

# Institute of East Asian Studies (IN-EAST)

at the University of Duisburg-Essen

## FAQ – Master's Programs

Master of Arts in Contemporary East Asian Studies (MA CEAS)

Master of Arts in Modern East Asian Studies (MA MEAS)

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### **What is the IN-EAST?**

The Institute of East Asian Studies (IN-EAST) is the largest centre of social science research on contemporary East Asia in Germany.

Our main focus is on the economies, politics and societies of China, Japan and Korea. The [chairs](#) are based at the Faculty of Social Sciences or the Mercator School of Management.

The IN-EAST focuses their research on applying sociological, political and economic theories to East Asia and its constituent countries and combining these approaches in cross-cutting interdisciplinary projects. Our aim is to contribute to the understanding of developments in the contemporary societies of East Asia, their international relations and their growing impact in the world. The unifying theoretical aim of IN-EAST's coordinated research programs is to contribute to the 'new institutionalism' in economics, politics and sociology from an East Asian perspective.

To learn more about our fields of research, follow this [link](#).

We also offer a variety of different events, conferences and guest lectures from renowned scholars concerning East Asia regularly. To get an idea, you can check out our latest events [here](#).

### ***What is the difference between the CEAS and MEAS programs, and for which program do I qualify?***

The **CEAS program** is a two-year program open to students from a variety of backgrounds, including social sciences, economics and business administration, who may or may not have prior experience studying the East Asian region. A range of Chinese, Japanese and Korean classes are designed to accommodate students with language knowledge from beginners with no prior knowledge to students with advanced knowledge or fluency. Chinese, Japanese or Korean native speakers must not select their mother tongue. The CEAS program itself is conducted in English. Students applying for this program should have, at minimum, a BA degree (at least a minor) in the social sciences or economics, strong English language skills, and a keen interest in the East Asian region.

The **MEAS program** was introduced as the 1-year MA complement to the 4-year BA program run by the IN-EAST Institute. Students applying for this program must have an equivalent background to those students entering from our own institution, including advanced language skills in Chinese, Japanese or Korean, a strong social science background in a field of relevance to the region, and a minimum of 240 ECTS credits. Students applying for this program should have a Bachelor's degree equivalent to that offered by IN-EAST, strong English language skills, advanced knowledge of Chinese/Japanese/Korean, and a keen interest in the East Asian region.

For students meeting some but not all of these criteria (e.g. language skills and a degree in a relevant discipline but insufficient credits; or advanced language skills and regional studies background, but no social science training), there is the additional MEAS+1 year option. With this option, students spend their first year making up classes in the appropriate area (e.g. regional or disciplinary studies) through other classes offered at the University; in the second year, students join the MEAS classes offered at IN-EAST. Please note that, as the additional classes are not part of our English-speaking program, **TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS OPTION STUDENTS MUST HAVE A MINIMUM OF C1 LEVEL GERMAN**. Students applying to the MEAS+1 year program should have, at minimum, a Bachelor's degree from a regional studies program, proficiency in English and German, advanced knowledge of Chinese/Japanese/Korean, and a keen interest in the East Asian region.

### ***Which degrees are accepted? (Application for MA CEAS)***

The program is aimed at students with a strong background in social sciences or economics (e.g. sociology, politics, international relations, economics, business administration, anthropology, human geography). Students with other degrees can apply but have to provide evidence in their application that they have a good knowledge of theories and methods in one of the above-mentioned disciplines.

### ***Which degrees are accepted? (Application for MA MEAS)***

The program is aimed at students with a good BA degree in East Asian regional studies. Students should have good Chinese, Japanese or Korean language skills and knowledge of at least one East Asian country. In addition, basic knowledge of social sciences or economics (e.g. sociology, politics, international relations, economics, business administration, anthropology, human geography) is required.

The BA degree should comprise 240 ECTS credits – equivalent to 4 years of (full-time) study. Graduates from shorter degree programs (less than 240 ECTS credits) or graduates from programs not completely fulfilling the above-mentioned degree requirements may be conditionally admitted, but have to make up the deficits by taking additional classes (up to 60 ECTS credits). In this case it will take up to 2 years to graduate.

### ***Can I apply now, even if I have not yet finished my BA?***

Yes, BA students in their final year can apply. They should include a list of their grades in their application, along with a statement explaining which classes etc. they still have to finish before graduating.

### ***Is a particular average grade required for admission?***

Yes, we require an average grade of 2.5 or higher, based on the German grading system (ranging from 1 = excellent to 5 = fail). Grades from other countries are transferred into this scale and made comparable by applying the Bavarian formula:

$$\frac{(\text{Best possible grade} - \text{average grade of applicant})}{(\text{Best possible grade} - \text{minimum required grade for a pass})} \times 3 + 1 = \text{Equivalent German Grade}$$

### ***Can I apply without a complete set of documents?***

The admission committee makes its decisions solely on the basis of completed applications with a full set of documents, the only exception being the BA certificate (see above: "***Can I apply now, even if I have not yet finished my BA?***"). If documents are missing, you will receive a request to submit them.

### ***Who can issue a letter of recommendation?***

The letter of recommendation should be issued by one of your professors. If a junior academic writes the recommendation, please add a note to your application explaining why. Please ask your professor to use the relevant form on our website. Your referee should send the letter of recommendation directly to us by e-mail ([maceas@in-east.de](mailto:maceas@in-east.de) / [mameas@in-east.de](mailto:mameas@in-east.de)) or by post (University of Duisburg-Essen, Institute of East Asian Studies, 47048 Duisburg, Germany, marked for the attention of Mrs. Melanie Kogler).

