

Mitteilungsblatt – Sondernummer der Paris Lodron-Universität Salzburg

81. Curriculum for the Master's Degree Program in Philosophy Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences taught in English at the University of Salzburg (Version 2016)

Curriculum 2016

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In its session on 08.03.2016, the Senate of the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg formally approved the curriculum for the master's degree program in Philosophy (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences) in the following version, which had been finalized by the Philosophy Department (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences) curriculum committee at its meeting on 10.02.2016.

The legal basis for the curriculum is the 2002 Federal Act on the Organisation of Universities and their Studies (Universities Act 2002 – UG), Federal Law Gazette No. 120/2002, and the section of the Statutes of the University of Salzburg pertaining to university studies.

§ 1 General Provisions

- (1) The number of ECTS points necessary to complete a degree in the master's program in Philosophy (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences) is 120. This corresponds to four semesters of study.
- (2) Graduates of the master's program in Philosophy (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences) will hold a Master of Arts degree (abbreviated MA).
- (3) In order to be admitted to the master's programme in [Name of Programme], students must hold a bachelor's degree in an equivalent or related field from an accredited Austrian or foreign institute of higher education (cf. UG2002 §64 para. 5).
- (4) If a student's bachelor's degree is not deemed equivalent to an acceptable extent, the student may be required to complete additional work worth up to 45 ECTS points; these requirements must be satisfied by the end of the master's programme. Only the Rectorate or a member of staff at the University of Salzburg designated by the Rectorate is authorised to make a determination of equivalency.
- (5) All graduation requirements to be fulfilled by students have been assigned ECTS points. One ECTS point equals 25 hours of study, which corresponds to the average number of hours required to achieve the expected learning objectives. An academic year consists of 1500 hours, corresponding to 60 ECTS points.
- (6) Students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses will not be subject to any form of discrimination in their studies. The University is committed to the basic principles laid out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Austrian non-discrimination laws as well as the policy of positive action.
- (7) The program is taught entirely in English. Classes in German may be taken as elective courses if they are offered as Master courses equivalent to the courses taught in English.
- (8) The number of students admitted in this program will be limited. A qualitative assessment procedure will be implemented to select students with the highest qualification for this program.

§ 2 Overview of the degree program and professional skills

(1) Overview of the degree program

The master's program in Philosophy serves to deepen the scientific education begun in a corresponding bachelor program. It brings the student up to the latest developments in theoretical philosophy, practical philosophy, and logic and philosophy of science, and encourages the student to develop a specialization within one of these areas.

(2) Professional skills and competences (Learning Outcomes)

The master's program serves to further develop the competencies that the student has already begun to develop in the context of the preceding bachelor program. The specific qualifications profile is based on a competence model comprising the following core competencies:

- area-specific competencies in drawing philosophical conclusions: getting to know all relevant standpoints within a given area, and then developing one's own standpoint within a contemporary philosophical debate.
- advanced competence in constructing arguments: knowledge of all methodological assumptions in order to take part in contemporary philosophical debates.
- area-specific competence in ethical, social and political judgment formation: exact understanding of the normatively relevant aspects of ethical, social and political problems.
- competence in integrating and communicating facts and ideas that transcend one's specialized training: focused but interdisciplinary analysis of problems within a particular topic through the integration of relevant facts and theories from other disciplines.

The master's program is so designed that the student can acquire these competencies to a level corresponding to level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework. That means that graduates of the master's program will have an area-specific, highly developed understanding of a problem that lays the groundwork for innovative approaches in research. They will possess a critical awareness of theoretical questions that will enable them to deepen their understanding in any area of philosophy. They will have the cognitive and practical abilities necessary to planning, structuring and completing research projects. Students who chose an interdisciplinary topic for their master's thesis will in addition possess the ability to integrate theories from various fields and to bind their philosophical questions to other sciences.

(3) Importance and relevance of the degree for society, the scientific community and the labor market

The study of philosophy, like the study of other subjects, such as mathematics, history or physics, does directly lead to the entry into a specific profession. An exact definition of the typical subsequent career of a graduate in philosophy is therefore not possible. However past experience and the present situation indicate that graduates are mainly active in the following areas: scientific and cultural management, ethical and political consultation, business consulting, information technology, environmental protection, adult education, publication, media, libraries and archives. Recipients of master's degrees who aspire to careers in academe may undertake doctoral studies in philosophy.

