

University of Freiburg
Faculty of Humanities
Department of Sociology

Module Handbook

for the
Master of Arts in Social Sciences
Global Studies Programme

at

University of Freiburg
University of Cape Town
FLACSO Argentina
Chulalongkorn University
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Freiburg, 13th of May 2025

universität freiburg



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General information on M.A. Social Sciences (Global Studies Programme)

Overview of the master program

The Global Studies Programme is a two-year Master program initiated in 2002. The mission of the program is to study social sciences in various cultures and regions, focusing on the Global South. It is conducted jointly by the University of Freiburg (Freiburg), the University of Cape Town (Cape Town), FLACSO Argentina (Buenos Aires), Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi). Each institution belongs to the best in its region.

More than 600 students from more than 70 countries have joined the program over the years of its existence. About one third of the graduates have moved on to do a PhD, around one third work in international organizations and NGOs, while the remaining third have entered various fields, such as politics, journalism, or business. The program received many high-ranking awards, for example the BMW Group Award for Intercultural Learning (2004) and the title of a Top Ten International Master Programs in Germany by the DAAD and the Stifterverband der deutschen Wissenschaft (2006).

Subject	Social Sciences
Degree	Master of Arts. Choice between • Joint degree Freiburg – Buenos Aires • Co-badged degree Freiburg – Cape Town
Form of study	Full time program, in-person program
Type of study program	Consecutive Master program
Standard period of study	4 semesters
Institutions	University of Freiburg, Freiburg FLACSO Argentina, Buenos Aires University of Cape Town, Cape Town Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities
Department	Department of Sociology
Homepage	www.gsp.uni-freiburg.de
Languages of instruction	English (optional local language classes)
Admission requirements	BA in Social Sciences (or related field) of at least three years and with above average results, good mastery of English (equivalent to B2, see website for more information)
Start of the program	April 1 st of every year

Profile of the master program & learning objectives

The Master of Arts in Social Sciences (Global Studies Programme) is the oldest higher degree of its kind worldwide. It is an interdisciplinary international program comprising sociology, political science, anthropology, and human geography. During the two years of the program, students work in these disciplines at prestigious institutions on three continents. The high-ranking institutions offer students a unique study experience, while at the same time students have the exceptional opportunity to learn outside the classroom through the master program. They study together all around the world as a group composed of students from all corners of the globe. The intercultural, interdisciplinary, and intercontinental experience makes them experts in the currents of globalization and their study.

In the Global Studies Programme (GSP), students acquire profound theoretical knowledge, methodological training, and practical skills for the comparative analysis of the social, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of globalization processes in a research-led institutional framework. Students learn to approach social phenomena and processes of globalization from at least four disciplines, comprising sociology, political science, anthropology, and human geography.

Due to the fundamental insight that all global processes are at the same time of local-regional as well as of global-transregional importance, the program aims at understanding the manifestations of transnational processes on the concrete local/regional level and the interdependencies between different regions as well as between regional and global processes. Accordingly, students learn to analyze the various forms, manifestations and impacts of globalization from different regional perspectives. A more in-depth description of the modules can be found below.

As social scientists, the students examine a variety of social phenomena and institutions in an interconnected interdependent world. The thematic focus here depends on current global events and regional research interests. These can include migration, social movements and civil society, inequalities, climate politics/sustainability, pandemics, populism, and knowledge production, to only name a few.

Studying at three places on three different continents in a flexible and student-centered learning environment with international faculty makes students aware of the relativity and constructedness of societies, politics, and cultures. Besides their further qualification as experts of transnational interconnections and interdependencies, it strengthens their intercultural competence.

The three main goals of the program are:

- Students learn about a variety of social science theories of globalization and relate them to current global-local as well as transregional issues.
- Students learn to assess the strengths and limitations of diverse social science research methods and how to independently design and conduct research projects.

- Students obtain personal competencies and modes of reflection that allow them to critically engage with diverse socially and culturally produced social realities and forms of inequalities, which helps them to pursue a variety of career paths (see section on career paths below).

After completing the program, students will have acquired the following skills and theoretical knowledge:

Theory and application of theory

- Students have acquired the competence to productively question, reformulate, and broaden Western European concepts and categories while taking perspectives of the Global South into account (postcolonial theories, decolonial approaches, subaltern knowledges, and border thinking).
- Students are able to critically analyze relations of dominance and structures of inequality in the globalized social world in which we live. Here, they are able to identify the continuing effects of historical processes like colonialism and the role of institutions.
- Students possess specialist knowledge on globalization processes, their repercussions, and transformations within the disciplines of sociology, political science, socio-cultural anthropology, and geography.
- Students have acquired an overview of new critical transdisciplinary approaches and are able to analyze global, transnational, and transregional entanglements.
- Students have gained the competence to distinguish, apply, and reflect upon different theoretical perspectives for the analysis of global challenges.
- Students can reflect on the social, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of globalization processes, their origins, their meaning, causes, consequences, and contestations from various disciplinary and regional perspectives.
- Students are able to understand the interconnectedness of social phenomena and to analyze specific regional manifestations.
- Students have acquired specialized knowledge in specific topics and regions.
- Students can identify the limitations of various social science theories and adjust them to analyze phenomena in a globally interdependent world.
- Students are able to make use of their knowledge to analyze complex global problems and to work on potential solutions for them.
- Students are able to put their theoretical knowledge to practical use and apply it appropriately.
- Students are able to adequately communicate complex contents from the disciplines involved, as well as theories, methods, and empirical results, to a scientific and non-scientific audience.

Methods, research skills & practical skills

- Students have acquired the ability to become aware of their standpoints/their positionality in the production of knowledge.
- Students are able to summarize, present and evaluate the current international state of research on globalization.
- Students are able to read, understand, and critically evaluate literature within the disciplines of sociology, political science, socio-cultural anthropology, and geography.
- Students are able to independently formulate research questions, generate hypotheses, and create an adequate empirical design for answering the research questions.
- Students are able to independently conduct and evaluate empirical research projects using adequate methods from social sciences.
- Students have acquired practical knowledge in formulating research questions and in conducting their investigation as well as in analyzing qualitative data.
- Students are able to critically reflect the results of empirical studies in the light of the study design and the methodology being used.
- Students have acquired the competence to alienate their views when investigating the familiar.
- Students have an understanding of and personal familiarity with at least two regions in the Global South and one region in the Global North. Students can adapt to and work in different cultural and geographic environments.
- Students have extensive international and intercultural competence.
- Students have gained experiences in a professional field that is relevant to them.
- Students are able to formulate their arguments precisely in both speech and writing.
- Students are able to follow presentations of complex contents.
- Students are able to use libraries and the internet effectively for research purposes as well as in order to process complex information.
- Students are able to motivate themselves, work independently, and manage their own time effectively.

Special characteristics of the program

Interdisciplinarity

The Global Studies Programme is an interdisciplinary program comprising sociology, political science, anthropology, and geography, plus additional courses in environmental sciences, economics, and data management. Depending on their study location, students can also choose courses from other disciplines related to the above-mentioned core disciplines (like diversity studies, African studies etc.).

International cooperation

The Global Studies Programme is offered jointly by five different prestigious academic institutions from around the globe. These are the University of Freiburg, the University of Cape Town, FLACSO Argentina, Chulalongkorn University, and Jawaharlal Nehru University. The academic institutions work together to offer the classes in the various modules and to provide supervision for the final Master thesis.

Compulsory terms abroad

The students spend their second and third semester at two different institutions abroad. In the second semester, they can choose between the University of Cape Town (Cape Town) and FLACSO Argentina (Buenos Aires). In the third term, they can choose between Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok) and Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Delhi). These terms abroad are a compulsory and essential component of the program.

Semester/place	Month
1. Freiburg	April – July
2. Cape Town or Buenos Aires	August – November
3. New Delhi or Bangkok	January – May
4. Internship	June – September
5. Freiburg or Cape Town	October – March/May

Compulsory internship

Between their third and their fourth term, students conduct a compulsory internship with a company or institution of their choice. This is considered an essential component of the program, as it provides an opportunity for students to put the skills they acquired to practical use and it helps students in their further career orientation. For more details on the internship, see the section below.

Joint degree or co-badged degree

Depending on their study location, students can receive either a joint degree from FLACSO Argentina and the University of Freiburg, or a co-badged degree from the University of Freiburg and the University of Cape Town.

Diverse student body

Each cohort of students consists of people from different geographic and academic backgrounds.

Coordination

For the coordination of the program, each institution has nominated a coordinator whom students can contact in case of problems. Consequently, each location is coordinated by a head of school and a coordinator. By having established a decentralized structure it can be guaranteed that local problems do not have to be solved through the University of Freiburg. However, the responsibility for the modules, as well as the global structure, is centralized to a certain degree in Freiburg where the headquarters and the examination office are located.

