



# MA North American Studies at the University of Bonn

transdisciplinary, intercultural, research-oriented

**You believe that cultural processes are inseparable from political and economic developments? You have a transatlantic perspective and are interested in intercultural exchange? You want to develop your own individual research project? And you want to pursue a career with an international organization, in journalism, cultural institutions, or academia?**

Then you may also want to enroll in the North American Studies Program at the University of Bonn and explore

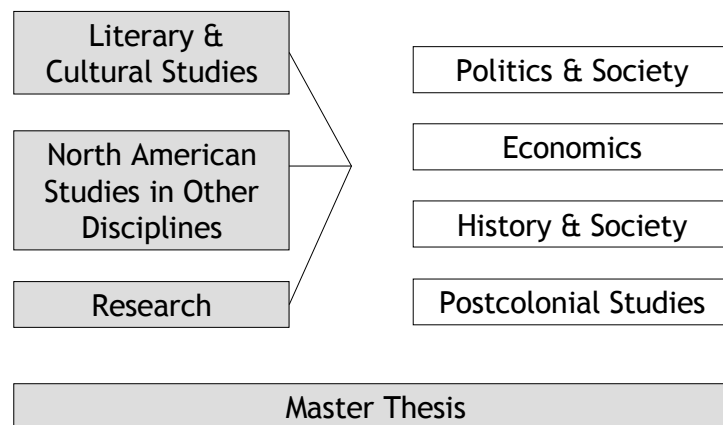
- ◆ the history of North American literature and culture as well as concepts and theories of literary, cultural and media studies;
- ◆ the US and Canadian political systems, foreign policies, international politics along with political theory and the history of ideas in North America;
- ◆ US and Canadian micro- and macroeconomics;
- ◆ the history of North American societies, African-American history, gender history, and postcolonial studies;
- ◆ and much more that suits your own particular interests.

The MA in North American Studies is a research-oriented MA degree program aimed at students dedicated to transdisciplinary work and intercultural exchange and interested in gaining expertise in North American culture, literature, politics, history and economics. The fully accredited two-year program (120 CP) with literary and cultural studies at its core offers you a unique variety of potential specializations, all made possible by cooperations with different institutes and faculties at the University of Bonn and the conjoining MA program in North American Studies at the University of Cologne. In this way, the MA in North American Studies allows you to focus on specific areas of interest and to conduct original research for your MA thesis while undergoing systematic training in transdisciplinary scholarly work and debate.

Our MA builds on the experience of the North American Studies Program of the University of Bonn established in 1990 and brings together the expertise of scholars from the universities in Bonn and Cologne. We also maintain a long-standing cooperation with US and Canadian universities and scholars and have close contact with research facilities, political and economic decision makers, media companies, embassies as well as with our alumni who have pursued careers in politics, media, journalism, public administration, the foreign service, industry, commerce, legal professions, research, and teaching. If you have similar professional aspirations, then apply for our exciting MA in North American Studies program!

# The Program

The MA in North American Studies combines seven modules of which you need to complete five. The last term is dedicated to the writing of a MA thesis of about 80 pages (30 CP). The centerpieces of the program are the mandatory modules Literary & Cultural Studies, North American Studies in Other Disciplines, and a Research module (see gray boxes in the diagram below). In addition, you select areas of specialization by choosing two modules from the following four options: Politics & Society, Economics, History & Society, and Postcolonial Studies (see white boxes in the diagram below)

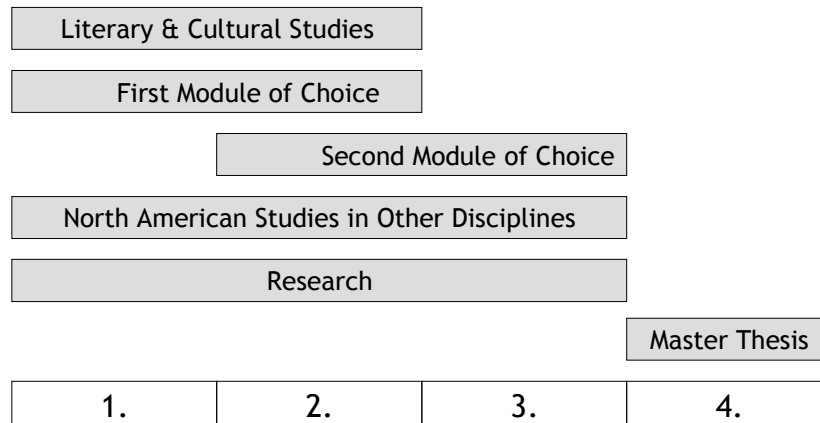


The modules Literary & Cultural Studies, Politics & Society and Economics are taught at the University of Bonn on Mondays, Tuesdays, and on Wednesday mornings; the modules History & Society and Postcolonial Studies are taught at the University of Cologne on Wednesday afternoons and on Thursdays and Fridays. There is a convenient train connection between the universities; it takes you about 25 minutes to get from Bonn Central Station to Cologne Bahnhof Süd. As a student enrolled at the University of Bonn you have free access to public transport in Bonn and Cologne, ensuring easy and inexpensive commuting.