The competence in argumentation, judgment formation and ethical orientation that study at the master's level produces are much in demand in the contemporary labor market. Furthermore, there are certain niches in the labor market that certain specializations in philosophy especially prepare students to fill. For instance, a specialization in ethics can prepare a student for a career in ethical counseling, and a specialization in philosophy of science can prepare a student for a career in scientific consulting. It should also be mentioned that study at the master's level serves very well to confer the independence of mind that is a significant advantage in dealing with the complex challenges that many careers present. For all these reasons, the professional world offers a wide variety of opportunities for applying the knowledge and skills acquired in the course of study of philosophy at the master's level.

Furthermore, the study in philosophy at the master's level can be an important contribution to a well-rounded education in other areas, and can constitute a useful complement to an academic career in the social sciences and natural sciences, as well as in other areas of the humanities.

§ 3 Structure of the program

The master's program in Philosophy (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences) comprises 3 modules with a total number of 60 ECTS points. In addition, there are 24 ECTS points assigned for elective courses. The master's thesis is worth 30 ECTS points, and the commissional Master's exam is worth 6 ECTS points.

	ECTS
Module 1 Seminars	24
Module 2 Colloquium seminars and master's seminars	12
Module 3 Focus module	24
Free electives	24
Master's thesis	30
Master's exam	6
Total	120

§ 4 Course types

The program contains the following course types:

Lecture courses (VO) provide an overview of an area or subarea as well as the theoretical approaches to it, and presents various points of view and methods. The content is communicated primarily in lecture format. A lecture course does not carry mandatory attendance.

Lectures with exercises (VU) bind a theoretical introduction in a subarea with the communication of practical skills. Lectures with exercises carry no mandatory attendance.

Exercises with lectures (UV) bind a theoretical introduction in a subarea with the communication of practical skills, whereby the emphasis on skills predominates. Exercises with lectures carry mandatory attendance.

Seminar (SE) are courses that lead deeper into a single subject matter. They serve the acquisition of a deeper specialized knowledge and the capacity for discussion and reflection on scientific themes, in the context of collaborative learning on the part of the student. Seminars carry mandatory attendance.

§ 5 Required courses and plan of study

The following contains a list of modules and courses in the master's program in Philosophy (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences). The division into semesters serves as a recommendation designed to ensure that the order in which the courses are taken builds on knowledge acquired successively and that the workload of 60 ECTS points in an academic year is not exceeded. If there are no prerequisites, modules and courses can however be taken in a different order in accordance with § 12.

Detailed descriptions of the modules including the knowledge, methods and skills to be acquired can be found in Annex: Module descriptions:

Master's Program in Philosophy (Cultural and Social Sciences Faculty)								
Module	Courses	SSt.	Type	ECTS	Semester with ECTS			
					I	II	III	IV
(1) Compulsory Modules								
Module 1 Seminars								
Research seminar: [subtitle], plus 3 further seminars in 3 of the following 5 areas: (1) theoretical philosophy, (2) practical philosophy, (3) logic, (4) philosophy of science, (5) history of philosophy	2	SE	6	6				
	2	SE	6	6				
	2	SE	6		6			
	2	SE	6			6		
Subtotal for Module 1		8		24	12	12		

Module 2 Colloquium and Master's seminars							
Colloquium or Master's Seminar 1	1	SE	3	3			
Colloquium or Master's Seminar 2	1	SE	3		3		
Colloquium or Master's Seminar 3	1	SE	3			3	
Colloquium or Master's Seminar 4	1	SE	3				3
Subtotal for Module 2	4		12	3	3	3	3
Total for Compulsory Modules	12		36	15	15	3	3
(2) Elective Module							
Module 3 Focus Module: Courses may be chosen from any of the courses offered by the Philosophy Department (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences) in any area of philosophy that have been approved for use in this module.							
VO, VU, UV or SE, among them at least 2 seminars	max. 10	VOV U UV/S E	24		24		
Subtotal for the Elective Module	10		24	4	8	6	6
(3) Free Electives (in Philosophy or in other departments)			24	12	6	6	
(4) Master's thesis			30			15	15
(5) Master's examination			6				6
Sum total							
	30		120	60		60	

