



京都大学  
KYOTO UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386

# Kyoto University and Heidelberg University Joint Degree Master of Arts Program in Transcultural Studies

## Description of Modules

### **Publication Date:**

30 January 2024

Based on the

**Joint Degree Agreement between**

**Kyoto University (Japan) and Heidelberg University (Germany),**

signed on 11 January 2017

and referring to the

Terms and Regulations of Examination for the Master in Transcultural Studies (Heidelberg),  
published on 6 July 2016

Study form: full-time / consecutive

Regular period of study: four semesters / two years

[www.cats.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/jdts](http://www.cats.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/jdts) | [transcultural.uni-hd.de](http://transcultural.uni-hd.de)

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## Preamble

Based on their mission statements and core principles, Kyoto University (KU) and Heidelberg University (HDU) provide comprehensive academic education through disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and practical study programs that qualify students for their later professional careers.

The following competency profile is incorporated into the module descriptions of all disciplines. Furthermore, it is implemented in the specific goals of qualification, the curricula, and the modules of the individual study programs:

- Develop disciplinary competences with a distinctive research orientation;
- Develop competence in transdisciplinary dialogues;
- Develop competence in practice-oriented problem-solving;
- Develop personal and social competences;
- Promote willingness to assume social responsibility on the basis of the competences acquired.

## Qualification Goals and Fields of Occupation

Building on the theoretical and methodological knowledge of their BA studies, graduates of the Joint Degree Master of Arts in Transcultural Studies (JDTS) have expanded their knowledge using transcultural and transdisciplinary approaches. Within the selected study focus they have learned to identify research material in the broad field of transcultural exchange processes between Asia and Europe, to develop innovative research questions, to locate them in the academic state of the art, and to analyze and respond to them in academic English. Graduates are thus able to independently choose and apply an adequate set of theories and methods from a variety of disciplines according to the specific research material and questions at hand.

Drawing on examples of cultural, social, political, and regional entanglements in and between Asia and Europe graduates are experienced in locating complex problems that the world is facing in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They have been sensitized to look deeper into the contexts, processes and historical perspectives in these entanglements, and are thus able to critically reflect on their challenges in a global context and to suggest ways of looking at and coping with them.

In selective methodology and/or language courses, graduates have expanded their knowledge of theories and methods from their BA degrees and have learned to transfer it to new contexts. Their in-depth disciplinary expertise and competences serve as the basis for their newly acquired, transcultural approach. Graduates are thus capable of undertaking ambitious, innovative research agendas which transcend traditional disciplinary constraints. In the course of their master studies, graduates have deepened their skills in oral, written, and other forms of argumentation and presentation in the international environments of the Kyoto University Graduate School of Letters (GSL) and the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies (HCTS). They have expanded their competences in analytical research and have acquired skills in collecting various sets of data from all kinds of media



(books, manuscripts, film, and other audio-visual media) and analyzing them critically, ethically and creatively. This is particularly relevant in a world oversaturated with diverse media that shape knowledge, transfer of knowledge and concepts of (past/present/future) reality. As the research tools developed by the Digital Humanities Unit of Heidelberg University, the Heidelberg Research Architecture, are directly employed in a number of research-based modules of the program, graduates hone particular competences in the use of state-of-the-art tools and methods of visualizing knowledge or an argument, and are able to apply these skills in future contexts of research and/or employment.

The high degree of internationality at the partner institutions, Kyoto and Heidelberg, as well as in the JDTS presupposes an equally high degree of interaction among the students and between students and teacher. This is further fostered by various forms of collaborative work implemented in the modules. Graduates are thus skilled in working collaboratively in and with international teams of experts in their field and other stake-holders.

In line with the above qualification goals, graduates are prepared for future employment in research institutions worldwide with interdisciplinary and transregional emphases, for higher positions in the educational sector and the media, in publishing houses, museums, and archives, in think tanks and in cultural management, human resources, and PR departments of international organizations and the corporate world.

## Study Focus

Within the broad repertoire of transregional and interdisciplinary courses offered in the JDTS, each student is required to select one of three study foci after the first term. The selection will be facilitated by individual consultations with the advisor in the respective study focus and/or members of the divisions and chairs involved.

The study focus will indicate and further deepen the student's main disciplinary and research-based methodological and theoretical competences. It will allow for a more specific orientation to match the student's educational background, personal interests, and career goals.

