



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

Master of Arts

Social and Cultural Anthropology

*Understanding the diversity of human experience
and global entanglements*





Foto: Nasima Selim

Secure your spot in one of Germany's most innovative research-focused study programs in social and cultural anthropology and start your academic journey with us.

Social & cultural anthropology - understanding the world

The M.A. in social and cultural anthropology is a research-focused master's program which offers you an advanced orientation in socio-cultural anthropology and guides you through an ethnographic research project.

At the heart of the program is the **"guided research"** component, in which you develop independent research projects in close conversation with both teaching staff and the other students in your cohort.



Foto: Melina C. Kalfelis

Be part of a small student group and study at the University of Bayreuth which is well known for its focus on Africa in the humanities and arts.

Your benefits

Both in your research projects and in accompanying courses, you engage with enduring and contemporary questions in the field of anthropology and learn to use ethnography as a reflexive lens on a particular research problem. This gives you the perfect prerequisites for pursuing an academic career and a head start compared to others who only study the theoretical methods.

Furthermore, the University of Bayreuth is well known for its focus on Africa in the humanities and arts which will give you the unique opportunity to spice up your curriculum with activities that also benefit your studies.



Foto: Melina C. Kalfelis

Acquire skills to critically reflect on the world and your surroundings.

Studying at the cutting edge

Our program allows you to benefit from vast anthropological knowledge since the 5 chairs situated at our department focus on different research topics (e.g. activism and engagement, belonging and citizenship, bodies and intimacies, race and racism, gender and feminism, digital materialities, epistemologies of the Global South, global inequalities, infrastructures and technologies, heritage and authenticity, inequalities of care, lifeworlds in crisis, politics of kinship, etc.). Teaching will focus on recent debates in these fields.

Social and cultural anthropology in Bayreuth is also connected with the Cluster of Excellence "Africa Multiple" which is dedicated to reconfiguring African Studies through conceptual and structural interventions.

Program overview

Foundations	30*
Introduction to social and cultural theory, world anthropologies, and ethnographic methods.	
Contemporary Themes in Anthropology	16
Take any 2 courses from this module with the aim of situating your research interests in relation to current disciplinary concerns (e.g. <i>post- & decolonial anthropology, digitalization, multiple belongings and care</i> etc.)	
Guided Research Project	30
You plan and conduct your own project, analyze and reflect on your research data, and write a research report that serves as preparation for the in-depth theoretical analysis during the M.A. thesis.	
Elective Courses	12
<i>Take at least 2 courses.</i> Possible options are language courses or courses in neighboring study programs such as M.A. Development Studies, M.A. Global History etc.	
Anthropology Lecture Series	7
Central discussion forum for anthropologists in Bayreuth and a place for intellectual exchange about recent debates.	
Master Thesis and Colloquium	25
The M.A. thesis (20 credits) is based on empirical or theoretical research conducted during your guided research project. The colloquium offers an opportunity to present your results to your fellow students and your supervisor.	
Total	120

*ECTS Assessing students by using the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) supports the international comparability of student performances at European universities and other institutions of higher education.



Foto: Andi Weiland/gesellschaftsbilder.de

Your opinion counts - shape your study program.

Networking, communication, participation

Being a campus university, Bayreuth makes it easy to get in touch with students and teaching staff of other disciplines as well as to reach central institutions such as the university library, the canteen, administrative buildings, lecture halls, and classrooms.

The small student-teacher ratio ensures small class sizes and deeper engagement with peers and teaching staff. On top of that, students can actively participate in shaping the teaching program by giving feedback at the annual plenary or at the round table discussion every six months and by becoming a member of our student working group.



Set the basis for an exciting career.

SCA - lift your practical and intellectual skills to the next level

With thorough training in analytical and research skills, successful graduates are well prepared for academic positions in universities and research institutions as well as for a wide variety of non-academic careers, for instance:

- in the NGO sector
- in public and media relations
- in international organizations
- in cultural heritage institutions and museums
- in the tourism industry



Ready for your journey?

We are looking forward to meeting you! Our program starts every winter term. For more information on the application process as well as our requirements, please visit our website.

Interested in an academic career?

After successfully graduating in our program you can apply to the University of Bayreuth Graduate School or to the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS) to pursue your Ph.D.

Research conducted during your M.A. fieldwork can also be used as the basis for further Ph.D. studies.

Program coordinator

Dr. Barbara Polak

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Further information

www.ethnologie.uni-bayreuth.de

Student working group

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