Curriculum of the studies

Se me ster	Module	Course	Oblig atory?	Semes ter hours	Course type	EC TS	Location
1	Globalization I	Course in the domain Theories of Globalization	Yes	2	Lecture	7	Freiburg
1	Global Governance I	Course in the domain International Politics	Yes	2	Lecture	7	Freiburg
1	Cultural Change I	Course in the domain Europe in Theories and in the World	Yes	2	Seminar	7	Freiburg
1	Methodology I	Methods of Cultural Anthropology and Geography	Yes	2	Seminar	7	Freiburg
						28	
2	Globalization II	Course in the domain Global Public Spheres	Yes	2	Lecture or seminar	7	Cape Town or Buenos Aires
2	Global Governance II	Course in the domain Global Economy and Society	Yes	2	Lecture or seminar	7	Cape Town or Buenos Aires
2	Cultural Change II	Course in the domain Culture and Identity	Yes	2	Lecture or seminar	7	Cape Town or Buenos Aires
2	Methodology II	Empirical Research Project I	Yes	2	Seminar	7	Cape Town or Buenos Aires
						28	
3	Globalization III	Course in the domain Globalization and Development	Yes	2	Lecture or seminar	7	Bangkok or Delhi
3	Global Governance III	Course in the domain International Institutions	Yes	2	Lecture or seminar	7	Bangkok or Delhi
3	Cultural Change III	Course in the domain Communication, Knowledge, and Culture	Yes	2	Lecture or seminar	7	Bangkok or Delhi
3	Methodology III	Empirical Research Project II	Yes	2	Seminar	7	Bangkok or Delhi
3		Internship	Yes	-		4	
						32	
4	Specialization of selected problem areas	Colloquium	Yes	2	Colloquium	1	Freiburg
4		Global Studies Forum	Yes	2	Colloquium	1	Freiburg
4		Final Examination	Yes	-		30	Freiburg
						32	

Forms of teaching

The concrete implementation of the following forms of teaching and the exact class size may depend on the study location and reflect the local university and discipline culture. Students will therefore get to know a variety of different teaching methods and ways of learning. In general, the contents of the program and the competencies will be conveyed through the following forms of teaching:

- **Lecture:** In the lectures, the responsible lecturer will present a subject matter from the social sciences according to the latest state of research. During the course of a lecture, the students acquire a profound broad knowledge on topic areas from the disciplines that are involved. The lecturer positions these within the wider research discourse.
- **Seminar:** Seminars are classes that delve deeper into selected topic areas. Discussions are a central element of every seminar. In the discussions, the teacher supervises the students as they jointly deal with the given topic. The students prepare for the discussions by intensive self-study of the assigned material. Thereby they learn to assume different positions in the scientific discourse (for example via presentations), to justify their position, to respond to objections, and to defend and revise their own argumentation. The person moderating a discussion can be either the lecturer or a student. During the preparation as well as the follow-up work, students are expected to deepen and expand their understanding of the given topic by consulting further literature.
- **Colloquium:** The purpose of a colloquium is to provide a space for scientific conversations on ongoing research projects and other topics, for example career prospects. Students get the opportunity to present their own research or their internships and discuss it with the audience. The role of the audience is to provide critical feedback as well as suggestions.

Forms of examinations

Similar to the methods of teaching, the concrete implementation of the methods of examination depends on the study location and reflect the local and disciplinary customs. The details of the examination for each module can be found in the module descriptions below. The two main forms of examination are:

- **Exams:** Exams comprise tasks set by the lecturer (for example open-ended questions), which are completed under supervision without being allowed to use further material. The exact duration of each exam is specified in the module description. The date and time of the exam is set by the lecturer.
- **Written elaborations:** Written elaborations can be either essays or term papers. The exact form

and the required length are specified in the module descriptions. These elaborations usually require the student to independently work on one or several questions from the scientific discourse within a set time frame. Students are expected to incorporate literature and further sources into their elaborations.

Forms of coursework

Coursework is individual written, oral, or practical work performed by the student in connection with a course. It is specified in § 9 (1) and § 9 (2) of the “Prüfungsordnung der Albert-Ludwigs-Universität für den Studiengang Master of Arts (M.A.)” in the version of October 2023. Similar to the forms of examination, the concrete implementation of the modes of coursework depends on the study location and reflects the local and disciplinary customs. Details of the coursework for each module are listed in the module descriptions below. The main forms of coursework are:

- **Regular attendance:** Students are required to regularly participate in a course. Participation may include that students actively contribute to class discussions. Regular attendance is necessarily combined with another form of coursework.
- **Oral presentation:** Oral presentations are performed by the student during course sessions and are based on the course content. They usually require students to independently prepare a topic or assigned reading and deliver a presentation while adhering to a set time frame. The required length is specified in the module descriptions. The exact form and date are determined by the lecturer.
- **Preparation and follow-up study of assigned literature:** Lecturers assign readings related to the course content which students work on through intensive self-study before and after a course session. These readings may serve as a base for class discussions. The number of readings per session is specified in the module descriptions. The exact form and the required length are determined by the lecturer.

Internship

Internships comprise practical work in public or private institutions through which students will gain insight into the organization and operation of a career in a societal field which they might seek at a later stage. On completion of the internship, a report must be submitted which reflects the social scientific dimensions of the field of work during the internship. Employers must confirm that the internship was completed.

Internships are compulsory. Internships shall cover a minimum period of three weeks and shall be undertaken during the break of approximately five months between the third and fourth semester. Students will gain 4 ECTS credits (European Credit Transfer System) for the successful completion of their

internship. This means the internship must comprise at least 120 working hours.

The Master Thesis

For the master thesis, students need to have one supervisor from the University of Freiburg and one from the University of Cape Town or FLACSO. Students have to discuss the topic of their thesis with their supervisors before registration. Students have the option to select from the professors who are part of the Global Studies Programme for the supervision of their master thesis. Students have five months to finalize the master thesis. Their research question should reflect this time restriction. The master thesis has to meet the following requirements: typewritten hardback copies with a length that should keep to 60 DIN A4 pages; each with 40 lines and 60 signs a line; pages have to be numbered consecutively. The thesis must be handed in on time.

There are two date options for writing the master thesis, as follows:

- Option 1: Graduating before the end of the winter semester. Registration of thesis until mid of August (precondition: 50 ECTS), oral exam end of March.
- Option 2: Graduating within the summer semester. Registration of thesis at the beginning of October until mid of November (precondition: 50 ECTS), oral exam end of May (or later, depending on exact date of registration).

Please note that students need to be matriculated at the University of Freiburg in order to be admitted to the master thesis and need to stay matriculated until their oral exam is completed. If students choose the first option, this means that they need to be matriculated in their third semester both in Freiburg and at the partner institution and pay fees at both institutions. If students choose the second option, they need to re-enroll for a fifth semester and pay the fees for a fifth semester. If the final examination process is completed within the first four weeks of the lecture period of the summer term, nearly all of the fees can be reimbursed.

Prospects for graduates of the master program

Alumni of the Global Studies Programme have pursued three main career paths, namely academia, international organizations (such as UN or NGOs), and development cooperation. Several other alumni are now working in the fields of media, coaching, consulting, and politics. For the overwhelming majority of alumni, the mission of the program forms the basis for their employment and their professional life: the intercultural, transdisciplinary, and intercontinental study of globalization.

In order to prepare students for their professional life, a compulsory internship is a component of the

curriculum. The internship should be in one of the prospective areas of later employment. For many students, it actually becomes the stepping-stone into professional life. The staff will assist with information, recommendations, and addresses whenever students require help.

For internships and employment, another vital source of help is the alumni network, which spans the entire globe and many fields of employment. In addition, there are the Alumni Organization of the University of Freiburg and regional Global Studies networks to be contacted through program staff. Students should make use of all these resources. Even though it is virtually impossible to remain unemployed after graduation, students should make sure to find the type of career that suits them best.

Here are some examples of career paths of our alumni:

Yorim Spoelder is originally from the Netherlands and was part of the Global Studies Programme batch of 2012. After completing the Global Studies Programme, he earned a doctorate from the Freie Universität Berlin. He is now a postdoctoral research fellow affiliated with the Einstein Professorship in Global History at Freie Universität Berlin. He previously held various fellowships at the University of Freiburg, the Freie Universität Berlin, and IHEID Geneva, was a guest scholar at EHESS Paris, and affiliated as a researcher with the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi. Yorim Spoelder's research focuses on the modern connected histories of Europe, South and Southeast Asia and is characterized by an interdisciplinary and global approach. His main interests include imperial history, the history of knowledge, urban history, critical heritage studies, and international affairs.

Lisen Wirén started the Global Studies Programme in 2010. After finishing the program, Lisen worked on the topics of sustainability and social impact both in the private sector and in NGOs. Her current role is program manager for IKEA social entrepreneurship. She has worked and lived in many different countries including Germany, Argentina, India, Thailand, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, and Guatemala.

Maija Kāle graduated from GSP in 2007, and afterwards founded an NGO where she worked with development cooperation projects with Georgia and Belarus, while freelancing for different research projects in Latvia. She is currently working as adviser for the Nordic Council of Minister's Office in Latvia on the topics of sustainability and digitization. In 2023 Maija completed her PhD at the Faculty of Computing, University of Latvia, with a focus on big data and food systems and has developed a course "food computing" at the university.

Amna Syed started studying Global Studies in 2018. After her graduation, Amna first joined the United Nations as a project officer for disability and went on to work for multiple government organizations in different roles, for example as a human rights reporting expert for the United Nations Development Program. She currently works as United Nations gender officer for the Development Program Pakistan. Her current project SELP (Strengthening Electoral and Legislative Processes) works to enhance democracy

by supporting free and fair elections and ensure greater political participation and inclusion for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Carlo Angerer started studying the Global Studies Programme in 2010. After graduation, Carlo worked as a freelance journalist for several news organizations in Germany, including ZDF and Reuters. Since 2014, he has been working as multimedia reporter and producer for NBC News based in Germany, where he is covering stories around the world for an American audience on a range of topics.

