**MASTER OF ARTS**

**ANTHROPOLOGY**

**2016**

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Photographs: Marah Brenneman and Kathi Ludwig. We thank Marah Brenneman for conducting the interviews with MA Anthropology students. The title picture shows a wall painting by Michael Fischer-Art.
The Masters of Arts in Anthropology offered at the University of Leipzig is designed as a two year study program.

**FIRST SEMESTER**

In the first semester students will take “Current Debates in Anthropology” (03-ETH-2011) and “Culture and Technology” (03-ETH-2012). The aim is to advance critical reading skills, build a culture of discussion among the new cohort of MA students and create a common knowledge base among students from different countries and disciplines. The writing workshop as part of “Current Debates” will train students in advanced essay writing skills in the style of a journal article. Students additionally select one elective course.

You will find details about electives on page 2 and detailed descriptions of the modules on page 5.

**SECOND SEMESTER**

The second semester focuses specifically on methodology training and practical skills. The two core courses are “Advanced Methods in Research” (03-ETH-2013) and “Anthropology and Communication” (03-ETH-2014). Students will debate issues of methodology, draft a master project and write a research proposal. “Anthropology and Communication” advances public communication skills through reflections on visual communication and/or work on a project, such as a museum workshop or a radio production. As in semester one, students will additionally select one elective course.

You will find details about electives on page 2 and descriptions of the modules on page 6.

**THIRD SEMESTER**

During the third semester students complete either “Field Research” (03-ETH-2017) or an “Internship” (03-ETH-2016). The choice to complete field research or an internship depends on the future goals of the student. For example, students seeking a career in academia might wish to train their practical skills by conducting independent field research, whereas students wishing to enter the workforce after their masters might prefer to complete an internship. The aim is to train students in the practical application of their acquired knowledge and to collect data for the Master’s Thesis. Each student will chose a supervisor. Regular communication can be organized via Email or Skype, or of course in person, depending on where the fieldwork takes place.

To fund your field research you can apply for a DAAD scholarship. This option will be discussed during the methods writing workshop in the second semester.

**FOURTH SEMESTER**

Students will write their Masters’ Theses during the fourth semester under the guidance of their supervisor. Detailed information on the procedures for the Master’s Thesis, such as registration and submission of the thesis, can be found here. An optional student-organized MA Colloquium takes place each semester to provide a space for current and incoming students to collaborate and discuss their research interests.
Elective courses aim to deepen regional expertise and specialization within the discipline and can be taken across all social sciences. Students can choose from Arabic Studies, African Studies, Oriental Studies, India/Tibet/Mongolian Studies, China Studies, Japan Studies and Global Studies at the University of Leipzig. Elective courses are also provided through the Institute of Anthropology in Halle (Saale).

One or two special elective courses are sometimes offered by the Institute of Anthropology in Leipzig. For example, an “Anthropology of Sound” workshop, a reading seminar on “Anthropology of the Body” and the “Museum on the Couch” workshop were offered in the Summer Semester 2016 and a special reading seminar on the “Anthropology of Genetics” will begin in the Winter Semester 2016/2017. A list of special elective courses is provided at the start of each semester.

Please note: Not all departments offer courses in the English language. Students seeking elective courses in the English language outside of the Institute of Anthropology might refer to the syllabi of MA African Studies and MA Global Studies.
RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

“Great nature: lakes and rivers (swimming, canoeing, sailing, windsurfing, etc.), and parks all around.”

“My experience is that you will feel more comfortable and welcome if you can speak some German, or at least show that you are making an effort.”

“The forest areas in Leipzig are great for hiking and cycling.”

“Relaxed atmosphere with lots to do, especially in the off-scene (non mainstream culture): theaters, cinemas, culture centers, concerts, festivals, reading circles, political activist groups and solidarity projects for collective consume (food, clothes, repair cafes, etc.).”

GERMAN LANGUAGE ENVIRONMENT

“If you don’t speak German, you can get by with speaking English, but I would recommend taking advantage of the free German courses at the University.”

“My experience is that you will feel more comfortable and welcome if you can speak some German, or at least show that you are making an effort.”
HOUSING AND COST OF LIVING

“I would recommend living in the East (Reudnitz, Neustadt-Neuschönefeld, and some parts of Volkmarshof) and the West (in areas like Plagwitz and Lindenau).”

“Leipzig is relatively cheap compared to other German cities. [...] It is easy to find housing.”

“Generally recommendable quarters for students are Lindenau (Alt/Neu), Plagwitz, Reudnitz, Südvorstadt, Anger-Crottendorf, Neustadt.”