### ***What is the minimum level of proficiency in English that is required, and what tests do you accept?***

As proof of English proficiency, IN-EAST accepts IELTS, TOEFL, and for Chinese students the CET. Students who are native speakers or have completed a prior degree in an English-taught program do not need to provide proof of their proficiency, but should note it on their application.

Approximate test scores should be in the range of: TOEFL (internet-based 90 points, with a 'good'/24-30 points on written section), IELTS (no lower than 6.5 on any section), and CET (CET6). However, we do not require a minimum score to be achieved in any of these tests, but ask that all applicants make an honest assessment of their skills. IN-EAST programs are conducted entirely in English; this includes all lectures, reading (typically well over 100 pages per week), discussions, exams, assignments, and the final thesis. Students should therefore be able to demonstrate a high level of proficiency in oral, aural, writing, and reading skills. Applicants must demonstrate in an interview that they are able to hold a discussion on an academic subject in English, referring to theories and methods from their specific discipline.

### ***Do I need an APS (Akademische Prüfstelle / Academic Evaluation Centre) certificate?***

Only students who graduate from universities in the People's Republic of China, Vietnam or Mongolia need an APS certificate. This document is issued by the Academic Evaluation Centre, which provides services on behalf of the Cultural Section of the German Embassies in these countries.

"After the successful verification of an applicant's documents (this may include a validation interview or a Test for Academic Studies), the APS issues a certificate which German universities demand as an entry requirement. This certificate attests the authenticity of the documents submitted by the applicant and confirms that the person has achieved sufficient qualifications... to apply for a place at a German university)." Please refer to the APS website of the German Embassy in your country:

[PR China, Beijing](#)

[Vietnam, Hanoi](#)

[Mongolia, Ulan Bator](#)

### *How is the application process organized?*

Once we have received your complete application and verified that you fulfil the formal requirements (e.g. grades achieved), two members of our faculty will screen your documents, taking your motivation, aptitude and knowledge of theories and methods in your discipline into account. If your application is assessed as poor, it will be rejected. If it is assessed as good, we will organize an interview for you with two members of our faculty, either via skype (or other suitable programs) or – for applicants from Germany – in person here in Duisburg. A proposal is then made to the admissions committee and you will be informed about the positive or negative outcome. The duration of this selection process varies, but should not exceed one month after submission of the complete application documents. Successful candidates who accept the offer of a place are subsequently enrolled in the study program.

### *What is discussed in the interview at the second stage of the selection process?*

In the interview we discuss your motivation and aptitude as well as your knowledge of theories and methods in your BA discipline. The interview is carried out in English to assess whether you are able to discuss specialised academic topics in English.

### *When should I apply?*

You are strongly advised to apply as soon as possible and long before the deadlines expire (July 15 for non-EU citizens, September 15 for EU citizens). We are permanently processing incoming applications, admitting (successful) applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadlines ensure that you have enough time to acquire a visa and arrive in time for the start of the program in mid-October.

### *Is knowledge of German required, e.g. a DSH (Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang / German Language Examination for Admission to Higher Education)?*

**For MA CEAS and MA MEAS applicants:** No, all classes are taught entirely in English. However, students with no knowledge of German are advised to learn at least some German (and are given support). You can get by with English, but to get the most out of living here, some knowledge of German is very helpful.

**For MA MEAS+1 applicants:** Yes, German language skills are required (C1 level): **TestDaf (at least 4 in all sections, preferably 5) or DSH (Level 2, preferably Level 3)**

### *Should I send any extra documents or certificates with my application besides the required materials?*

No, this isn't necessary. If any additional documents (e.g. more detailed information or sample papers) are required, we will let you know. In most cases, however, additional documents will be discarded and not considered as part of your application.

### *Do I need a visa?*

Students from non-EU countries may need a visa to study in Germany. To apply for a visa you need (among others) the Certificate of Admission from UDE/IN-EAST and proof that you can support yourself financially for one year at a minimum of € 720 per month plus study fees (see below). Please be aware that it takes approximately 3 months, **sometimes even longer**, to obtain a visa.

### *What are the study costs?*

Social contributions of approx. 300 € per semester have to be paid by every student (at present 304,62). They have

to be paid for the first time right after enrolment and then again in a fixed period of time before each new semester (e.g. for the summer semester, the social contribution has to be paid between the beginning of January and the beginning of March). This includes a mobility fee for using public transport (see below: ***“What is the semester ticket?”***) and contributions to both the Students’ Union and the General Students’ Committee. **No further study fees are due. Students will be informed about payment terms when enrolling.**

#### ***What is the semester ticket?***

The semester contribution each student has to pay each semester includes the charge for the semester ticket. This ticket allows you to use the public transport in Duisburg, Essen and whole NRW for free under certain restrictions. For more detailed information, please follow this [link](#). (Please note that the website is maintained by a different institute, so we cannot guarantee that the information is correct and up-to-date).

#### ***Are any scholarship opportunities available to IN-EAST students?***

Yes! We encourage you to apply for the [UDE scholarship](#), which is awarded yearly, usually to students in the second year of study. For additional scholarship opportunities, please check the [DAAD](#) website or consider other private sources of funding in Germany or your home country. If available, we will also provide additional information about new scholarships by e-mail to enrolled students.

The University of Duisburg-Essen and its institutes support outstanding students with either scholarships or a wide range of job opportunities as student (research) assistants. Jobs as student assistants are usually advertised in the institute and students who have successfully completed the first or second semester can apply. The department also employs students to help with the alumni organization, provide assistance to professors or researchers and undertake other administrative tasks.

Information about available positions is posted around the department and on our website.

#### ***What about data protection?***

Your details are covered by the full set of data protection laws that are valid at the time of writing. <https://www.uni-due.de/en/privacy-policy.php>