Derya Bischoff was part of the Global Studies cohort starting in 2015. After graduation, Derya started her career with Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) by working for them in India on a women economic empowerment project. She is currently employed as adviser with GIZ in Ghana on the topic of promotion of e-commerce in Africa.

Sofia Saeed graduated from GSP in 2019 and started working in the area of development cooperation in Germany. Her current role is project manager at the GFA Consulting group. At GFA, she currently manages two projects to facilitate international trade, one with the EU and one with the GIZ.

The Modules

Overview

The Global Studies Programme builds its curriculum upon two dimensions that both widen and deepen the academic training of the students. On the one hand, by developing the reflection on globalization processes, their meaning, causes, consequences, and contestations within four module groups, each of them shedding light on different questions, theoretical and empirical aspects of globalization which stem from different fields of the social sciences, it contributes to the systematic analysis of globalization within a rich transdisciplinary framework.

On the other hand, by the integration within these four module groups of different approaches and views on globalization from five campuses in Europe (Freiburg), Southern Africa (Cape Town), Southeast Asia (Bangkok), South Asia (New Delhi), and South America (Buenos Aires), the program opens the space for comparative and dialogical forms of scientific inquiry and academic cooperation. The Global Studies Programme thus not only deals with very current and significant research agendas worldwide within social sciences, but also bridges the gap between the academic inquiry and the contemporary real world by sending the students out there.

Consequently, the transdisciplinary coherence of the Global Studies Programme comes from an understanding of the selected objects of research which are the conflictual cultural, political, economic, and societal experiences of globalization processes in different world regions:

- Processes of global social change which appear in different conceptual maps seen from the North, the South, and the East – with a focus on interdependencies and transnational linkages in historical perspective (Globalization I, II and III).
- The complex system of global governance and current shifts and developments in world politics. Structures and institutions of a global system whose macrodynamics generates the scope for decentralized action on the part of local and transnational actors (Global Governance I, II and III).
- Scientific theories and everyday world views and identities in which social, ethnic, political, and religious answers to cultural and social transformations, economic interdependencies, and geographical distributions are mirrored, as well as the search for a fair world order. The social construction of reality and underlying assumptions in the construction of knowledge are being discussed and identified (Cultural Change I, II and III).
- Interdisciplinary mixed methods of inquiry which are required to decode these processes (Methodology I, II and III).

These four main areas are completed by a final module, “Specialization of selected problem areas”,

which takes place in the fourth semester, and which helps students to reflect on and specialize within the contents of the program and to make plans for their next career steps.

Freiburg	Module Globalization I	Module Global Governance I	Module Cultural Change I	Module Methodology I
	Course in the domain Theories of Globalization (7 ECTS)	Course in the domain International Politics (7 ECTS)	Course in the domain Europe in Theories and in the World (7 ECTS)	Methods of Cultural Anthropology and Geography (7 ECTS)
Cape Town or Buenos Aires	Module Globalization II	Module Global Governance II	Module Cultural Change II	Module Methodology II
	Course in the domain Global Public Spheres (7 ECTS)	Course in the domain Global Economy and Society (7 ECTS)	Course in the domain Culture and Identity (7 ECTS)	Empirical Research Project I (7 ECTS)
New Delhi or Bangkok	Module Globalization III	Module Global Governance III	Module Cultural Change III	Module Methodology III
	Course in the domain Globalization and Development (7 ECTS)	Course in the domain International Institutions (7 ECTS)	Course in the domain Communication, Knowledge and Culture (7 ECTS)	Empirical Research Project II (7 ECTS)
	Internship (minimum 3 weeks, 4 ECTS)			
Freiburg	Final Examination Process		Module Specialization of selected problem areas	
	Master thesis (25 ECTS) Oral exam (5 ECTS)		Colloquium (1 ECTS) Global Studies Forum (1 ECTS)	

Modules on Globalization

Module name		Module number				
Globalization I		M1				
Person responsible for the module						
Prof. Manuela Boatcă (University of Freiburg)						
Institute/Faculty						
Department of Sociology (University of Freiburg)						
ECTS Credits		7				
Workload in total		210 hours				
Workload – contact hours		22 hours				
Workload – hours of private study		188 hours				
Recommended study semester		1				
Possible study semester		1				
Duration of module		1				
Obligatory or elective module		Obligatory				
Frequency		Annually				
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations						
The examination regulations do not contain any requirements for participating in this module.						
Courses belonging to this module						
Name of course		Type of course	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Semester hours	Workload in total
Course in the domain Theories of Globalization		Lecture	Obligatory	7	2	210 hours
Qualification goals/skills						
After successfully completing the module, students:						
• have a solid grasp of the critique of methodological nationalism as a way of overcoming the prevailing social scientific focus on nation states. • possess specialist knowledge of social scientific and historical approaches that examine global, transnational, and transregional linkages between world regions and the role that power and violence, exploitation and resistance, decolonization and renegotiation have played in them. • have acquired an overview of globalization processes, their repercussions, and transformations within the disciplines of sociology, political science, socio-cultural anthropology, and geography. • are able to read, understand, and critically evaluate literature on globalization. • can reflect on globalization processes, their meaning, causes, and consequences from various disciplinary and regional perspectives. • are able to summarize, present, and evaluate the current international state of research on questions relating to global and regional transformations. • are able to make use of their knowledge to analyze complex global problems and to work on potential solutions for them.						
Contents						
The module Globalization I exposes students to up-to-date theoretical and conceptual inquiry on						

globalization within sociology, political science, and anthropology. The interest is to examine how, why so, and with what consequences global processes, from colonization and enslavement up to decolonization and world wars, unequally impact different parts of the world.

The module also explores the effects of this differentiated impact on the ways in which the scientific reflection on globalization is in turn formulated and theorized by scholars from different regions. Consequently, the course in this module aims to introduce key theoretical approaches and empirical work on interdependent processes of social change that take place in different regions of the world and interlock them with the global capitalist system. The module further aims to reveal old and new interdependencies between different world regions on the basis of historical and current examples of regional and global interdependencies in the Caribbean, the Americas, China, Africa, and Europe.

The lecture “Global and regional transformations” (Course in the domain Theories of Globalization) focuses on social transformations and how they can be analyzed in an entangled and globalized world. Social transformations reflect interdependent processes that take place in various world regions simultaneously. Due to their focus on national societies, social scientists have hitherto underestimated these interdependencies. This has led scholars to develop critical interdisciplinary approaches able to analyze global, transnational, and transregional entanglements. In its first part, this course will offer a comparative overview of these new perspectives, highlighting their analytical promises and deficits. The second part is dedicated to studying global development tendencies in order to illustrate interdependencies between different regions. Examples focus on the Caribbean, the Americas, China, Africa, and Europe, and are used to illustrate how historical and current entanglements have been shaped by power and violence, exploitation and resistance, decolonization and renegotiation.

Recommended reading:

Boatcă, M. (2021). Sociology of an interconnected world. In: Murji, K., Neal, S., & Solomos, J. (Eds.). *Introduction to sociology* (pp. 89–102). Sage.

Gutiérrez Rodríguez, E., Boatcă, M. & Costa, S. (2016). *Decolonizing European sociology: Transdisciplinary approaches*. Routledge.

Trouillot, M. (2016). *Global transformations: Anthropology and the modern world*. Springer.

Vertovec, S. (2009). *Transnationalism*. Routledge.

Examinations counted towards the final grade

Written exam at the end of the semester. Duration: around 2 hours

Examinations not counted towards the final grade

None

Composition of the module grade

Grade of the course in the domain Theories of Globalization

Applicability of the module

M.A. Social Sciences

Module name		Module number				
Globalization II		M2				
Person responsible for the module						
Prof. Amrita Pande (UCT), Dr. Patricia Ferrante (FLACSO)						
Institute/Faculty						
Department Ética, Derechos y Bienes Públicos Globales (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales – Argentina), Department of Sociology (University of Cape Town)						
ECTS Credits		7				
Workload in total		210 hours				
Workload – contact hours		18 hours				
Workload – hours of private study		192 hours				
Recommended study semester		2				
Possible study semester		2				
Duration of module		1				
Obligatory or elective module		Obligatory				
Frequency		Annually				
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations						
The examination regulations do not contain any requirements for participating in this module.						
Courses belonging to this module						
Name of course		Type of course	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Semester hours	Workload in total
Course in the domain Global Public Spheres		Seminar or lecture	Obligatory	7	2	210 hours
Qualification goals/skills						
After successfully completing the module, students: - have acquired specialized knowledge on how governments and social movements in countries from the Global South (Latin America/(South) Africa) navigate the challenges stemming from the global economy. - have acquired an overview of key social actors for processes of globalization in countries of the Global South (Latin America/(South) Africa). - are able to reflect in their writing on theories and perspectives from scholars of the Global South on the involved regions and the entangled world. - are able to apply their theoretical knowledge on regional issues, topics, and problems that have emerged or become virulent in the course of globalization. - are aware of the interconnectedness of the world and have acquired a critical view of geopolitical processes.						
Contents						
The module Globalization II looks at globalization from the vantage point of the Global South (Latin America/Africa). Students learn about the entangled nature of the emergence of the contemporary world and critically analyze the connections between different parts of the world from the perspective of the Global South. The discussion of the impacts of globalization on different regional areas is framed within						

examples provided by each local context. This module explores how globalization and the effects of globalization are formulated and theorized by scholars from the involved regions, namely South Africa/Africa and Argentina/Latin America. The module further aims to explore the challenges and opportunities that the current mode of globalization presents for different local contexts. Students learn about the global economy and the involvement of social actors from the Global South. Furthermore, social movements, public goods, and natural resources, as well as citizenship and class (respectively social status) are addressed as social spheres that have been challenged by the processes of globalization. Depending on the local context, further thematic emphases are set here. At the University of Cape Town, the focus lies on the global political economy and its process of production, consumption, exploitation, labor arrangements, and the contradictions embedded in these processes. At FLACSO Argentina, the emphasis is put on analyzing global media and how it impacts citizenship and subjectivity, as well as understanding corporate capture.

