



explore excel expand

MA Program in German and European Studies

University of Haifa Center for
German and European Studies (HCGES)

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

HCGES
Haifa Center for German & European Studies


אוניברסיטת חיפה
University of Haifa
جامعة حيفا
ISRAEL



Welcome to the University of Haifa



Situated atop Mount Carmel, amidst the Carmel National Forest, with breathtaking views of the Mediterranean Sea and the Galilee, the University of Haifa provides the perfect setting for your international graduate studies.

The University of Haifa is one of Israel's leading research universities, and the largest in the north. It is a microcosm of Israeli society, committed to academic excellence and social responsibility.

An exciting and inspiring cultural mosaic, the university has a diverse population of 18,000 students including Jews, Christian and Muslim Arabs, Druze and Bedouin, new immigrants and a growing number of students from around the world. We invite you to become one of them.

The Haifa Center for German and European Studies (HCGES) is a joint venture of the University of Haifa and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst).

Founded in 2007, the HCGES mission is to expose students, researchers, and the broader community to a rich spectrum of topics relating to modern Europe, and specifically to Germany. In order to achieve this goal, the Center engages in intensive teaching activities and supports research projects, conferences, and public events. The Center emphasizes social, political, legal, economic, and cultural developments and tendencies in Europe and in Germany since 1945.

The HCGES is an interdisciplinary center. It is under the auspices of the Research Authority of the University of Haifa and cooperates with the university's Faculties of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Law. The Center also supports relevant activities in other faculties (such as Education, Welfare and Health) and institutions (the Bucerius Institute, the Posen Forum and others) at the University of Haifa.

The Program



The MA program in German and European Studies aims to expand and deepen students' knowledge of Germany and its role in the European Union. Participants are encouraged to read broadly, produce their own research papers, and take part in various extra-curricular activities. The Jewish and Israeli perspectives are highlighted by courses and events focusing on Europe's Jewish past, Israel's European legacies, Holocaust studies in European and Israeli contexts, and the ongoing dialog between Germans and Israelis. HCGES also cooperates with other departments and study programs at the university, which gives students the opportunity to focus their studies on issues related specifically to European-Middle Eastern and European-Mediterranean relationships.

The MA program is organized in the spirit of the emerging "area studies" model, prevalent in studies of Asian countries, North America, and recently also in Israel Studies. The program is interdisciplinary and offers courses in the fields of social sciences, humanities, and law, as well as intensive German language classes. Students are immersed in a rich and demanding academic curriculum that prepares them for careers in international, German, Israeli, and European interfaces including academia, business, tourism, communication, the media, and cultural and public administration.

All courses are taught in English. Coursework may be completed within either one or two calendar years. Students wishing to complete coursework within one year attend classes multiple days per week, while students wishing to complete coursework within two years attend classes one day per week. Students wishing to pursue the thesis track are required to submit a research thesis within one year of completing their coursework. Coursework may be supplemented by relevant field work or dual degree options for interested students.

Program Objectives

- Educating a new generation of scholars in German and European Studies
- Providing students with high-level interdisciplinary MA coursework
- Providing individual supervision to young researchers opting for the program's thesis-track option
- Exposing students, alongside interns, to a wealth of curricular and extracurricular activities outside of the classroom
- Organizing events open to the community at large, bringing members of the University alongside members of the general public together with top academic lecturers and panels, and offering in-depth discussions on current affairs and topical issues

Learning Outcomes

- Knowledge of the History of Modern Germany, its political and legal systems, its economy, society and culture
- Knowledge of the European Union as a unique super-national entity
- Mastering the German language
- Ability to apply various methodologies to conduct research in area studies in general and in European studies in particular
- Membership in a community of scholars and policy makers connected to Germany and Europe



Program Structure and Scope



The program offers a unique and interdisciplinary curriculum which acquaints students with major trends and topics relating to the development of Europe after World War II. While engaging with broad perspectives, the program places particular emphasis on Israeli perspectives of European and German studies. The curriculum combines diverse areas of study including economics, law, political science, geography, environmental studies, sociology, history, and literature. Students also acquire a strong command of the German language by studying 4-8 language hours per week, depending on German-language proficiency.*

The program includes an optional study tour to Germany and other countries in Europe. Students are required to take part in the HCGES colloquium, regularly hosting faculty members alongside prominent visiting lecturers.

The program is offered in two tracks:

Track A (with a thesis): Students in Track A are required to take 28 credit hours and write a research thesis. The thesis counts for 30 percent of the final grade of the degree.

Track B (without a thesis): Students in Track B are required to take 36 credit hours and a final exam at the end of the program.

Students may opt to write a seminar paper instead of an exam in certain courses.