“One can live comfortably on 600-700 Euros per month (total living costs), but the estimate may vary slightly based on the individual.”

“Connewitz and Südvorstadt are safe and interesting places to live.”

“I would recommend living in the West. I love the atmosphere, but it’s not the cheapest. If you’re looking for the cheapest and more alternative, go to Connewitz or the East.”

FINANCIAL AID AND EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS

“Financial aid is available to students in Germany, but it is in high demand, so applying doesn’t necessarily guarantee funding.”

“Part-time jobs (Teilzeitarbeit) are occasionally available through the University. View the homepage of the Institute or inquire with university staff members.”

“It is really easy to find part-time employment for students, but finding something suitable might take a couple of months.”

“The interesting jobs are taken fast, so you will want to apply quickly!”
FORMAL DESCRIPTION OF MODULES

FIRST SEMESTER | WINTER TERM | 30 LP

Current Debates in Anthropology
03-ETH-2011 / Required / WS / 10 LP

The seminar deals with contemporary debates in anthropology. This is a split module, which includes a writing workshop and a seminar. In the seminar, students deepen their knowledge on core discussions in the discipline through the in-depth reading and discussion of current publications. The topics cover debates about nature/culture, global/local, current forms of capitalism, war/peace, body/race, materiality and legal pluralism. Students will present on a topic of choice in the form of an oral presentation. In the writing workshop students will analyze their BA work, develop core theses, and write a term paper in the form of a journal article.

Learning Outcome: deepening ethnological expertise - introduction to current debates - skills in critical analysis - advanced skills in academic techniques of reading and writing - ability for argumentative clarity and the appropriate processing and use of sources - skills to write a journal article - constructive criticism - converting feedback

Elective Course(s)
(Wahlpflicht) / WS / 10 LP

Select from regionally focused or specially offered elective courses. A list is provided at the beginning of each semester.

Culture and Technology
03-ETH-2012 / Required / WS / 10 LP

The module introduces students to current academic debates on the cultural relevance of technology. We will reflect on social dynamics in case studies from various countries, especially those of the global South. We discuss hopes and fears, which people associate with the introduction of new technologies, and consider specific social experiences in dealing with new techniques and technologies. How do new technologies influence social imaginations and the identity construction? How do notions of space and time change? Which new interfaces arise between technology, biology and culture/society (cyborg, "the virtual" versus "the real"). Relevant conceptual approaches are the Actor Network Theory and others from anthropology, media sociology, science and technology studies, etc. Students will write a term paper to conclude the module.

Learning Outcome: practice interdisciplinary communication based on debate on the topic of technology and culture - deepening the knowledge in the field of culture and technology - apply analytical concepts to everyday situations - skills in oral and written presentation - skills in the creative and critical analysis of knowledge - conceptualizing, researching and writing academic texts - understanding of cultural diversity – understanding of the relevance of the social context for technology

The seminar introduces students to current debates on anthropological research methods and trains their skills to develop a project, plan its implementation, select appropriate research methods and - if they wish - apply for funding for a field study. Students will reflect views of controversial discussions in the discipline in their own projects. Topics include: the writing culture debate, field research as dialogue, reflexive anthropology, multi-sited ethnography, media ethnography, gender and field research. Students work on their project designs. They reflect on their projects and discuss relevant literature and appropriate methods for their implementation. This exercise helps students write their project descriptions in the form of research proposals.

**Learning Outcome:** advanced knowledge of the discussion on research methods in the discipline - project development and implementation skills - skills in writing a research proposal - practice research techniques - practice the presentation of research results - reflection on ethics of research - assessment of the position of the researcher in the research context - teamwork

**Elective Course(s)**
(Wahlpflicht) / WS / 10 LP

Select from regionally focused or specially offered elective courses. A list is provided at the beginning of each semester.

The seminar deals with forms of public communication. Firstly, students analyze the content of films, other visual media or the internet. We will consider the way people relate to exhibitions or communicate about travel experiences and reflect on the role of these media in anthropology. Secondly, students will develop their own projects for public communication, e.g. in the form of an installation in the museum, redesign parts of the Institute’s website, develop information brochures for the general public, produce a radio program, etc. Students will reflect on their practical work in a written essay.

**Learning Outcome:** ability for critical analysis of public communication (Internet, Museum, Visual Media) - training in public communication - presentation skills - teamwork - ability for public communication
THIRD SEMESTER | WINTER TERM | 30 LP

Field Research
03-ETH-2017 / Wahlpflicht / WS / 30 LP

Individual research project under the guidance of a university staff member. Completing the research project concludes the field research.