Recommended reading:

Bond, P. (2003, February 4). *Commodification of public goods, critique and alternatives: General principles and a specific case study of water privatisation in South/Southern Africa* [Conference presentation]. World Council of Churches Dialogue with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, Geneva, Switzerland.

Gudynas, E. (2013). Transitions to post-extractivism: directions, options, areas of action. In Lang, M. & Morkani, D. (Eds.), *Beyond development; alternative visions from Latin America*. Rosa Luxemburg Foundation and Transnational Institute.

Examinations counted towards the final grade

Written term paper (length: 10 to 15 pages)

Examinations not counted towards the final grade

In case of seminar: regular attendance, oral presentation (10 to 20 minutes)

In case of lecture: preparation and follow-up study of assigned literature (2-3 readings per session)

Composition of the module grade

Grade in the course in the domain Global Public Spheres

Applicability of the module

M.A. Social Sciences

Module name	Module number
Globalization III	M3
Person responsible for the module	
Dr. Bhanubhatra Jittiang (Chulalongkorn University), Prof. Vivek Kumar (Jawaharlal Nehru University)	
Institute/Faculty	
Jawaharlal Nehru University, Chulalongkorn University	
ECTS Credits	7
Workload in total	210 hours
Workload – contact hours	30 hours

Workload – hours of private study	180 hours				
Recommended study semester	3				
Possible study semester	3				
Duration of module	1				
Obligatory or elective module	Obligatory				
Frequency	Annually				
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations					
The examination regulations do not contain any requirements for participating in this module.					
Courses belonging to this module					
Name of course	Type of course	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Semester hours	Workload in total
Course in the domain Globalization and Development	Seminar or lecture	Obligatory	7	2	210 hours
Qualification goals/skills					
After successfully completing the module, students:					
• have acquired an overview on the main transnational developments relevant to South Asia/Southeast Asia. • are able to analyze the relationship between globalization, regionalism, and development from an economic, political, cultural, and social perspective as it plays out in the particular context of Southeast Asia/South Asia. • have acquired specialized knowledge on social scientific and historical approaches that examine global, transnational, and transregional linkages between world regions with a focus on South Asia/Southeast Asia. • are able to reflect on globalization processes, their meaning, causes, and consequences from the perspectives of the regions offering this module. • are able to make use of their knowledge in order to analyze complex regional (South Asia/Southeast Asia) and global problems and to discuss potential solutions for them. • are capable of critically examining current regional developments and discussing alternatives against the background of central regional perspectives on the challenges of globalization.					
Contents					
The Globalization III module delves into the varied impact of globalization on South Asia and Southeast Asia. The aim is to investigate the unequal impacts of global processes on different regions of the world, including how and why this occurs and what consequences it has. It examines how scholars from these regions formulate and theorize scientific reflections on globalization in response to its effects. Consequently, the course in this module aims at introducing key theoretical approaches and empirical works on the meanings, causes, and consequences of globalization, focusing on its social, political, economic, and cultural dimensions within South Asia/Southeast Asia. At Chulalongkorn University, the focus lies on ASEAN (regionalism) with special attention on (trans-					

national developments and their intersection with inequity and diversity trends in the region. At Jawaharlal Nehru University, the emphasis is placed on holistic and comparative perspectives to grasp South Asian versions of modernization as well as on discourses on development and inequality. Recommended reading: Pieterse, J. N. (2004). <i>Globalization and culture</i>. Lanham. Roudometof, V. (2018). Recovering the local: From glocalization to localization. <i>Current Sociology</i> 67(6). 801–817. https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0011392118812933 Gupta, D. (2014). <i>Mistaken modernity: India between worlds</i>. Harper Collins. Overland, I., Sagbakken, H. F., Chan, H. Y., Merdekawati, M., Suryadi, B., Utama, N. A., & Vakulchuk, R. (2021). The ASEAN climate and energy paradox. <i>Energy and Climate Change</i> 2, 100019. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.egycc.2020.100019
Examinations counted towards the final grade
Written term paper (length: 10 to 15 pages)
Examinations not counted towards the final grade
In case of seminar: regular attendance, oral presentation (10 to 20 minutes)
In case of lecture: preparation and follow-up study of assigned literature (2-3 readings per session)
Composition of the module grade
Grade in the course in the domain Globalization and Development
Applicability of the module
M.A. Social Sciences

Modules on Global Governance

Module name		Module number				
Global Governance I		M4				
Person responsible for the module						
Prof. Sandra Destradi (University of Freiburg)						
Institute/Faculty						
Department of Political Science (University of Freiburg)						
ECTS Credits		7				
Workload in total		210 hours				
Workload – contact hours		22 hours				
Workload – hours of private study		188 hours				
Recommended study semester		1				
Possible study semester		1				
Duration of module		1				
Obligatory or elective module		Obligatory				
Frequency		Annually				
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations						
The examination regulations do not contain any requirements for participating in this module.						
Courses belonging to this module						
Name of course		Type of course	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Semester hours	Workload in total
Course in the domain International Politics		Lecture	Obligatory	7	2	210 hours
Qualification goals/skills						
After successfully completing the module, students: - are able to understand and explain current dynamics in global governance. - have acquired knowledge on the complex mechanisms, the institutions, and various actors involved in the provision of global public goods. - are able to critically reflect on the limitations of global governance in the context of de-globalization trends. - can evaluate current developments and analyses of international politics in a theoretically grounded manner.						
Contents						
The module Global Governance I deals with efforts to address global problems that cannot be solved by single states but require international cooperation and the provision of global public goods. It also takes into account the impact of globalization and de-globalization processes on the international system by examining a range of issue areas of global governance, their dynamics, and their impact on various local contexts. It understands global governance as a mixture of principles, rules, and laws necessary to tackle global problems, which are upheld by a diverse set of institutions, both international and national. It also examines the role of various kinds of actors, including non-state actors, within the international system, and their impact on the global and local levels. The module mainly builds upon the field of international relations and its theories, providing students						

with the appropriate analytical tools to study these dynamics.

The lecture “Introduction to International Relations” (Course in the domain International Politics) introduces the main theories, issues, and debates in this discipline. It devotes particular attention to major current shifts and developments in world politics. The first part of the lecture provides an overview of the main theoretical approaches in international relations. The lecture also traces the evolution of an increasingly complex system of global governance, which has emerged over the past decades with the aim of finding solutions to global problems and conflicts. It discusses the characteristics and performance of the United Nations and other multilateral organizations and provides insights into the field of comparative regionalism and the features of regional governance. Additionally, the lecture addresses a range of debates on current developments in world politics such as the rise of China and other emerging powers, the crisis of the so-called liberal world order, or the consequences of populism for world politics.

Recommended reading:

Baylis, J., Smith, S., & Owens, P. (2023). *The globalization of world politics: An introduction to international relations* (9th edition). Oxford University Press.

Weiss, T. G., & Wilkinson, R. (Eds.) (2023). *International organization and global governance* (3rd edition). Routledge.

Examinations counted towards the final grade
Written exam at the end of the semester. Duration: around 90 minutes
Examinations not counted towards the final grade
None
Composition of the module grade
Grade of the Course in the domain International Politics
Applicability of the module
M.A. Social Sciences

Module name	Module number
Global Governance II	M5
Person responsible for the module	
Prof. Frank Matose (UCT), Prof. Dr. Alejandro Pelfini (FLACSO), Prof. Dr. Adrián Beling (FLACSO)	
Institute/Faculty	
Department Ética, Derechos y Bienes Públicos Globales (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales – Argentina), Department of Sociology (University of Cape Town)	
ECTS Credits	7
Workload in total	210 hours
Workload – contact hours	20 hours
Workload – hours of private study	190 hours
Recommended study semester	2
Possible study semester	2
Duration of module	1

Obligatory or elective module	Obligatory				
Frequency	Annually				
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations					
The examination regulations do not contain any requirements for participating in this module.					
Courses belonging to this module					
Name of course	Type of course	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Semester hours	Workload in total
Course in the domain Global Economy and Society	Lecture or seminar	Obligatory	7	2	210 hours
Qualification goals/skills					
After successfully completing the module, students: • have acquired specialist knowledge on alternative, complementary perspectives from the Global South to the current institutionalist approach for theorizing global governance. • have enhanced their communicative and argumentative skills through activities such as representation and advocacy discussions. • learned to think of global governance as a contested terrain of ideas with different emphases on various actors. • learned to take a historical perspective of social transformations and transitions within and to a global world order into account.					
Contents					
In this module students critically engage with the global world order from perspectives of the Global South. The module aims at providing students with analytical perspectives to think of global governance as a contested terrain of ideas about how the world works and how it should work. In this module students critically engage with classical theories of international relations from the perspective of the Global South and learn complementary perspectives. In the module students engage with social transformations that affect and have been affected by the global world order and the global economy. The module deals with transitions towards the global world order and how this has affected states, the international political system, and other actors. At the University of Cape Town, an emphasis is put on multinational organizations like the African Union, whereas at FLACSO Argentina the focus lies on a global civil society and the emergence of a global public sphere. The module deals furthermore with questions about the functioning and role of key actors on a global level and their limitations. At the University of Cape Town students address the role of organization from the debates over social transformation, development, and systemic injustice. At FLACSO the focus lies on the emergence of a global public sphere and a global civil society as a regulatory mechanism for the governance of a (proxy-) global polity and as a locus for discursive construction of alternative futures for a sustainable society.					
Recommended reading:					
Castells, M. (2008): The new public sphere: Global civil society, communication networks, and global					

governance. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 616(1), 78–93.