§ 6 Elective courses

- (1) In the master's program in Philosophy (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences), students are to complete free elective courses totaling 24 ECTS points. These elective courses are designed to further the acquisition of additional professional skills and strengthen individual areas of focus within a student's course of study. They can be completed through any courses at the University of Salzburg (including the courses in Philosophy) and at any accredited postsecondary institution.
- (2) Should the courses chosen as electives for 24 ECTS points have a demonstrable connection to this master's program, the electives can constitute a supplementary certificate in a specific area (*Wahlfachmodul* or *Studienergänzung*), which is recorded on the master's degree certificate.
- (3) The curriculum gives students a great deal of flexibility to pursue interdisciplinary interests. The following areas are particularly well suited for interdisciplinary work in philosophy: biology, computer science, gender studies, linguistics, literature, mathematics, psychology, physics, political science, sociology, and economics. Most other disciplines can be combined with philosophy as well.

§ 7 Master's thesis

- (1) The master's thesis serves to demonstrate that students have acquired the ability to perform independent academic research in any of the following areas according to current academic research methods and standards: theoretical philosophy, practical philosophy, or logic and philosophy of science.
- (2) The Master's thesis in this program is to be written in English.
- (3) The topic of the master's thesis should be chosen in such a way that it is reasonable and appropriate for completion of the thesis within six months (cf. UG2002 §81 para. 2).

- (4) The topic of the master's thesis must be taken from a module in the master's curriculum. The student may suggest a topic or choose from a number of topics provided by one of the available thesis advisors.
- (5) It is to be noted that both the student's work on the topic and advisor's work with the student are governed by Austrian copyright law, Federal Law Gazette No. 111/1936 (cf. UG2002 §80 para. 2).

§ 8 Study abroad

Students in the master's program in Philosophy (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences) are encouraged to spend a semester of study abroad. This semester abroad should ideally be scheduled in the second or third semester of study. Course transfers for the courses completed at the university abroad will be granted by the responsible body. Documents needed for the assessment of transfer courses are to be provided by the student.

Steps will be taken to ensure that the semester abroad can be completed without causing a delay in a student's course of study when the following conditions are met:

- at least 30 ECTS credits are earned in each semester of study abroad
- the content of the courses completed during the period of study abroad is not identical to courses already completed at the University of Salzburg
- confirmation by formal notification in writing before beginning the study abroad period of which courses and/or exams planned to be taken abroad are transferable to the University of Salzburg

In addition to field-specific knowledge and skills, students stand to gain the following qualifications by studying abroad:

- acquisition and consolidation of field-specific knowledge in a foreign language
- acquisition and consolidation of general foreign-language skills (comprehension, conversation, etc.)
- acquisition and consolidation of organisational skills gained by independently navigating the bureaucracy and organisational structure of a university abroad as well as daily challenges of student life abroad
- becoming acquainted with international student exchange programs and broadening one's perspectives in one's own field of study
- acquisition and consolidation of intercultural communication skills

Students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses will be assisted in their search for a study abroad opportunity and in planning for their semester abroad by the Office of the Rectorate for Disability & Diversity.

§ 9 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

- (1) The maximum number of participants in the master's program in Philosophy (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences) for the following course types is limited as follows:

Lectures (VO)	no limit
Lectures with exercises (VU)	no limit
Exercises with lectures (UV)	30
Seminars	20

- (2) In instances in which courses with a restricted number of participants are oversubscribed, priority of enrolment will be given to students for whom the course is part of the curriculum.

(3) Students in the master's program in Philosophy (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences) will be given places in courses based on the total number of ECTS credits they have earned in the program so far. If multiple students registering for a particular course have earned the same number of ECTS credits, the available places in this course will be allocated based on the following criteria in the order listed below:

- a student was on the waiting list in the course in the previous academic year
- a student has completed a greater number of courses and/or exams
- a student has completed a greater number of semesters in the program of study
- random selection

Available places will be allocated to students from other programs using the same criteria in the same order.