Learning Outcome: acquisition of practical and substantive knowledge on the basis of individual or supervised on-site research. Students learn to plan and implement research independently.

OR

Internship
03-ETH-2016 / Wahlpflicht / WS / 30 LP

The internship will take place at an ethnographic museum, a relevant research institution (e.g. MPI Halle) or in the form of a study abroad semester. An activity and evaluation report will conclude the internship.

Learning Outcome: the internship is the practical application of the knowledge acquired during the studies, the expansion of professional qualifications and skills, as well as the improvement of key skills.

FOURTH SEMESTER | SUMMER TERM | 30 LP

Writing Master’s Thesis

The fourth and final semester is designated to writing the Master’s Thesis. It is not required that students reside in Leipzig during this period. However, the University provides a supportive research environment for students writing their master’s thesis. You will meet with your supervisor regularly and can attend a Master Colloquium (Monday 3pm) to discuss your work in progress and re-connect with other MA students. There are also regular guest lectures, conferences and workshops which you can attend for additional input.
**Colloquium**
In a weekly colloquium, students discuss the state of the art of their Master theses and receive peer feedback.

**Student Radio**
*Der Weltempfänger* is a self organised anthropological radio series. The workgroup meets every two weeks and produces anthropological radio contributions.

**Guest Lectures and Lecture Series**
All Institutes at the Faculty organize series of guest lectures on current topics in the field of Anthropology, Indology, African Studies, Globalization, Religious Studies, Postcolonial Studies. Flyers will alert you to current programs. You may check the homepage of the Institute of Anthropology, Institute of African Studies, Institute of Indology, SSP 1199 “Processes of Specialization under the Global Condition”.

Every summer term, the Institute of Anthropology organizes a lecture series together with the Institute of African Studies. In the past semesters we covered topics such as “Entrepreneurship”, “Urban Anthropology” or “Wellbeing”.
International Office (Akademisches Auslandsamt)
The International Office provides all the information you need for enrollment, registration, residence permits, setting up a German bank account, paying semester fees, German language courses, etc. Students should check-in at the international office upon arrival.

Akademisches Auslandsamt, Goethestraße 6, 04109 Leipzig
Phone: +49 341 97-32020,
https://www.zv.uni-leipzig.de/en/university/university internacional.html

Tip: Check their office hours and go in as early as possible!

Student Office (Studienbüro)
The study office is the central contact for all students in matters of personal study organization. Here you will find assistance for planning stays abroad and internships. The study mentor also advises on grants and funding opportunities and is in charge of AlmaWeb and Tool assistance.

Sebastian Hauck
Phone: +49 341 97-37216
Email: sebastian.hauck@uni-leipzig.de

Examination Office (Prüfungsamt)
Responsible for examination organization and compliance with the examination regulations, the audit committees and audit offices as well as the study offices of the faculties.

Benjamin Banik
Phone: +49 341 97-37053
Email: benbanik@rz.uni-leipzig.de

Student Union (Studentenwerk)
The Student Union provides a wide variety of resources for students including student counselling, financial aid assistance, information on student residence halls and other student facilities, semester tickets and international student support.

Studentenwerk Leipzig, Goethestraße 6, 04109 Leipzig
Phone: +49 341 96595
Email: info@studentenwerk-leipzig.de
https://www.studentenwerk-leipzig.de
The University of Leipzig uses two online course registration platforms. For basic information, see
http://www.zv.uni-leipzig.de/en/study/organising-your-studies/registering-for-modules.html

A click-by-click guide, FAQs for applicants and students as well as video help to AlmaWeb are
available here:
https://almaweb.uni-leipzig.de/

When courses are not offered through this platform, one should register manually using the form
on the homepage. It requires the signature of the lecturer of the course. Please submit the form to
the Sebastian Hauck at the Student Office.

RESEARCHES FOR MASTER’S STUDENTS

Recreation and Entertainment
http://english.leipzig.de/leisure-culture-and-tourism/sports-and-recreation/sports-venues/pools-
and-lakes/
http://eventful.com/leipzig/events/categories/outdoors_recreation

Student Housing and Employment
http://www.wg-gesucht.de/
https://www.ebay-kleinanzeigen.de/stadt/leipzig/
https://www.immobilien scout24.de/
https://www.studentenwerk-leipzig.de/
http://www.dsble.de/

Research Grants and Scholarships
https://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/de/
Also refer to the ‘Documents’ tab on the Institute’s website to view the Scholarship Guide for
International Students.