

MA  
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SOPHY—  
AND—  
POLITICAL  
SCIENCE

## Crossing borders: Interdisciplinarity and Interculturality.

Complex social issues increasingly require interdisciplinary solutions. Thus, the necessity arises for a systematic joining of topics of both philosophy and political science, which has been mentioned by both disciplines, but has not been analyzed in a sufficiently interdisciplinary way yet. Moreover, the impossibility of solving social challenges in a strict frame of nation state-related thinking has become recognizable. It is clear that these challenges especially require an international, if not global, framework of reference and intercultural understanding.

The concept of the *Master's Program Philosophy and Political Science* is designed

in a way that enables its students to discuss social issues in a very interdisciplinary way. To achieve this, students attend seminars in both philosophy and political science which allows them to gain insight into different methods and perspectives. These will then be brought together in interdisciplinary seminars, which will be jointly conducted by lecturers from both philosophy and political science. Integrating intercultural and international topics as well as winning lecturers who come from different parts of the world and conduct their research at the department can be considered favorable to the building-up of intercultural competences.

## Polyvalence: Focusing on research with practical relevance.

Focusing on research in a master's program implies that the students conduct their own self-developed research on which they will be able to build up their future research – for example by pursuing a PhD after completion of the master's degree. Like this, a master's degree with a focus on research can serve as an ideal preparation for a possible career at university. But not in an exclusive manner: society-oriented research competence always implies a strong practical relevance as well and thus also serves as an excellent preparation for a possible career outside of university.

The overall design of the *Master's Program Philosophy and Political Science* leads to

research and practice being complementary of each other and thus guarantees a high level of polyvalence. In the course of their studies, students are given the option to specialize in either philosophy or political science, both of which offer opportunities to excellent students to start taking part in research projects at an early stage of their studies. At the same time, this master's program also includes a distinct component of project work and practice, which helps at establishing first contacts into the professional working environment. By means of their own contacts, the staff of the department always provides support to the students in building up contacts to potential future employers.

## Individual support.

Increasing numbers of students and structural changes in academic education at university have exacerbated the individual support of students. At the same time it is an unchallenged fact that providing better individual support brings many advantages – both in terms of motivation as well as successful graduation. The concept of the *Master's Program Philosophy and Political Science* aims at giving its students an exceptional amount of attention. Based on the knowledge that has been attained by the students in their

individual bachelor's degrees, the first semester in this master's program is dedicated to the revision and deepening of relevant basic scientific knowledge. In addition, a mentoring system ensures that every student will be provided with a mentor who will accompany them through the whole course of their studies. Like this, both access to relevant information and, consequently, the transfer into a professional working environment is being facilitated.

## Perspectives.

The *Master's Program Philosophy and Political Science*, which is almost unique in Germany and Europe, is designed to pro-

vide its graduates with excellent perspectives for their individual careers, which exemplarily include the following areas:

- Science with the working fields of both research and teaching,
- Consulting in both politics and economics,
- Public administration,
- International diplomacy and international organizations,
- Politics and unions,
- Publishers and foundations, research funding,
- Continuing education and adult education / political education.

To facilitate its graduates' first steps into a professional working environment the

*Master's Program Philosophy and Political Science* contains the following aspects:

- A combination of research-oriented and practice-relevant contents,
- A focus on topics of social relevance, which are being analyzed from an interdisciplinary perspective,
- A focus on learning how to think and work in logical structures,
- Practical elements to provide an early-stage orientation and the establishing of contacts into professional working environments,
- Individual support & consulting by the lecturers.

↗ [www.mapp.tu-dortmund.de](http://www.mapp.tu-dortmund.de)

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