(4) For students participating in international exchange programs, additional places constituting at least ten percent of the maximum number of participants in each course will be made available. These places will be allocated randomly.

§ 10 Examination regulations

(1) Courses will be graded by the instructor. A module counts as completed when the required number, with the required variety, have been completed. The evaluation of the whole module is determined on the basis of the grades for the courses that compose it. It is calculated in accordance with the number of credits assigned to the course (see Satzung der Universität Salzburg, I. Teil: Studienrecht § 19 (3)). The final grade for each module will be recorded in the certificate of completion of the master's exam.

(2) The master's program is considered finished when

- (a) all modules (M1, M2 and M3) have been successfully completed.
- (b) the master's thesis has been accepted, and
- (c) the commissional master's exam (see §12) has been passed.

§ 11 Master's examination [before examining committee]

(1) The master's program in Philosophy (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences) concludes with a master's examination before an examining committee. It carries 6 ECTS points.

(2) Students must have successfully completed all of the required courses and the master's thesis in order to be eligible to take the master's examination.

(3) The master's examination covers two different areas of philosophy. One of these will be the one to which the master's thesis belongs; the other area can be freely chosen by the candidate.

§ 12 Effective date

The curriculum comes into force 1 October, 2016.

Appendix: Module Descriptions

Module description	Module 1 Seminars
Module code	M1
Total workload	24 ECTS Points
Learning outcomes	Through the completion of this module, students will, in each of the three main areas of philosophy, have examined all relevant standpoints on a particular philosophy in that area and will have developed their own standpoint on it. (area-specific competence in forming judgments)
Module content	The content consists in the content of the chosen courses and thus offers a look into current debates in contemporary philosophy.
Courses	The courses are seminars chosen from the ongoing offerings of the Philosophy Department (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences).
Type of exam	One or more written essays in each course.

Module description	Module 2 Colloquium and Master's Seminars
Module code	M2
Total workload	12 ECTS Points
Learning outcomes	Completion of the colloquium seminar enables the student to understand professional presentations in philosophy outside of his or her area of focus, as demonstrated in the ability to summarize the presentation and the audience discussion that follows (area-specific competence in argumentation, areas specific competence in ethical, social and political judgment). Completion of the master's seminar enables the student to present his or her own research verbally, and to defend it in discussion (area-specific competence in argumentation). Insofar as a interdisciplinary theme has been chosen, students are enabled to produce focused analyses of interdisciplinary problems in a specialized area, taking account of all theoretically relevant aspects of the problems (competence in cooperation, integration and communication in area-transcending as well as area-specific ways).
Module content	The content of the colloquium seminar consists in the lectures that are given in the context of the department's colloquium series (mostly by speakers invited from outside the university). The content of the master's seminar consists in the presentations made by the students who are enrolled in the course.
Courses	The colloquium seminar consists mainly of the lectures in the department's colloquium series. The master's seminar may be offered in block form.
Type of exam	Oral contributions (presentations, contributions to discussion); written contributions (summaries of presentations, handouts).

Module description	Module 3 Focus module
Module code	M3
Total workload	24 ECTS Points
Learning outcomes	Through completion of this module, students will acquire an area-specific, highly specialized knowledge that will serve as a basis for innovative ideas and original research. They will possess a critical consciousness of research questions that enables them to pursue their own interests in philosophy. They will possess the cognitive and practical abilities that will allow them to plan and carry out their own research plans. They will be in a position to complete a master's thesis in accordance with level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (EQF).
Module content	The content of the module consists in the content of the courses chosen, but they are to be chosen in such a way as to offer a focused study of current debates in contemporary philosophy.
Courses	The courses can be of the types VO, VU, UV or SE, and will be chosen from the ongoing offerings of the Philosophy Department (Faculty of Cultural and Social Sciences).

Type of exam	Performance in lecture courses (VO) will be evaluated on the basis of individual written exams. In courses with mandatory attendance, performance will be evaluated on the basis of ongoing participation and short writing assignments. In seminars, performance will be evaluated in addition on the basis of a final seminar essay.
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Impressum

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O.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Heinrich Schmidinger
Redaktion: Johann Leitner
alle: Kapitelgasse 4-6
A-5020 Salzburg