examinations are processed according to the study regulations of the respective department or study programme (for example MA Sinology, MA Political Sciences, *etc.*).

Regarding courses offered by the MEAS study programme only, you have a total of three attempts to pass a module (part) exam. However, you have only two attempts per semester as the individual seminars usually offer a first and a second deadline to submit your work. If you fail the first repeat exam, you either have to wait until the same lecture is offered again in another semester (that applies to the Core lecture, language courses, some Skills & Competences seminars). Or you attend another seminar which can be assigned to the same module, and take the exam there (this is possible with regard to some Skills & Competences seminars, Electives, YSF).

What happens if I fail upon third attempt?

That would be the worst case, as the whole corresponding module would be regarded as “failed” and you would have to leave the MEAS programme. Please try to avoid this situation.