Beling, A. E., Vanhulst, J., Demaria, F., Rabi, V., Carballo, A. E., & Pelenc, J. (2018). Discursive synergies for a ‘great transformation’ towards sustainability: Pragmatic contributions to a necessary dialogue between human development, degrowth, and buen vivir. *Ecological Economics* 144, 304–313.

Zanker, L. F., & Moyo, K. (2010). The corona virus and migration governance in South Africa: Business as usual?. *African Spectrum*, 55(1), 100–112.

Downie, C. (2022). How do informal international organisations govern? The G20 and orchestration, *International Affairs*, 98(3), 953–972.

Examinations counted towards the final grade

Written term paper (length: 10 to 15 pages)

Examinations not counted towards the final grade

In case of seminar: regular attendance, oral presentation (10 to 20 minutes)

In case of lecture: preparation and follow-up study of assigned literature (2-3 readings per session)

Composition of the module grade

Grade in the course in the domain Global Economy and Society

Applicability of the module

M.A. Social Sciences

Module name	Module number				
Global Governance III	M6				
Person responsible for the module					
Dr. Ackadej Chaiperm (Chulalongkorn University), Dr. Gurram Srinivas (Jawaharlal Nehru University)					
Institute/Faculty					
Jawaharlal Nehru University, Chulalongkorn University					
ECTS Credits	7				
Workload in total	210 hours				
Workload – contact hours	30 hours				
Workload – hours of private study	180 hours				
Recommended study semester	3				
Possible study semester	3				
Duration of module	1				
Obligatory or elective module	Obligatory				
Frequency	Annually				
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations					
The examination regulations do not contain any requirements for participating in this module.					
Courses belonging to this module					
Name of course	Type of course	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Semester hours	Workload in total
Course in the domain International Institutions	Lecture or seminar	Obligatory	7	2	210 hours
Qualification goals/skills					

After successfully completing the module, students: • possess specialist knowledge on international institutions on a global, regional, and sub-regional level within South Asia/Southeast Asia. • are able to read, understand, and critically evaluate literature on global governance written from regional perspectives (South Asia/Southeast Asia). • are able to summarize, present, and evaluate the current international state of research on international institutions with a focus on South Asia/Southeast Asia. • are able to make use of their knowledge to analyze complex global and regional problems and to work on potential solutions for them.
Contents The module aims at deepening concepts and theories of Global Governance as analytical frameworks. The module offers insight into the structure of international institutions at various levels – global, regional, and sub-regional – with a focus on South Asia/Southeast Asia. It covers the involvement of non-state actors in the political economy and addresses cross-cutting issues like migration, human rights, environment, and security. Furthermore, the module addresses how states govern various arenas of culture. At Chulalongkorn University, emphasis is put on case studies of Thai state governance, corporate governance, and civil society governance in the Southeast Asian context. At Jawaharlal Nehru University, the focus lies on current trends in and the dynamics of international conflicts. Recommended reading: Tow, W. T., Thakur, R. C., & Hyun, I.-T. (2000). <i>Asia's emerging regional order: Reconciling traditional and human security</i>. United Nations University Press. Cooke, P. N., & Heidenreich, M. (2004). <i>Regional innovation systems: The role of governance in a globalized world</i>. Routledge. Josselin, D., & Wallace, W. (2001). <i>Non-state actors in world politics</i>. Palgrave.
Examinations counted towards the final grade Written term paper (length: 10 to 15 pages)
Examinations not counted towards the final grade In case of seminar: regular attendance, oral presentation (10 to 20 minutes) In case of lecture: preparation and follow-up study of assigned literature (2-3 readings per session)
Composition of the module grade Grade in the course in the domain International Institutions
Applicability of the module M.A. Social Sciences

Modules on Cultural Change

Module name		Module number				
Cultural Change I		M7				
Person responsible for the module						
Prof. Manuela Boatcă (University of Freiburg), Dr. Caroline Janz (University of Freiburg)						
Institute/Faculty						
Department of Sociology (University of Freiburg)						
ECTS Credits		7				
Workload in total		210 hours				
Workload – contact hours		21 hours				
Workload – hours of private study		189 hours				
Recommended study semester		1				
Possible study semester		1				
Duration of module		1				
Obligatory or elective module		Obligatory				
Frequency		Annually				
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations						
The examination regulations do not contain any requirements for participating in this module.						
Courses belonging to this module						
Name of course		Type of course	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Semester hours	Workload in total
Course in the domain Europe in Theories and in the World		Seminar	Obligatory	7	2	210 hours
Qualification goals/skills						
After successfully completing the module, students: • have gained an overview of basic theoretical concepts dealing with cultural change and social transformations. • have acquired substantial knowledge about (European) sociological concepts that deal with the (re)production of inequality and the analysis of persisting power structures. • have gained awareness of links between culture, history, institutions, and economic transition in Europe and in a globalized world with a special focus on the interconnectedness between European countries and decolonized countries of the Global South. • have acquired the competence to critically formulate the explanatory limits of theories and concepts, being aware of the underlying Eurocentric and androcentric assumptions. • have learned to integrate field study and area research into theoretical frameworks. • are able to work with theoretical concepts as tools to analyze social phenomena. • are able to contextualize readings in relation to their conditions of origin and theoretical locations. • are able to critically reflect on the processes of knowledge production and their own positionality.						
Contents						
The module Cultural Change I deepens students’ understanding of globalization by leading them into the study of social and cultural change. Within this module, students go back to core paradigms within						

European social thought in order to understand the contested nature as well as the potential of the theories and key concepts for the study of social and cultural change and persistence under globalization. Challenging the students to develop critical thinking is a priority of this module.

The main objectives of this module are: making students (under their new global, practical, and theoretical experiences) ontologically aware of the social construction of reality, society, and culture. Students learn about contemporary power relations and inequality structures as historically evolved. The module aims at making students epistemologically aware that theoretical and practical understanding of the reality and its cultures and societies supposes concepts that dominate and penetrate peoples' thought and action.

Fulfilling therefore its further function of strengthening the students' understanding of the role of theory in the social sciences and how to work with theories as tools, constituting an identity as a social scientist, the module will uncover the conventional androcentric and Eurocentric assumptions in European genealogy of thought which necessarily turn into straitjackets, and so stimulate their contestation and their replacement through (new) critical views such as postcolonial approaches, decolonial thoughts, and subaltern knowledges. The module will examine the conceptual challenges of social theory under the expansion of global changes and global interconnectedness and challenge the "methodological nationalism" in European social theories.

Recommended readings:

Bourdieu, P. (1987). *Distinction: A social critique of the judgement of taste*. Harvard University Press.

Said, E. W. (2008). *Orientalism*. Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic.

Seidman, S. (2013). The colonial unconscious of classical sociology. *Political Power and Social Theory* 24, 35–54.

Boatcă, M., & Costa, S. (2010). Postcolonial sociology: A research agenda. In Rodríguez, E. G., Boatcă, M., & Costa, S. (Eds.), *Decolonizing European sociology* (pp. 13–31). Ashgate.

Examinations counted towards the final grade

Written term paper (length 5 to 10 pages)

Examinations not counted towards the final grade

Regular attendance, oral presentation (duration: 10 to 20 minutes)

Composition of the module grade

Grade of the course in the domain Europe in Theories and in the World

Applicability of the module

M.A. Social Sciences

Module name		Module number				
Cultural Change II		M8				
Person responsible for the module						
Prof. Ari Sitas (UCT), Dr. Juan Francisco Martínez Peria (FLACSO)						
Institute/Faculty						
Department Ética, Derechos y Bienes Públicos Globales (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales – Argentina), Department of Sociology (University of Cape Town)						
ECTS Credits		7				
Workload in total		210 hours				
Workload – contact hours		18 hours				
Workload – hours of private study		192 hours				
Recommended study semester		2				
Possible study semester		2				
Duration of module		1				
Obligatory or elective module		Obligatory				
Frequency		Annually				
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations						
The examination regulations do not contain any requirements for participating in this module.						
Courses belonging to this module						
Name of course		Type of course	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Semester hours	Workload in total
Course in the domain Culture and Identity		Seminar or lecture	Obligatory	7	2	210 hours
Qualification goals/skills						
After successfully completing the module, students:						
• have the ability to identify key debates in contemporary Southern scholarship, relate intellectual thinking with social processes, and demonstrate an understanding of the processes of social change in non-Western societies. • have gained knowledge about influential social and political ideas that have shaped the current debates in the regions offering this module. • have gained an appreciation and a critical assessment of the world’s entangled histories and their impacts on cultural, social and identity building without erasing specificities and peculiarities. • have the ability to question the assumptions made by (Western) intellectuals and connect them to the historical framework of their production. • have learned to constructively critique their classmates’ work in order to improve the line of argumentation. • have an understanding and personal familiarity with diversity in Latin American/ (South) Africa						
Contents						
This module exposes students to the debates around culture, regional and national identity, and belonging in the regions offering this module.						
To historicize society and to understand the driving forces that led to the main debates on social, cultural,						

and political issues in the involved regions, a set of intellectual ideas and social movements that have served as the driving forces are introduced and analyzed in this module. Questions of diversity, race, and regional/national identity formation are analyzed and addressed in the field of tension between regional and global interdependences and against the background of the dominant “West”. In FLACSO Argentina, the analysis of national and regional identity in political and social ideas written by Latin American intellectuals plays a key role. At the University of Cape Town, the focus lies on culture, identity, and belonging in Africa. To understand the multiplicity of individual and group identities, intellectual and social movements are analyzed.

