MA Inter-American Studies

Think the Americas in a different way

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 by taking 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.

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 design an individual profile and develop a cultural or historical social science focus for their studies.

With a twin focus on the cultures of the Anglo and Latin American region, the MA program trains students in international cultural, social, and communication processes. Graduates can pursue careers in the areas of international and development agencies, intercultural communication, public relations, and further text- and media-based fields.

Optimal conditions for successful studies

Although completing your studies successfully will require curiosity and commitment, you will soon find that very good working conditions are also crucial. Bielefeld University offers a range of advantages that contribute to creating an excellent work and study environment:

■ A campus university in which all institutions are close together (our slogan: "everything under one roof")
■ An excellent university library with state-of-the-art facilities (ranked by the CHE as the second best in Germany)
■ Free and extensive WLAN internet access for students
■ Multiple support services for studies and vocational preparation
■ Affordable student accommodation in close vicinity to the campus
■ Diverse cultural and leisure-time facilities, numerous parks, and the Teutoburg Forest right on your doorstep

Excellent in every respect

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 projects designed 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.

Course counselling:
International student information and counselling: International Office: io@uni-bielefeld.de
Questions on applications and admissions: Student Office: application@uni-bielefeld.de
Academic course counselling:
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V.i.S.d.P: Fakultät für Linguistik und Literaturwissenschaft
Fakultät für Geschichtswissenschaft, Philosophie und Theologie
Stand: Dezember 2012
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Course Program
The Inter-American Studies Master Program is composed of basic and optional complementary modules. Five basic modules should be com-
pleted 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 (if you do not have your certificate by the date of application)
- 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–sister 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).

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. Conse-
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Careers in international and development agencies, intercultural com-
munication, public relations, and text- and media-based fields such as
conducting their field research. The program offers the possibility of
choosing specific complementary modules in line with the special re-
search and educational profiles of our partner universities. Most impor-
tantly, the exchange programs offer students the possibility of a double
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.

 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 250 EUR per semester. This ticket also entitles you to use public transport free of charge throughout the region. Approx. 700 EUR per month should cover all your personal expenses, including mandatory health insurance.

The University Society "Westfälisch-Lippische Universitätsgegsellschaft" awards some part-cost grants for International Master students.

Studying abroad
Going abroad for a semester on a student exchange program to Latin America, the United States, or Canada is an obligatory element of the MA. There are several exchange programs with partner universities abroad. This grants students the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge acquired during their studies in a concrete, cultural, social, and political environment within the Americas while simultaneously
During the selection process, all submitted application documents (de-
greentranscript of records, proof of competence in English and Spanish, CV, and letter of motivation) are reviewed by a special committee that decides whether an applicant fulfills the admission requirements. An unsuccessful application does not rule out the possibility of reapplying at a later date. Proof of German language proficiency has to be provided with the Master’s degree.

The program lasts four semesters and can be commenced in either the winter (October) or summer semester (April). Nonetheless, we recom-
mend starting in the winter semester because the course schedule is geared to a winter start and a summer start might result in some delays.

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/en/nachwuchs/