Welcome, first-year students!

M.A. Political Science

Prof Dr Sven-Oliver Proksch, Academic Director
Dr Marian Feist, Programme Director

23 September 2021
M.A. in Political Science

- Academically diverse, offering you a high degree of flexibility
- International
- State-of-the-art research methods training
- Independent research project
- Guest lectures, speaker series, workshops
- Connect your studies with current research projects
The Department

- Over **100 years** of academic enquiry into politics at Cologne
- 6 professors, 2 emeriti, about **60 academic staff**, doctoral students, and affiliates
- Among the **top-ranked** departments in Germany
- Located on the **northern campus** at Aachener Weiher
- **Department library** with over 32,000 items
Faculty

Prof André Kaiser
Comparative Political Institutions

Prof Christine Trampusch
Comparative Political Economy

Prof Chitralekha Basu
Empirical Democratic Theory

Prof Thomas Jäger
International Relations

Prof Sven-Oliver Proksch
European and Multi-Level Politics

Prof Ingo Rohlfing
Political Science Methods

Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP)
Programme elements

Courses (lectures, seminars)

< Modules (usually one course per module)

(< Groups)

< Sections (Core, Specialisation, Supplementary)

< Programme (Master of Arts)
Programme elements

- Course 1
- Course 2
- Course 3
- Course 4
- Course 5
- Course 6

- Module A
- Module B
- Module C
- Module D

- Group I
- Group II

- Section
# Programme structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Section</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 ECTS</td>
<td>18 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose 3 (of 5) Introductory Lectures</td>
<td>Take 3 methods courses:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comp Parative Political Institutions</td>
<td>Research Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comp Parative Political Economy</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Democratic Theory and Practice</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Politics</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialisation Section</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose 2 Advanced Seminars and 2 Research Projects offered in the thematic areas</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>“Political Institutions and Representation” and “Comparative Political Economy and International Relations”</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Political Institutions and Representation</th>
<th>Comparative Political Economy and International Relations</th>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplementary Section</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select courses from adjacent areas at WSo and other faculties such as Economics, Economic Psychology, Data Analytics, or Sociology</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialisation Section</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present your MA Thesis project in a Research Seminar</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 ECTS</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Master Thesis
- Write your MA thesis in your Specialisation
- 30 ECTS
Core section (36 ECTS)

- Choose **three out of six core lectures (18 ECTS)**
  - Comparative Political Institutions
  - Comparative Political Economy
  - Democratic Theory and Practice
  - International Relations (seminars/some in German)
  - European Politics

- Take **three methods courses (18 ECTS)**
  - Research Design (offered in winter and summer)
  - Quantitative Methods (only winter)
  - Qualitative Methods (only summer)
Prof Chitralekha Basu

- Academic background in history, political theory, and empirical political science
- Research and teaching interests:
  1. Relationship between political elites, parties and public opinion; implications for function of elections in democracies
     - E.g., projects on (i) how issues emphasized by parties relate to public opinion; (ii) media effects on the economic vote
  2. Relationship between economic interests & political outcomes
     - E.g. projects on (i) relationship between inequality and democratization in Britain; (ii) the relationship between trade unions and political parties in Britain and the US
Prof Chitralekha Basu

Winter Term 2021/22:
- Democratic Theory and Practice
  - What does “democracy” mean, and why should we value it?
  - What institutions and social conditions are conducive to democracy?
  - Topics covered: (1) theories of democracy; (2) justifying democracy; (3) effects of democracy; (4) challenges to democracy

Summer Term 2022:
- Strategic Models of Democratic Politics
  - Introduce students to use of rational choice theory to study politics
  - Learn to solve and interpret simple mathematical models
  - Engage with debates on the use of rational choice models in political science
- Elections as Instruments of Democracy
  - When are elections more or less effective as “instruments of democracy”?
  - Topics covered: theories of representation; inequalities in representation; citizen competence; campaign and media effects on voter preferences and behaviour
Specialisation section (30 ECTS)

- Choose **two advanced seminars** (Special Topics, 12 ECTS)
  - One in *Political Institutions and Representation*
  - One in *Comparative Political Economy and International Relations*

- Choose **two research projects** (Applied Theories and Methods, 12 ECTS)
  - One in *Political Institutions and Representation*
  - One in *Comparative Political Economy and International Relations*

- Take the **research seminar** to present your MA thesis draft (6 ECTS)
Supplementary section (24 ECTS)

- **Either:** Choose **one group for 24 ECTS**
  - Economics for Social Science II [numerous elective options]
  - Languages and Cultures of the Islamic World I [German]
  - Studies Abroad II [for credit transfer]

- **Or:** Choose **two groups for 12 ECTS**
  - Economics for Social Science I [numerous elective options]
  - Economic Psychology
  - Economic Geography
  - Sociology
  - History [German]
  - Languages and Cultures of the Islamic World II [German]
  - Internship
  - Studies Abroad I [for credit transfer]
Degree thesis (30 ECTS)