Recommended reading:

Alexander, A., & Seidman, S. (1990). *Culture and society: Contemporary debates*. Cambridge University Press.

Mariátegui, J. C. (2011). The problem of race in Latin America. In Mariátegui, J. C. (Ed.), *An Anthology*. Monthly Review Press.

Christiansen, C. O., Guichon, M. L., & Mercader, S. (2022). Towards a Global Intellectual History of an Unequal World. *Global Intellectual History*, 1 – 17.

Diagne S. B. (2001), Africanity as an open question. In *Identity and beyond: Rethinking Africanity* (18–23). Nordiska Afrika Institutet.

Examinations counted towards the final grade

Written term paper (length: 10 to 15 pages)

Examinations not counted towards the final grade

In case of seminar: regular attendance, oral presentation (10 to 20 minutes)

In case of lecture: preparation and follow-up study of assigned literature (2-3 readings per session)

Composition of the module grade

Grade of the course in the domain Culture and Identity

Applicability of the module

M.A. Social Sciences

Module name	Module number
Cultural Change III	M9
Person responsible for the module	
Dr. Namphueng Padamalangula (Chulalongkorn University), Prof. Harish Naraindas, Prof. Manoj Kumar Jena (Jawaharlal Nehru University)	
Institute/Faculty	
Jawaharlal Nehru University, Chulalongkorn University	
ECTS Credits	7
Workload in total	210 hours
Workload – contact hours	30 hours
Workload – hours of private study	180 hours
Recommended study semester	3
Possible study semester	3

Duration of module	1				
Obligatory or elective module	Obligatory				
Frequency	Annually				
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations					
The examination regulations do not contain any requirements for participating in this module.					
Courses belonging to this module					
Name of course	Type of course	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Semester hours	Workload in total
Course in the domain Communication, Knowledge and Culture	Lecture or seminar	Obligatory	7	2	210 hours
Qualification goals/skills					
After successfully completing the module, students: • are able to summarize, present and evaluate the current international state of research on scientific debates on cultural change within South Asia/Southeast Asia. • can reflect on social and cultural transformations from the regional perspectives of South Asia/Southeast Asia. • are able to make use of their knowledge to understand and analyze the interdependencies of regional and global cultural and social processes. • have an understanding and personal familiarity with the diversity of cultures in South Asia/Southeast Asia. • gained awareness of the social and cultural construction of society and identities. • are able to identify ethnic, cultural, and religious concepts that influence cultural change and identity formations in the regions offering this module.					
Contents					
The module Cultural Change III deepens students’ understanding of social and cultural change in South Asia/Southeast Asia under the processes of globalization. Within this module, students gain an in-depth overview on the historical emergence of and substantive questions within South Asian/Southeast Asian social and political thought. South Asian/Southeast Asian social thought as addressed in this module deals with tradition and modernities as well as with dynamism of cultures in South Asia/Southeast Asia (religion, culture, caste, class, gender, ethnicity, etc.). The module addresses questions on how the understanding of and the relations between minorities, ethnic groups, and religious groups changes under the impacts of globalization (culture, identity, communication); although the erosion of cultural certainties does not preclude new assertions of identity (nationalism, fundamentalism) in the operative dimension of culture. The module will address the impacts of cultural change on everyday life and contemporary key debates in the involved regions.					
Recommended readings:					

Ganeri, J. (2009). Intellectual India: Reason, identity, dissent. <i>New Literary History</i> 40(2), 247– 263. DOI 10.1353/nlh.0.0088.
Jodhka, S. S. (2016). Ascriptive hierarchies: Caste and its reproduction in contemporary India. <i>Current Sociology</i> 64(2), 228–243.
Appadurai, A. (1996). <i>Modernity at large: Cultural dimensions of globalization</i> (volume 1). University of Minnesota Press.
Lee, J. J. (2018). <i>Colonialism and ASEAN identity: Inherited “mental barriers” hindering the formation of a collective ASEAN identity</i> (Doctoral dissertation). https://kyotoreview.org/trendsetters/colonialism-asean-identity/ .
Examinations counted towards the final grade
Written term paper (length: 10 to 15 pages)
Examinations not counted towards the final grade
In case of seminar: regular attendance, oral presentation (10 to 20 minutes)
In case of lecture: preparation and follow-up study of assigned literature (2-3 readings per session)
Composition of the module grade
Grade of the course in the domain Communication, Knowledge, and Culture
Applicability of the module
M.A. Social Sciences

Modules on Methodology

Module name		Module number				
Methodology I		M10				
Person responsible for the module						
Prof. Annika Mattissek (University of Freiburg), Prof. Michaela Haug (University of Freiburg)						
Institute/Faculty						
Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology (University of Freiburg), Department of Environmental Social Sciences and Geography (University of Freiburg)						
ECTS Credits		7				
Workload in total		210 hours				
Workload – contact hours		28 hours				
Workload – hours of private study		182 hours				
Recommended study semester		1				
Possible study semester		1				
Duration of module		1				
Obligatory or elective module		Obligatory				
Frequency		Annually				
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations						
The examination regulations do not contain any requirements for participating in this module.						
Courses belonging to this module						
Name of course		Type of course	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Semester hours	Workload in total
Methods of Cultural Anthropology and Geography		Seminar	Obligatory	7	2	210 hours
Qualification goals/skills						
After successfully completing the module, students: - are able to develop research questions based on theoretical concepts and the relevant state of research. - are able to independently plan and conduct empirical research projects using adequate methods from social and cultural Sciences. - can collect, process, visualize, and analyze empirical data using quantitative and qualitative methodology. - are able to critically reflect on the results of empirical studies in the light of the study design and methodology used.						
Contents						
The module aims at enhancing students’ research skills, their analytical and systematic thinking, as well as their abilities to appreciate and understand the strengths and weaknesses of different research methodologies and techniques. It aims at progressively developing students’ capacity to construct a research framework and to understand the relation between theories, methods, and the object of research.						

The module introduces research methods of the social and cultural sciences and practices their implementation on concrete empirical case studies. The seminar “Methods of Cultural Anthropology and Geography” introduces a range of methods from the cultural and social sciences with a focus on those approaches most commonly used in cultural anthropology and human geography. The focus of the course is to develop a ‘toolbox’ of common survey and analysis instruments for working with empirical data. In addition, the diversity of the group in terms of disciplinary, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds is made an explicit topic in the sense of “decolonizing the classroom” and strategies are developed on how to take this diversity into account in concrete group work. To apply these contents, students will conduct their own research exercises in and around Freiburg in small groups, allowing for exchanges and debates about differences between the skills and methodologies students have acquired in their respective bachelor programs and the potentials and limitations of new methods introduced during the course. Students thereby learn to not only apply and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of methodical research designs but also to reflect on the differences between diverse disciplinary traditions. Recommended readings: Bryman, A. (2016). <i>Social research methods</i>. Oxford University Press. Bernard, H. R., Wutich, A., & Ryan, G. W. (2016). <i>Analyzing qualitative data: Systematic approaches</i>. SAGE publications. Ragin, C. C. (1989). <i>The comparative method: Moving beyond qualitative and quantitative strategies</i>. University of California Press.
Examinations counted towards the final grade
Written project report (length: around 20 pages)
Examinations not counted towards the final grade
Regular attendance, oral presentation of research project (duration: around 20 to 30 minutes)
Composition of the module grade
Grade of the seminar “Methods of Cultural Anthropology and Geography”.
Applicability of the module
M.A. Social Sciences

Module name	Module number
Methodology II	M11
Person responsible for the module	
Prof. Elena Moore (UCT), Dr. Jerónimo Montero (FLACSO), Dr. Barbara Estevez (FLACSO)	
Institute/Faculty	
Department Ética, Derechos y Bienes Públicos Globales (Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias	

Sociales – Argentina), Department of Sociology (University of Cape Town)						
ECTS Credits		7				
Workload in total		210 hours				
Workload – contact hours		20 hours				
Workload – hours of private study		190 hours				
Recommended study semester		2				
Possible study semester		2				
Duration of module		1				
Obligatory or elective module		Obligatory				
Frequency		Annually				
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations						
The examination regulations do not contain any requirements for participating in this module.						
Courses belonging to this module						
Name of course		Type of course	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Semester hours	Workload in total
Empirical Research Project I		Seminar	Obligatory	7	2	210 hours
Qualification goals/skills						
After successfully completing the module, students:						
• have learned about common research mistakes through critical analysis of other research in their area. • have acquired and are able to apply various strategies for choosing and formulating a research problem. • have improved their ability to write, in a clear, accurate, and relevant mode, about different research objectives related to the selected topic. • have enhanced their skills on how to develop and write a research proposal. • have acquired the ability to properly apply methodological argumentation strategies and designs that allow them to realize their research goals, finding models and data, to complete the research scope activities. • have acquired knowledge about local practices, realities, and policies within the context of their investigation. • have enhanced their ability to reflect on their own positionality in the field research context.						
Contents						
The module focuses on the practical development of methodological research skills and the theoretical grounding of scientific research. The module contains the following: topic selection and definition of the problem situation, development and determination of the theoretical framework, definition of design (exploratory, descriptive, explanatory, experimental), data collection, processing, analysis, interpretation, formulation of research objectives, identification of research variables and their operationalization, and methodological perspectives, including quantitative and qualitative types. At FLACSO Argentina, the focus lies on the theoretical grounding of research methodology and fundamental elements of scientific research. The module content includes strategies of developing a						

research proposal. At the University of Cape Town great emphasis is placed on conducting reflective research that is inclusive of social diversity. The central focus is on practical research projects that are centered around specific topics.