Study Tour

The program includes an optional one-week long study tour to Germany and EU institutions. The themes of the tour change every year. Among the recent themes: Germany: from Bonn, to Berlin, to Brussels; German Unification, East Germany and its eastern borders; and Germany as a multi-cultural society. Please check the website for updated information. The cost of the study tour is not included in the program tuition.

*Students demonstrating sufficient command of the German language may be exempt from some of these classes.

Curriculum*

Required Courses	Semester Hours
Research Methods	2
Modern German History	3
Introduction to German Society	3
Introduction to the German Economy	3
Basic Principles of German Law	3
Currents in German Culture	3
Introduction to the European Union	3
Colloquium: Topics in German and European Studies	2
German Language	4-8

Elective Courses (the list changes every academic year)

Israeli-German Relations, 1948-1992	2
The Defense and Security Policy of the EU	2
Comparative Welfare Policies in the EU and Israel	2
The European Human Rights Convention	2
Modern European History	3
Modern German Literature	3
Germany and Sports	2
Democratization in Central and Eastern Europe: A Comparative Perspective	2
German Cinema	2

*The curriculum is subject to change. Please see program website for current curriculum.

Course Descriptions*

Research Methods

The aim of the workshop is to assist research students in their first steps towards writing a thesis. The workshop introduces students to various research methodologies and discusses relevant issues such as selecting a research topic, defining and phrasing a research question, and building a research proposal. The workshop escorts students from an abstract idea for a thesis to drafting a final research proposal and acquaints them with faculty members who can serve as their research supervisors. Each student is required to present their research proposal in class for discussion and feedback from fellow students as well as from HCGES faculty members.



Modern History of Germany

The course examines basic questions on a variety of eras in German history, from the wars of liberation against the Napoleonic conquest in the early 19th century to the start of the 21st century. It also discusses the crystallization of modern German nationalism, industrialization and modernization, class stratification and changes in the family structure, the rise of the German Reich, World War I, the Weimar Republic, Nazism and World War II, defeat and the division of Germany, the Federal Republic, East Germany, the unification of Germany, and Germany and the European Union.

* For detailed descriptions please visit our website: <http://hcg.es.haifa.ac.il>

Introduction to German Society

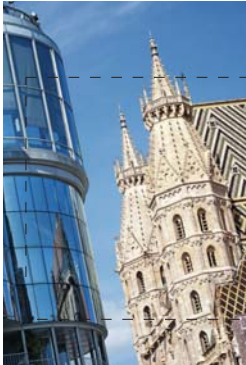
The course provides a comprehensive introduction to the economic, political, and social developments in Germany since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. It examines Germany's federal structure and the division of power between the central government and the states, and discusses the impact of German unification on German society and Germany's role in the EU. The course also explores salient contemporary issues, such as immigration, education, employment, social policy, and the economic and social gaps between western and eastern Germany.



The German Economy

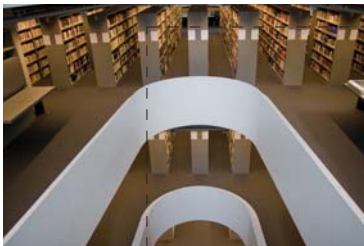
The course examines Germany's economy and takes an in-depth look into gross national product and its composition, national income and its distribution, and the governmental budget. The course also explores the roles of the government in the "Social Economy" as well as the sectoral structure of the economy, the monetary reform, and the role of the Bundesbank in maintaining price stability and growth in Western Germany. Furthermore, the course dedicates time to understanding the labor market and the role of the labor unions, Germany as an immigration country, the money market and the banking system, the economics of German unification, and Germany's economic interaction with the European Union.

Course Descriptions*



Basic Principles of German Law

The course sets forth the historical development of German law in all its branches, namely constitutional and administrative law, civil law and criminal law. The course discusses the system of the Basic Law (Grundgesetz 1949), the difference between this and the Weimar constitution, which operated (at least on paper) until 1945, and constitutional principles such as the structure of the regime and human rights. The course also presents the Civil Law (Bürgerliches Gesetzbuch – BGB), its branches, and certain basic principles accepted also in Israeli law such as the laws of contract and issues in the laws of ownership. It also contrasts the German criminal system, which is based on the inquisitorial method, to the adversarial method practiced in Anglo-American and Israeli law. Finally, it explores some basic principles in penal law such as the three-stage structure of the criminal offense.



Trends in German Culture

The course aims to provide basic knowledge about the main trends in German culture from 1945 until the present. The course presents in a chronological and methodical order the salient works from various genres including literature, poetry, drama, and cinema. Topics include: literature after the second World War (the 47 group), documentary drama of the sixties, avant-garde trends of the sixties and seventies, the new German cinema, East-West relations and their reflection in literature in the East and the West, German literature after 1989, and migrants' literature (Eastern-Europeans, migrants from the former Soviet Union, and migrants from Turkey).