- Centralised procedure for supervision allocation at beginning of third term (for all students in your cohort)
- One of the professors acts as supervisor and first examiner
- At least 60 ECTS required to start your thesis (after 3 semesters)
- About 60 pages in length
- Topic and title are agreed between you and your supervisor
- Present a draft in the research seminar
- Must be submitted within six months after registration
- Check chair’s guidelines
  e.g. CCCP master thesis guidelines: cccp.unikoeln.de/sites/cccp/Lehre/Master_Thesis_Guidelines_CCCP.pdf
Choosing courses and modules

- High **flexibility**, but you can complete each module only once
- **Sequence**
  - Recommended to take **core courses before specialisation courses**, but no fixed order.
  - All three **methods courses are introductory**.
  - Some **advanced courses may require Quantitative Methods**
  - Consult the module catalogue for a **recommended study plan and module cycles** (winter vs summer term).
- Think carefully before choosing a module. **Changing modules is only possible under certain conditions.**
# Courses in the 2021/2022 winter term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section/module</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
<th>In person/online</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Comparative Political Institutions</td>
<td>Düzgün Arslantas</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Democratic Theory and Practice</td>
<td>Chitralekha Basu</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>The Americas in the Time of Donald Trump [International Relations, seminar]</td>
<td>Marcus Klein</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Comparing European Democracies</td>
<td>Jens Wäckerle</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core: Methods</td>
<td>Research Design and Research Logic</td>
<td>Ingo Rohlfing</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core: Methods</td>
<td>Introduction to Quantitative Methods</td>
<td>Ingo Rohlfing</td>
<td>In-person (alternating)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialisation: Special Topics I</td>
<td>Institutional Reform of the European Union</td>
<td>Sven-Oliver Proksch</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialisation: Special Topics I</td>
<td>Economic and Political Inequality</td>
<td>Björn Bremer</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialisation: Special Topics II</td>
<td>Who Leads Matters? The Effects of Political Decision Makers on Foreign Policy Outcomes</td>
<td>Katharina Berninger</td>
<td>Online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialisation: Special Topics II</td>
<td>Digital Politics</td>
<td>Bruno Castanho Silva</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialisation: Special Topics II</td>
<td>Who Rules the Economy? The Political Economy of Labor and Business</td>
<td>Christine Trampusch</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialisation: Applied T&amp;M I</td>
<td>Types of Democracy</td>
<td>André Kaiser</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialisation: Applied T&amp;M II</td>
<td>Research Design and Case Studies in Comparative Political Economy</td>
<td>Christine Trampusch</td>
<td>In-person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Registering for courses and exams

You must register for courses!
You must register separately for examinations!

- Register via the KLIPS campus management system klips2.uni-koeln.de
  - Get in touch with lecturers or their secretariats in case of questions or problems
  - Contact the Student Service Point in case of technical issues

- Exam registration is administrated by the examinations office and subject to strict rules (no flexibility!).

- See department website for instructions politik.uni-koeln.de/en/studies/courses
  politik.uni-koeln.de/en/studies/examinations/registration
Module catalogue

- Programme structure
- Sample study plan
- Detailed module information
  - ECTS
  - Language
  - Cycle
  - Content
  - Teaching format
  - Examination format
Newsletter

- **News** from the department
- **Invitations** to guest talks, career development workshops, and more
- Selected **job opportunities**, scholarships, exchange programmes, and more
- Friendly **reminders** about important deadlines
- 1–2 short emails per month

[politik.uni-koeln.de/en/studies/programmes/ma-political-science/newsletter]
Studies abroad

- Event: **Options for Studies Abroad**, 24 Sep, 11am
- Many **partner universities** (Sciences Po Paris, University College Dublin, Københavns Universitet, and many more)
- Two options for **credit transfer**:  
  - One-to-one credit transfer  
  - Supplementary Section (12 or 24 ECTS, more flexible)
- **Center for International Relations (ZIB)**
  [international.wiso.uni-koeln.de](https://international.wiso.uni-koeln.de)

[politik.uni-koeln.de/en/studies/study-abroad](https://politik.uni-koeln.de/en/studies/study-abroad)
Covid update

- Due to the pandemic, only some select courses can be in-person. Please check KLIPS before the lecture period.
- In-person courses require certification that you are tested, recovered, or vaccinated
- Stay informed about measures
  - portal.uni-koeln.de/en/coronavirus
Things to remember

- You are studying under the examination regulations of 2021 ("PO 2021").
- Register in time for courses and examinations.
- You can complete each module only once, even if there are several courses to choose from. As a possible exception, there might be several courses required to complete modules in certain groups of the supplementary section.
- Think carefully before choosing. Changing groups and modules is subject to certain conditions.
Points of contact

- Administrative matters: Student Service Point
  wiso.uni-koeln.de/enquiry

- Academic matters & general advice
  ▪ Programme Director
    Dr Marian Feist: m.feist(at)uni-koeln.de
  ▪ Secretriats
    CCCP: cccp-sekretariat(at)wiso.uni-koeln.de
    Prof Jäger: sekretariat-jaeger(at)wiso.uni-koeln.de

- Studies abroad: Center for International Relations
  international.wiso.uni-koeln.de/en/international-profile/contact

- Career advice/workshops, CV checks: Career Service

- Financing, housing, social matters: Werk Student Services
  kstw.de/en
Thank you

We wish you all the best for your studies!
Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

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Twitter: @so_proksch

Dr Marian Feist
Programme Director
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Twitter: @mjfeist