Recommended readings:

Creswell, J. (2017). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. Sage publications.

Grant, C., & Osanloo, A. (2014). Understanding, selecting, and integrating a theoretical framework in dissertation research. *Administrative Issues Journal* 4(2), 12–26.

Ragin, C. (1994). What is Social Research?. In *Constructing Social Research* (pp. 5–35). Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press.

Examinations counted towards the final grade
Written term paper (length: 10 to 15 pages)
Examinations not counted towards the final grade
Regular attendance, oral presentation (10 to 20 minutes)
Composition of the module grade
Grade of the seminar “Empirical Research Project I”
Applicability of the module
M.A. Social Sciences

Module name		Module number				
Methodology III		M12				
Person responsible for the module						
Dr.Balazs Szanto (Chulalongkorn University), Dr. Divya Vaid (Jawaharlal Nehru University)						
Institute/Faculty						
Jawaharlal Nehru University, Chulalongkorn University						
ECTS Credits		7				
Workload in total		210 hours				
Workload – contact hours		30 hours				
Workload – hours of private study		180 hours				
Recommended study semester		3				
Possible study semester		3				
Duration of module		1				
Obligatory or elective module		Obligatory				
Frequency		Annually				
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations						
The examination regulations do not contain any requirements for participating in this module.						
Courses belonging to this module						
Name of course		Type of course	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Semester hours	Workload in total
Empirical Research Project II		Seminar	Obligatory	7	2	210 hours
Qualification goals/skills						
After successfully completing the module, students:						

- are able to critically evaluate and make educated use of published empirical articles.
- have specialized in their methodological competences (qualitative/ quantitative/ mixed research and evaluation methods; focus on methodology debates vs. research tools) according to their academic interests and prior knowledge.
- have deepened their practical skills for independently designing and conducting their own empirical research.
- have further expanded their practical knowledge in evaluating their own research project and reflecting on the ethics of research.
- are proficient in writing up research projects.
- have gained knowledge about local practices, realities, and policies within the context of their investigation.
- are able to adequately communicate and visualize their methods and empirical results to a scientific and non-scientific audience.

Contents

In the module Methodology III, the focus lies on personal specialization and the supervision of an individual research project as a preliminary preparation for the master thesis. The module allows students to specialize their knowledge (qualitative, quantitative, mixed method research design; methodological questions) and their practical research skills in the chosen research design (data collection and data analysis). Furthermore, the module focuses on the development of a research project and the writing of a scientific research proposal, strengthening the capacity to understand the relation between theories, methods, and the object of research. The module aims at enhancing analytical and systematic thinking. Within the context of their investigation, students learn about the contemporary world and its current challenges that confront people and societies in the specific regions offering this module (Southeast Asia/South Asia).

Recommended readings:

Goldthorpe, J. H. (2000). *On sociology: Numbers, narratives and the integration of research and theory*. Oxford University Press.

Babbie, E. (2007). *The practice of social research* (12th edition). Wadsworth.

Examinations counted towards the final grade

Written term paper (length: 10 to 15 pages)

Examinations not counted towards the final grade

Regular attendance, oral presentation (10 to 20 minutes)

Composition of the module grade

Grade in the seminar "Empirical Research Project II"

Applicability of the module

M.A. Social Sciences

Module Specialization of selected problem areas

Module name		Module number				
Specialization of selected problem areas		M13				
Person responsible for the module						
Prof. Manuela Boatcă (University of Freiburg), Dr. Caroline Janz (University of Freiburg)						
Institute/Faculty						
Department of Sociology (University of Freiburg)						
ECTS Credits		2				
Workload in total		60 hours				
Workload – contact hours		35 hours				
Workload – hours of private study		25 hours				
Recommended study semester		4				
Possible study semester		4				
Duration of module		1				
Obligatory or elective module		Obligatory				
Frequency		Annually				
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations						
The examination regulations do not contain any requirements for participating in this module.						
Courses belonging to this module						
Name of course		Type of course	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Semester hours	Workload in total
Colloquium		Colloquium	Obligatory	1	2	30 hours
Global Studies Forum		Colloquium	Obligatory	1	2	30 hours
Qualification goals/skills						
After successfully completing the module, students: - are able to put their theoretical knowledge to practical use and apply it appropriately. - are able to adequately communicate complex contents from the disciplines involved, as well as theories, methods, and empirical results, to a scientific and non-scientific audience. - have deepened their skills in presenting and visualizing findings to an audience. - are able to respond to (critical) feedback and integrate it into their work. - have gained the competencies to lead and be involved in professional discussions. - can adapt to and work in different academic, cultural, and geographic environments. - have acquired extensive international and intercultural competence. - have gathered information on and reflected on employment options and relevant organizations. - have gained insights into relevant career options. - have specialized both academically (thematically, theoretically, and methodologically) as well as in terms of career paths.						
Contents						
This module aims at the specialization of selected problem areas, academically in the course of the preparation and post-processing of the master thesis and practically in the course of the reflection of one’s own professional experience and the preparation for possible career paths after graduation. During						

this module, students are accompanied to further develop their professional and academic interests and specialties. In this module, students acquire the ability to refine their queries and choose ones that align with their areas of interest. They practice acting as experts who share and reflect on their work (experiences) with others. The module aims to offer students hands-on experience in presenting their expert opinions on various problems and issues to an audience of experts within different fields. They will need to reflect on their ideas, initiate discussions, and incorporate feedback. Additionally, students will have the possibilities to exchange ideas with and get information from academic and non-academic professionals.

This module includes the colloquium and the forum, both of which are offered in the fourth semester in Freiburg.

In the Global Studies Forum, experiences and results of the internships in particular are discussed and analyzed. Through the moderated exchange with their fellow students and the supervisor for the subject, the students reflect on their practical experiences and gain deep insights into a variety of diverse professional fields beyond their own internship experiences. Guest lectures and preparatory discussions in regard to the time period after graduation (finding a job; continuation of studies for a Ph.D. degree; Global Studies alumni network) will complete the Global Studies Forum.

The Colloquium is offered to supervise and help students writing their master's thesis by the supervising professors. Students present their master thesis topic (theoretical and methodological approach, if applicable empirical findings etc.) to an expert audience and open it up for discussion. Additionally, lectures on academic writing, structuring the thesis, and empirical research analysis are given.

Recommended reading:

Swales, J. M., & Feak, C. B. (2004). *Academic writing for graduate students: Essential tasks and skills* (volume 1). University of Michigan Press.

Examinations counted towards the final grade

None

Examinations not counted towards the final grade

Regular attendance in the Colloquium.

Regular attendance in the Global Studies Forum.

Oral presentation of the student's master thesis in the Colloquium (duration: 10 to 25 minutes).

Poster presentation of the student's internship in the Global Studies Forum.

Composition of the module grade

Not applicable, non-graded work only.

Applicability of the module

M.A. Social Sciences

Module Final examination

Module name		Module number		
Master thesis and oral exam		M14		
Person responsible for the module				
Prof. Manuela Boatcă (University of Freiburg), Dr. Caroline Janz (University of Freiburg)				
Institute/Faculty				
Department of Sociology (University of Freiburg)				
ECTS Credits		30		
Workload in total		900 hours		
Workload – contact hours		5 hours		
Workload – hours of private study		895 hours		
Recommended study semester		4		
Possible study semester		4		
Duration of module		2		
Obligatory or elective module		Obligatory		
Frequency		Annually		
Requirements for participation according to the examination regulations				
The requirements for being admitted to the Master thesis are specified in §18 (1) of the “Prüfungsordnung der Albert-Ludwigs-Universität für den Studiengang Master of Arts (M.A.)” in the version of October 2023. The requirements for being admitted to the oral exam (“mündliche Masterprüfung”) are specified in §20 (1a) of the “Prüfungsordnung der Albert-Ludwigs-Universität für den Studiengang Master of Arts (M.A.)” in the version of October 2023.				
Elements belonging to this module				
Name	Type	Obligatory or elective	ECTS credits	Workload in total
Master thesis		Obligatory	25	750 hours
Oral exam		Obligatory	5	150 hours
Qualification goals/skills				
After successfully completing the module, students: - are able to communicate complex contents from the disciplines involved, as well as theories, methods, and empirical results, to a scientific audience. - have deepened their skills in presenting findings to an audience. - are able to respond to (critical) feedback and integrate it into their work. - have gained the competencies to lead and be involved in professional discussions. - have specialized academically (thematically, theoretically, and methodologically). - are able to finalise a scientific project within a set time frame. - can independently select an appropriate research topic from a given discipline. - can independently apply suitable scientific methods to a given research topic. - are able to appropriately present the results of a research project in written form.				
Contents				
Within the Master thesis and the oral exam, students demonstrate that they are able to				

independently work on a topic from one of the disciplines involved, using scientific methods, and present the results, all within a set period of time.
The exact requirements of the Master thesis are specified in §19, and of the oral exam in §20, of the “Prüfungsordnung der Albert-Ludwigs-Universität für den Studiengang Master of Arts (M.A.)” in the version of October 2023, as well as in §6 of the “Fachspezifische Prüfungsordnungsbestimmungen” in the version in process.
Examinations counted towards the final grade
Master thesis, oral exam
Examinations not counted towards the final grade
None
Composition of the module grade
Grade of the Master thesis (counts double)
Grade of the oral exam (counts single)
Applicability of the module
M.A. Social Sciences

