Inter-American Studies
Master of Arts

There is hardly any other region of the world in which the cultural, linguistic, and political contrasts between the industrialized, “developing”, and emerging nations meet up so strongly as in the Americas. The MA Program in Inter-American Studies sets its sights on these social, cultural, and political developments and takes into account both present and historical conditions. The focus is on both the national characteristics of the various Anglo- and Latin American countries and their current tendencies towards emphasizing national identity and increasing cross-border cooperation. Separation and penetration of national space is closely tied to current research, the MA program concentrates on issues such as transnationality, interculturalism, globalization, and the world society. The program engages in a continuous interdisciplinary dialogue between Literary, Cultural, and Media Studies, Linguistics, Sociology, Political Science, and Transnational History.

Innovative interdisciplinary courses and the opportunity to spend a semester abroad at one of our international partner universities enable students in the MA Program in Inter-American Studies to develop an individual profile and develop a cultural or historical social science focus for their studies.

Modern study courses in 13 faculties, an outstanding infrastructure, exceptional support services, and cooperations throughout the world – Bielefeld University is an excellent choice. Because our students have top priority, the University is continuously setting up and expanding study courses to improve study courses even further. These efforts have also been acknowledged by the results of a nationwide competition, the “Initiative for excellent teaching”. Bielefeld University is one of only six universities in Germany to receive a prize for its unique teaching and study culture. Bielefeld University offers an inspiring and supportive environment for future scientific staff – an innovative and international atmosphere, scientific independence from an early stage on, exceptionally well-equipped work stations and laboratories, a prize-winning library, and inspirational scientific surroundings.

Students can apply for a doctorate in all the research and subject areas offered at Bielefeld University, and Master’s Programmes are specially designed to allow a smooth transition to research focuses and postgraduate programmes with an interdisciplinary orientation. A dense network of graduate schools, international and national research training groups, as well as structured doctoral programmes is being expanded and developed continuously to provide the best possible support.

Excellent in every respect

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The Inter-American Studies Master Program is composed of basic and optional complementary modules. Five basic modules should be completed during the first two semesters. They cover seminars on North and South American culture, literature, history, and language. During the second year of the program, students have to complete two of the six optional complementary modules, thereby choosing their major and specializing in literature and culture, and/or linguistics, and/or his- tory and politics, and/or social studies of the American continent. An additional graduation module consisting of the Master’s thesis and a research colloquium has to be completed during the last semester of the program.

Admission requirements and application

When applying, you will need to submit the following documents:
- proof of a relevant Bachelor’s degree or transcript of records
- proof of extensive language skills in English and Spanish
- letter of motivation (1 page)
- curriculum vitae (tabular CV)

Services and support for international students

In addition to the many services and facilities available to all students, the International Office offers a wide range of specially tailored services to help you adjust to your new surroundings and take full advantage of your studies. In addition to a wide-ranging leisure-time programme, Bielefeld University provides the Brother-Lister programme: a personal tutoring programme for all first-year international students in which student mentors look after international students who are new to Bielefeld and help them to get everything organized and handle any necessary bureaucracy during their first semester. The International Office also hosts an accommodation agency. This can give you advice on renting student apartments in Germany and it is a source of information from people with apartments to let.

Doing a doctorate (dissertation)

Completing a doctorate is particularly relevant for students who are in- terested in pursuing an academic career after completing their master’s degree. A doctorate should advance academic knowledge and consists of an independent research project (the dissertation) plus an oral de- fence (colloquium).

The IPF offers graduates of Inter-American Studies the opportunity to join an international network of research and exchange. Every year, colloquia are held together with representatives of various universities in the United States, Mexico, and Ireland at which doctoral candidates can become part of an international academic field and research net- work by presenting their research and taking part in critical discussions.

For further information, go to: www.uni-bielefeld.de/ias/forschung
www.uni-bielefeld.de/englischwurts/

Career opportunities

The MA Program in Inter-American Studies helps students to acquire professional skills in text and media analysis. Additionally, students gain practical media qualifications through their study project. Consequently, graduates are trained in various career fields. They can pursue professional skills in text and media analysis. Additionally, students gain practical media qualifications through their study project. Consequently, graduates are trained in various career fields. They can pursue careers in international and development agencies, intercultural com- munication, public relations, and text- and media-based fields such as internationally operating PR agencies and radio and television stations. Moreover, the growing significance of cultural and language skills in the Anglo- and Latin American region is opening up opportunities for students in international and development agencies, intercultural communication, public relations, and text- and media-based fields such as internationally operating PR agencies and radio and television stations. Moreover, the growing significance of cultural and language skills in the Anglo- and Latin American region is opening up opportunities for students to work in internationally operating business organizations and consultancies.

Fees and costs

In spring 2011 the government of North-Rhine Westphalia decided to abolish tuition fees. All you have to pay now is the social fees for your semester ticket. Currently, this costs 210 EUR per semester. This ticket also entitles you to use public transport free of charge throughout the region. Approx. 70 EUR per month should cover all your personal expenses, including mandatory health insurance. The University Society "Westfälisch-Lippische Universitätsgeellschaft" awards some part-cost grants for international Master students.

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For further information, application deadlines, and the online applica- tion form, go to the Students’ Office Website: www.uni-bielefeld.de/application

www.uni-bielefeld.de/lili