Information on the Master's degree Atlantic Studies in History, Culture and Society

Basic data:

The Master's degree Atlantic Studies in History, Culture and Society is a research-oriented, interdisciplinary degree course. The regular study period is 4 terms = 120 Credit Points. No course fees are payable.
It is the only Master’s programme in Germany which focuses on the South Atlantic and trains interdisciplinary experts on Latin America and Africa with international experiences and intercultural skills.
The Master’s programme is operated by the interdisciplinary Centre for Atlantic and Global Studies (see: www.cags.uni-hannover.de) with representation of the students of the MA Atlantic Studies in its meetings.

Students achieve the degree: Atlantic Studies in History, Culture and Society (M. A.).
Participating institutes: Department of History, Institute of Sociology, Department of English, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Department of Religious Science

Admission criteria: Bachelors degree or a degree of equal value in: English/ American studies, anthropology, history, cultural sciences, Romance Studies, religious sciences, social sciences or related subjects; English + one further subject based foreign language (preferably French and/ or Spanish).

Applicants from Germany and the EEC
Admission to this degree course is limited. German students and EEC-members may apply online. The application deadline is 15 July of each year. The master’s program always starts in October.

Applicants from non-EEC countries
Interested students from non-EEC countries may apply online. The application deadline is 31 May of each year. The master’s program always starts in October.

Knowledge of the German language must be proved in the application, level B 1. For further information please visit: http://www.uni-hannover.de/en/studium/immatrikulation/bewerbung/hinweise-nicht-eu/index.php.

Profile:

The master's degree Atlantic Studies in History, Culture and Society is based on a concept new to the German and the international university landscape, which consciously goes beyond the current disciplinary borders. Against the background of historical and current globalisation processes it introduces the integration between the three continents around the Atlantic in the foreground of study and research, and transcends the traditional focus on national states. In contrast to other study programs concentrating on the interaction between Europe and North America, it comprehensively deals with the complex relationships between Africa, the Americas and Europe, the localisation of global processes and the peculiarities of developments in different areas of the world.
The M.A. Atlantic Studies starts with the premise that the three Atlantic continents, Africa, America and Europe have represented parts of a common system for the circulation of goods,
ideas and people since the end of the 15th century. The continents are thus inter-connected by a myriad of entanglements of economic, social, cultural and political nature (the triangular trade with the massive shift of African people to the Americas, the colonisation and comprehensive migratory movements of Europeans, Africans and Latin-Americans among others). This indicates that developments in each of the three continents, since the “age of discovery” in the 15th century by the latest, no longer can be sufficiently understood as single entities, but only within the framework of reciprocal relationships and influences.

The current globalisation debate is still dominated by economic and political science approaches, which principally focus on contemporary social macro-processes and on the level of formal institutions. Also, significant parts of the post-colonial theories consider only the edge of the historicity of the integration process and tend to ignore the main differences in the various colonial projects and the structure of post-colonial areas. In contrast, this M.A. Atlantic Studies program links a decidedly comparative and historical viewpoint with a more detailed consideration of informal structures, processes on the middle and micro levels, actors as well as cultural patterns of interpretation.

This M.A. Atlantic Studies in History, Culture and Society course combines approaches of global history and historical anthropology, literary and cultural studies, development sociology and cultural anthropology with newer viewpoints on gender and inequality research. The master’s program stands out due to its inter-disciplinary character and the integrated observation of Africa, Latin America including the Caribbean, for which the participating staff members have a special expertise. However, unlike the Area Studies the Hanover program does not regard the three continents as separate entities, but takes them as one subject with a particular focus on their entanglements. Europe is hereby used neither as an explicit nor implicit model for historical processes in other parts of the world. Rather the study program aims at showing the interconnectedness of European and overseas developments since the early modern times. The aforementioned topics and considerations are subjects of ongoing research projects at the Centre for Atlantic and Global Studies at Hanover University whose results flow directly into teaching.

**Study contents**

**Obligatory courses**

**Inter-disciplinary theory and method modules**
- Basic module Theory and Methods (10 CP)
- Advanced module Research Debates (10 CP)

**Project modules**
- Practice: Internship abroad or in Germany with international focus or research project abroad, normally combined with a semester at a University in the Atlantic space, or field research project abroad (30 CP) (in cooperation with Universities and institutions in Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Brazil, Jamaica, Canada, Mexico, Senegal, USA as well as in Spain, France, and Portugal)

- Integrated Learning Research (10 CP), course combined with a research project under the supervision of lecturers, one course can be used to acquire professional or language skills.

**Master’s thesis (30 CP)**

**Elective obligatory courses**
3 of the following topic modules (30 CP):
- Globalisation and Transcultural Spaces
- Inequality, Power, Difference
- Social, Religious and Cultural Movements
- Violence and the Regulation of Conflict
- Cultural Anthropology

Employability
Graduates of the degree course M.A. Atlantic Studies are qualified to adopt an academic career or take up key jobs in scientific, political and culture institutions and bring special multi-disciplinary competence and knowledge of global inter-linkages to these jobs. The students of the inter-disciplinary degree course qualify, among others for the following career fields:
- Universities, high schools and non-university research institutes
- Science policies and management
- Adult education
- Media, journalism, publishers
- Culture management, culture organisation, marketing, publicity
- Policy consultancy – international government institutions, respectively non-government organisations (NGOs)
- Foundations with international orientation
- International business companies and associations
- Diversity Management
- Museums.

Research fields of the Centre for Atlantic and Global Studies:

In addition to the expertise in the classic disciplines (English and American Studies, history, cultural anthropology, Romance Studies, sociology and religious sciences), the instructors of the master's program Atlantic Studies in History, Culture and Society stand out due to their comprehensive knowledge with regard to Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. The key for the analysis of interdependencies between the social transformations in the countries of the south and the north is the awareness that the social processes in one country can only be adequately understood in their interconnectedness with other world regions and that local developments are always connected with global ones and follow their own logic.

Current research subjects of the teaching staff are:
1) **Challenges posed by long-term social changes in the Atlantic sphere**
Demographic change, migration and mobility processes, the asymmetrical world economy, social inequality and labour relations.

2) **Coping strategies and conflict settlement in Atlantic societies**
Interculturality and legal pluralism, political participation and global human rights, religion and ethnicity as political resources.

3) **Mediality, representation and perception of the challenges faced in Atlantic regions**
Knowledge production and organization, (new) social media, identity constructions and their cultural representations, memory cultures and colonial pasts.
4) **Domestic Orders in the Atlantic World**
Transformations of houses, households, the domestic sphere, and concepts of home and belonging as result of the mobility of people, commodities and ideas in the Atlantic space from the 16th century to the globalized present age.

**Staff, Teaching and Research, Contact Information**

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