Descriptions of participating institutions

The participating institutions cover five global areas (Africa, Europe, Latin America, South Asia, and Southeast Asia). Each institution belongs to the best in its region. For example, in the QS World University Ranking 2023, the Global Studies Programme institutions rank at 189 (University of Freiburg) and 237 (University of Cape Town). Furthermore, Chulalongkorn University was ranked as the top University in Thailand for the 8th consecutive year in 2021.¹

University of Freiburg

The University of Freiburg was founded in 1457. Nestled in the city center, the university has received multiple national awards as one of the best universities in Germany for its excellent research and teaching and it is a creative, inspiring, and enjoyable learning and researching environment for its roughly 25,000 students. Twenty-three Nobel Prize laureates have researched, taught, and/or studied at one of the University of Freiburg's faculties, and its achievements regularly earn it a high standing in national and international university rankings. It is currently listed as one of the top five comprehensive universities in Germany and one of the best 100 universities in the world.

The broad range of fields of study at the University of Freiburg offers great potential for innovative fundamental research in individual disciplines and in the form of interdisciplinary collaboration. The roughly 250 degree programs, of which 20 are offered in English, provide opportunities for innovative approaches.

The university's mission is to provide the best learning and research conditions for regular students and for continuing education. In this, the university is guided by the principle of the freedom of researching and teaching responsibly to prepare tomorrow's generations for future challenges in society. The University of Freiburg not only respects the diversity of students and teachers regarding gender, social and cultural background, worldviews, physical and mental disabilities, age, and sexual identity; it regards this diversity as an asset. Today more than ever, its outstanding research and academic standards attract talented people from all over the world. In addition, the university is located in the sunniest city in Germany – a city that is popular for its high quality of life and visitor attractions. Freiburg not only has nice shops in the lively downtown area; it also boasts picturesque, narrow streets around the Minster

¹ All university descriptions are adapted versions of the texts from the respective university's website:

<https://uni-freiburg.de/university/university-at-a-glance/portrait/>

<https://uct.ac.za/welcome-uct>

<https://www.flacso.org.ar/institucional/historia/>

<https://www.chula.ac.th/en/about/overview/history/>

<https://jnu.ac.in/jnuataglance>

that are lined with small canals in the historical old town. This dynamic city with an international flair and an extraordinarily young population has a lot to offer in terms of culture, history, bustling cafés, and popular open-air events. The University of Freiburg sees its role here as a generator of ideas in that it makes its research available to the public and uses various forms of knowledge transfer to engage in a conversation with local citizens, communicate results of scientific research, and incorporate ideas from society.

University of Cape Town

The University of Cape Town (UCT) is a public university located in Cape Town, South Africa. Founded in 1829, the University of Cape Town is the oldest university in South Africa. Having 28.600 students and 4.500 staff members, UCT is the highest ranked African university in both the QS World University Rankings and the Shanghai Jiao Tong Academic Ranking of World Universities. Moreover, achieving a rank of 146 in the 2009 THES-QS ranking, this makes the University of Cape Town the only African University in the top 200. Founded in 1829, UCT has a proud tradition of academic excellence and effecting social change and development through its pioneering scholarship, faculty and students. It is also renowned for its striking beauty, with its campus located at the foot of Table Mountain's Devil's Peak, with panoramic views of much of Cape Town. The University of Cape Town is very similar to the city of Cape Town: it has a vibrant, cosmopolitan community. It is a cultural melting pot where each person contributes their unique blend of knowledge and thinking. UCT's staff and students come from over 100 countries in Africa and the rest of the world. The university has also built links, partnerships and exchange agreements with leading African and international institutions that further enrich the academic, social and cultural diversity of the campus. This heritage characterizes the experience of studying at the University of Cape Town, where the students are introduced to a life of leadership and service through social engagement. They also have the opportunity to hone their leadership skills by participating in the over 100 clubs and societies on campus, as well as in student governance.

UCT's reputation for excellence is underpinned by its distinctive research, led by its distinguished faculty, many of whom are world leaders in their field. UCT's researchers also teach and so ensure that our undergraduate and postgraduate students benefit directly from the latest scholarly work and discoveries. The university's reputation as a leading research and teaching university is also embodied by the quality of their alumni, many of whom continue to make outstanding contributions to society.

FLACSO Argentina

The Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) was founded in 1957 by the UNESCO. FLACSO is an international, intergovernmental, regional, and autonomous organization with representations in different Latin American countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, and Mexico. FLACSO Argentina is located in busy downtown of Buenos Aires, which is one of the most important cities and cultural centers on the continent. After the deep crisis of 2001, the whole country and particularly the city of Buenos Aires have been living a renaissance, evident in the emergence of original social movements, reindustrialization, and intensification of regional integration processes. Yet the effervescence of the city can be experienced particularly in culture: the explosion of arts and media activities (from cultural industries to popular theatre in neighborhoods) and the development of fine creative sectors (winner of the title "UNESCO-Design City") in combination with a cosmopolitan way of life and a large immigrant tradition offer a laboratory of cultural differentiation and globalized hybridization.

Strongly influenced by European culture, Buenos Aires is sometimes referred to as the 'Paris of South America'. It has many public libraries and cultural associations as well as the largest concentration of active theatres in Latin America. At the time of its inauguration in Argentina (1974), FLACSO was a pioneer in postgraduate education within the nation. Currently it offers a PhD program in social sciences, 20 Masters, and numerous specializations, postgraduate courses, and seminars, as well as distance learning.

Chulalongkorn University

Chulalongkorn University is Thailand's oldest and one of the country's most prestigious universities. It was officially established in 1917 by King Vajiravudh (Rama VI) and named after his father, King Chulalongkorn (Rama V), as he initiated a policy to promote education so the country could adapt to the developing world and avoid colonization.

Chulalongkorn University opened with four faculties: medicine, public administration, engineering, and arts and sciences, and an enrollment of 380 students. The first commencement ceremony took place in 1930 when King Prajadhipok (Rama VII) conferred degrees to the first and second classes of medical students.

Today, the university consists of 20 faculties, three schools, 23 colleges and six institutes with a total enrollment of more than 37,626 students.

Chulalongkorn University has presented honorary degrees to a number of international dignitaries and heads of state, including former US Presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and Bill Clinton, the late Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, former South African President Nelson R. Mandela, and H.M. King Don

Juan Carlos de Bourbon of Spain.

In 2021, Chulalongkorn University was ranked the No.1 University in Asia and 23rd in the world with an overall sustainability performance of 92.4, based on the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. Moreover, the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings by subject ranked Chulalongkorn University as the number one university in Thailand in four subjects: business and economics, computer science, education, and social science.

Jawaharlal Nehru University

When JNU opened its doors in the early 1970s, frontier disciplines and new perspectives on old disciplines were introduced in the Indian university system. An excellent teacher – student ratio and an innovative mode of instruction have earned Jawaharlal Nehru University a reputation as a leading university in India. JNU focuses on postgraduate education.

JNU was ranked number two among all universities in India by the National Institutional Ranking Framework, Government of India, in 2023. JNU also received the Best University Award from the President of India in 2017. The excellent teacher – student ratio at 1:10, the mode of instruction which encourages students to explore their own creativity instead of reproducing received knowledge, and of exclusively internal evaluation were also new to the Indian academic landscape and have stood the test of time. The very Nehruvian objectives embedded in the founding of the University, ‘national integration, social justice, secularism, the democratic way of life, international understanding and a scientific approach to the problems of society’, had built into them constant and energetic endeavour to renew knowledge through self-questioning.

Apart from its contribution to the Global Studies Programme, the Centre for the Study of Social Systems (CSSS) at JNU conducts research on social change, social movements, sociology of knowledge, religion and agrarian relation, gender studies, studies on diaspora, and on marginal groups.

JNU is well known for its academic excellence as well as its diverse and international student presence. The JNU campus gives students a unique opportunity to experience the social dimensions of Indian life. The University is located in the Southern part of New Delhi. Furthermore, the student residences are built in blocks of faculty residence, which gives a unique feeling and vision of the large Indian family.

The University campus also offers various cultural activities from drama and music clubs, theatre groups, as well as various sports and recreation activities. An important element of the University

life is the public evening meetings. These have become quite well known, with many famous public figures, writers, and intellectuals speaking to students. This gives students a unique opportunity to engage in debate as well as discussions. JNU has left a legacy with students describing the campus as being a green oasis in the large city of Delhi with a feeling of a Marxist utopian society. The communal atmosphere as well as the strong political movements that are active on campus this can be experienced on a day to day basis.