The European Union

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the European Union (EU), beginning with the history of EU integration and the historical developments that led to the founding of the EU in 1992. The course explores EU policy making and the division of power between EU institutions, and discusses the operation of the common institutions,

how they interact with each other, and their chief responsibilities. The course also covers some of the main issues in contemporary EU politics including the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), immigration policy, Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), and external relations. Finally, it explores the ongoing debate within the EU on plans for expansion, and Member States' long-term expectations regarding regional integration.

German Language

The German courses focus on both reading comprehension as well as spoken language.



HCGES Colloquium

The HCGES colloquium hosts various guests from Israel and abroad for presentations of papers and discussion of various topics related to contemporary German and European Union issues. The colloquium exposes students to topics not covered by the program's core courses, various research methodologies in area studies, and cutting edge research in the field of contemporary German and European topics.



Admission Requirements & Prerequisites

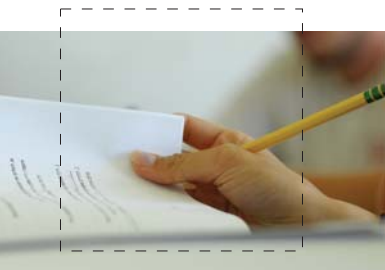
General Admission Requirements

- Accredited BA, diploma and transcript
- A minimum of 3.0 GPA, 80%, or equivalent
- TOEFL scores (if native language is not English or candidates have not previously studied at an institution of higher education where the language of instruction is English). A minimum of 570 (paper-based test), 230 (computer-based test) or 89 (internet-based test)
- Two letters of recommendation from an academic
- Curriculum Vitae/Résumé
- Copy of valid passport & six passport-sized photos
- Personal statement (500-700 words)
- Interview (group and/or individual) at the discretion of the admissions committee
- Medical forms

Academic Prerequisites

A Bachelor's degree from a recognized institution of higher education with a minimal final grade of 80 or the equivalent grade in the respective institution.

General Information



Tuition and Financial Aid

Please see program website for current tuition and fees. Merit-based scholarships may be available to students who have been accepted into the program. Additionally, there are numerous sources of financial aid available to students who choose to study at the University of Haifa. For a complete list of scholarship options please see the program website.

Application Procedure

Application forms can be found on the program website or by contacting the International School directly. Applications are processed on a rolling admissions basis; we review and accept applications as the complete application file is received.

Housing

All international students who are enrolled in a full-time program of study are eligible to live in the campus dormitories alongside other international and Israeli students. The University of Haifa offers apartments of three or six single rooms, each with its own bathroom, and a shared kitchen and living space. The dormitories provide many facilities for students' use. Refer to the International School's website for more details.

Campus Life

The manageable size of the campus exposes students to the events and activities taking place throughout the semesters. Students at the International School are strongly encouraged to participate in the variety of activities including concerts, fitness classes, salsa and Israeli folk dancing, lectures and conferences on various topics, and sports competitions. In the International School, we promote the diverse religious and ethnic self-expression of all of our students and help them find their own unique connection to Israel. The campus is a mix of secular and religious Jewish native Israelis, new immigrants from the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, North and South America and Europe, and Israelis whose religious and ethnic backgrounds are Muslim, Christian, Druze, and Bedouin.

Social Activities

The University of Haifa International School offers a range of optional co-curricular activities for students participating in the various international programs. An experienced staff of student activity coordinators prepares an extensive itinerary of trips and tours which offers students an enlightening view of Israel, its people, natural beauty, and cultural sites. Visiting lecturers come to speak on various aspects of life in Israel, including politics, security, religion, culture, and other topics of interest to the students. Some activities may require additional fees.

Cultural Immersion

The International School makes every effort possible for students to become part of Israeli society. Israeli students will be enrolled in the program with international students, and international students will live alongside Israeli students in the campus dormitories. Students can take advantage of the volunteer opportunities both on and off campus. Students may request to join a local family for a festive meal on holidays and the Sabbath, which is rewarding for both the student and the families involved.



Security

The safety and security of all students are a primary concern of the University of Haifa. All campus and dormitory entrances are guarded and all off-campus activities are organized and run in consultation with the relevant security authorities. While enrolled in a program at the International School, all full-time students are required to rent a cell phone through a recognized supplier. It is important that we will be able to reach each and every student both with practical information and in case of emergency. Health insurance for all international students under the age of 65 and with no pre-existing conditions is included in the cost of the program. The University of Haifa has a crisis management and evacuation plan in place.



For additional information:

<http://hcgcs.haifa.ac.il>

www.uhaifa.org

E-mail: infograd@univ.haifa.ac.il

Phone: +972-4-824-0766

Fax: +972-4-824-0391

Skype: haifainternationalschool



University of Haifa
International School
199 Aba Khoushy Ave.
Haifa 3498838, Israel