Throughout the first three semesters, you will attend courses that allow you to become familiar with methods and theories of transdisciplinary research and debate. In your courses you will encounter four different forms of instruction:

- ◆ The **lecture|seminar** introduces you to the field and consists of a lecture and an accompanying tutorial.
- ◆ The **lecture** conveys more detailed knowledge of a particular area of study within the field.
- ◆ During **seminars** we discuss specific problems of scientific debate and practice basic techniques of scientific research.
- ◆ In the **colloquium** we focus on methods of transdisciplinary research. Here you will learn how to plan, conceptualize, and conduct your own research project for the MA thesis.

# Your Schedule



## Who Can Apply?

Each winter term up to 30 new students are admitted to the MA North American Studies program. The prerequisite for admission to our program differs according to your individual qualifications and training.

- ◆ **Graduates from the University of Bonn** are expected to have completed one of the following BA programs: English Studies, Politik & Gesellschaft, Geschichte, Geographie, Germanistik, Vergleichende Literatur- & Sprachwissenschaft, Kommunikationswissenschaften, Kunstgeschichte & Archäologie, Lateinamerika- & Altamerikastudien, Philosophie, Ev. Theologie, Volkswirtschaftslehre.
- ◆ **Graduates from other universities** are expected to have completed an accredited BA program which has provided them with a solid basis for the MA in North American Studies. Possible concentrations are majors in literary, media, or cultural studies, linguistics, social sciences, political science, economics, contemporary or modern history, or postcolonial studies.
- ◆ **All applicants** need to have successfully completed their BA program with a minimum grade of 3.0 (C+), and to have attended modules, accounting for at least 30 CP, which conveyed proficiency in literary, media, or cultural studies, linguistics, social sciences, political science, economics, contemporary or modern history, or postcolonial studies (preferably with special attention to North America and its cultures); or, alternatively, to have written a BA thesis that focused on North America and its cultures and was graded 2.0 or better.

Students who are finishing their BA studies while applying for our program need to have obtained 132 CP total and to have completed BA modules according to the requirements specified above. For more detailed information, please consult our website as well as the information given by the MA-Prüfungsbüro at the Philosophische Fakultät of the University of Bonn at [http://www.uni-bonn.de/www/Philosophische\\_Fakultaet/Pruefungsbueros/Pruefungsamt\\_fuer\\_die\\_Masterstudiengaenge.html](http://www.uni-bonn.de/www/Philosophische_Fakultaet/Pruefungsbueros/Pruefungsamt_fuer_die_Masterstudiengaenge.html).

# How to Apply

Please send us your application with the following documents by **15 July 2009**:

- ◆ the **application form** of the Dekanat der Philosophischen Fakultät of the University of Bonn, provided through a link on our homepage. Please fill in all required information requested and fasten a recent photograph to the document.
- ◆ your current **curriculum vitae (CV)**;
- ◆ a **letter of motivation** (in English, 600 words maximum). This letter should outline the reasons why you are interested in North American Studies and why you chose our program.
- ◆ your **Bachelor Certificate and Diploma Supplement** (a notarized or official copy). If you have not yet received your diploma, please send a record of study with the number of credit points gained so far and a written confirmation that you will receive the BA in time. The BA certificate can be handed in until October 1, 2009.
- ◆ proof of your **English language proficiency**. Your knowledge and understanding of the English language as the program's main language of instruction needs to be certified by either a degree in a related study program (such as a BA in English and/or American Studies) or by an accredited language test (preferably TOEFL 83 iBT/220 computer, IELTS 6.5 points minimum, CAE, or CPE).
- ◆ proof of your **language proficiency in a second modern language**. Your skill in this language, preferably French or Spanish, needs to be certified (A2 CEF).
- ◆ proof of your **German language skills** if you are not a native speaker. Many, though not all, of our classes are taught in English. This makes German language skills an indispensable prerequisite for all applicants. Foreign students therefore need to take and pass a DSH or DaF Test (DSH 1) before enrolling and, if possible, include the results in their application.
- ◆ Optional documents: certificates of internships, letters of recommendation, or other documents of related relevance.

Please send your application to the following address:

**Dekanat der Philosophischen Fakultät  
Universität Bonn  
Am Hof 1  
53113 Bonn**

For further information please contact

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and visit our homepage: <http://www.nap-uni-bonn.de>

