

FAQ – Master 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 one of the largest centres 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.

IN-EAST is engaged in discipline-based area studies, applying sociological, political and economic theories and research perspectives to East Asia and its constituent countries and combining these approaches in cross-cutting interdisciplinary projects. The Institute aims to contribute to the understanding of developments in the contemporary societies of East Asia, their international relations and their growing impact in the world. Find out more about our [collaborative](#) and [individual](#) research projects.

We also offer a variety of different events, conferences and guest lectures from renowned scholars concerning East Asia regularly. 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. Proficiency in an East Asian language is not required. A range of Chinese, Japanese and Korean language classes is designed to accommodate students from absolute beginners with no prior knowledge to students with certain prior 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 a BA degree (at least a minor) in the social sciences (sociology, political science, IR and similar fields) 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 (equaling at least 60 credits or equivalent certification, e.g. HSK 4/5, JLPT N 2 or TOPIK 4), a strong social science or economics 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.

Both programs: *For students meeting some but not all of the above-mentioned criteria of the chosen program (e.g. language skills and a degree in a relevant discipline but insufficient credits; or advanced language skills and regional studies background, but no sufficient social science training):*

There is the option to gain conditional admission requiring the student to take additional classes for up to 30 ECTS. With this option, students can also be admitted in summer term and gain the missing knowledge in appropriate classes at the University of Duisburg-Essen. The classes are determined individually by the admission board/examination board of IN-EAST.

Which degrees are accepted? (Application for MA CEAS)

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

Applicants not completely fulfilling the above-mentioned degree requirements may be conditionally admitted, but have to make up the deficits by taking additional classes for up to 30 ECTS credits. Conditions are determined individually by the admission board/examination board of IN-EAST.

Which degrees are accepted? (Application for MA MEAS)

The program is aimed at students with a strong BA degree or equivalent in East Asian regional studies. Students should have advanced Chinese, Japanese or Korean language skills e.g. HSK 4/5, JLPT N 2 or TOPIK 4) and knowledge of at least one East Asian country. In addition, sound knowledge of at least one field in the 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 in the EU system. 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 for up to 30 ECTS credits. Conditions are determined individually by the admission board/examination board of IN-EAST.

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

German and EU students studying at German and EU higher education institutions in their final year can apply without the BA certificate if necessary. 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. For European students, the BA certificate will be necessary at the time of enrolment at our university (after being admitted) for regular enrolment, or needs to be submitted until the last day of the lecture period of their first winter term – meaning that they would only get provisional enrolment for the winter term which will then be turned regular as soon as the BA certificate is submitted. German students may hand in the BA certificate until the last day of the lecture period of their first winter term. If in doubt, please confirm rules and deadlines with the University Enrolment Service.

All applicants studying their BA degree at non-EU universities as well as

All non-European Applicants irrespective of where they study their BA

must at least be able to formally provide their final CGPA (Cumulative Grade Point Average) at the time of applying by a formal document issued by their university. The BA certificate will be necessary at the time of enrolment at our university (after being admitted)

Is a particular average grade required for admission?

Yes, we require an average grade of 2.5 or better, based on the German grading system (ranging from 1 = excellent to 5 = fail, 4 = minimum passing grade). Grades from other countries are transferred into this scale and made comparable by applying the so-called Bavarian formula:

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

In case you are unsure about your result or slightly below the required 2,5: We do our own calculations here and at the International Office, as for some international grading systems there are different standards. So please simply try and apply.

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. Please note that incomplete applications will only be processed after we have received the missing documents!

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 found on our website. Your referee should send the letter of recommendation directly to us by e-mail (maceas@in-east.de / mameas@in-east.de)

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 6. Students who are native speakers or have completed a prior degree in an English-taught program should note so on their application as they do not need to provide separate proof of their proficiency. Other kinds of certification need to be checked by the admission committee and might be rejected.

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. IN-EAST programs are conducted entirely in English; this includes all lectures, readings (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, listening, writing, and reading skills. Applicants may need to 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 graduated from universities in the People's Republic of China, Vietnam or India 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](#)

[India, New Delhi](#)

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), academic members of our institute will screen your documents, taking your motivation, qualifications and knowledge of theories and methods in your chosen disciplinary focus into account. If your application is assessed as poor, it will be rejected.

If it is assessed as strong, we may either admit you directly or organize an interview for you as second step with at least two members of our institute, either via Zoom (or other suitable software) or – for applicants from/in 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 either by e-mail or (for Non-EU applicants) through the online application platform.

The duration of this selection process varies, but should usually not exceed one month after submission of the complete application documents. Successful candidates who accept the offer of a place can subsequently enrol 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 qualifications as well as your knowledge of theories and methods of your BA discipline and other prior academic training. 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 (July 15 for non-EU citizens, September 15 for EU citizens). The deadlines ensure that you have enough time to acquire a visa if needed, take care of any necessary preparations and arrive in time for the start of the program in October.

Details regarding deadlines and procedures based on nationality/education:

CEAS: https://www.uni-due.de/in-east/study_programs/ma_ceas/prospective_students.php#procedure

MEAS: https://www.uni-due.de/in-east/study_programs/ma_meas/prospective_students.php#procedure

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

No, all classes in MA CEAS and MA MEAS are taught entirely in English. German language skills are not required. However, students with no knowledge of German are advised to learn at least some German (and are informed about opportunities to do so at our university) to help in everyday life. You can get by with English, but to get the most out of living here, some knowledge of German is very helpful.

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 Letter of Admission from UDE/IN-EAST, proof of health insurance, and proof that you can support yourself financially for one year at a minimum of € 934 per month (as of Jan. 2023) plus pay the study costs/social

contributions (see below). Please be aware that it takes approximately 3 months, sometimes even longer, to obtain a visa. For more information, please consult the following [link](#).

What are the study costs?

Social contributions of approx. 300 € per semester have to be paid by every student. 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). Students will be informed about payment terms when enrolling. This social contribution includes a mobility fee for using public transport (see below: ***“What is the Deutschlandsemesterticket?”***) and contributions to both the Students’ Union and the General Students’ Committee.

No further study fees or tuitions fees are due.

What is the Deutschlandsemesterticket (public transport student ticket)?

The semester contribution each student has to pay each semester includes the charge for the so-called Deutschlandsemesterticket. This ticket allows you to use the public transport in Germany for free under certain restrictions (local connections only etc.).

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 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. Information about available positions is posted on our website and the relevant university websites.

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>