Three study foci are offered, all representing the disciplinary and conceptual pillars on which the Transcultural Studies program rests. They are: "Knowledge, Belief and Religion" (KBR), "Society, Economy and Governance" (SEG), and "Visual, Media and Material Cultures" (VMC).

### Knowledge, Belief and Religion (KBR)

This focus offers insight into the dynamic histories, circulations and practices of knowledge, beliefs and religion. It highlights relations between, and entanglements of, political and ideological, social and cultural, linguistic, and artistic aspects in and between Asia and Europe. Of particular interest are disciplines such as philosophy, history and art history, religious studies and philology, and anthropology. This focus emphasizes students' engagement with a variety of resources and sources, from archival, to textual to visual and material matter. In combination with a unique interest in social and institutional agents, the study focus offers new approaches to the exploration of fields such as religious movements and worldviews, the migration of ideas and concepts (e.g., democracy, enlightenment), the

rise or decline of intellectual cosmopolitan elites or the institutionalization of knowledge in educational contexts.

Study content (selection):

- Aesthetics and language of Sanskrit
- Bioethics
- Itineraries of global health practices
- Philosophical encounters between Asia and Europe
- Philosophy of science and engineering

### Society, Economy and Governance (SEG)

This focus explores issues of Society, Economy and Governance from an explicitly transcultural, anthropological, and historical perspective. There is much interest in the deep and complex histories of globalization and transregional connectivities. Key themes here are the social, political, and cultural dimensions of market dynamics and networks, the shaping and governance of social systems (e.g., civil society), consumer cultures, transregional migration, demographic change, global governance, and urbanization processes.

Study content (selection):

- Concepts and methods of migration studies
- Development and agriculture studies
- Gender and sexuality in Asia
- Japanese pop-culture and media practices
- Migration of political ideas

### Visual, Media and Material Cultures (VMC)

This focus investigates the production, proliferation, and reception of images and objects as well as their collection, display, and reconfiguration with a view to the human agency involved. A transcultural perspective calls for recovering the ways in which experiences and processes of mobility and braidedness are constitutive for the actors and visual regimes involved in these processes. Transculturality also addresses the enmeshing of visual technologies, institutional practices, placemaking, and im/mobility in ways that cut across bipolar asymmetries. Of relevance is the role of diverse agencies, both local and trans-regional, in the negotiation of power and the production of knowledge. This can range from archival, artistic, and exhibition practice to architecture and urban planning to film and advertising. Interdisciplinary conversations and research-based projects help reach into literary, linguistic, musical, performative or ritual dimensions of creative cultures, whose meanings can be more fully apprehended through a range of experiences centering on the social agents, spaces, and sensoriums.

Study content (selection):

- Ancient history and material culture
- Art, film and digital media in East Asia
- Literary discourses and modernity in Asia
- Theatrical practices in Japan

## Overall Structure and Course Requirements

The two-year, full-time, major-only international Joint Degree Master of Arts in Transcultural Studies requires a total of 30 Credit Points (SEU CP)/120 Credit Points (ECTS) to be accumulated over four semesters. Modules in the first year are designed to expand the students' theoretical and methodological knowledge and to transfer it to new, transcultural contexts. The third semester continues with advanced, research-based courses, fieldwork or a research internship. During this time students are expected to define the topic of their master's thesis and to identify a suitable supervisor. The final semester is dedicated to writing the thesis, accompanied by a research colloquium. The final oral examination may be taken either in the third or the fourth semester, depending on completion of the required modules and the home institution of the student, Kyoto or Heidelberg.



Students with Kyoto as their home institution spend their second year at the partner in Heidelberg. Students with Heidelberg as their home institution study a complete year in Germany before going to Japan for their second year.

Requirements to receive full or partial credits for courses are defined by the teachers and are given in the course descriptions published on "KULASIS" (see <https://www.k.kyoto-u.ac.jp>) and the "LSF" for each semester (see <http://lsf.uni-heidelberg.de>). All courses require active student participation, including the preparation of course material and continuous, independent reading of secondary literature. This particularly applies to seminars, which make up the majority of courses.

Typical forms of examination include oral presentations (15–30 min), brief reflection papers (1–3 pp), longer course papers (15–20 pp), written examinations (1,5 h), visual essays, and research/excursion/internship reports.

Students should be prepared to write two longer course papers (or equivalent) per term on average. They can obtain reduced ECTS credits for courses only where specifically outlined in the module description.

Some modules allow the transfer of courses (course import) from other divisions at the Graduate School of Letters at Kyoto University or partner institutes at Heidelberg University. To ensure that the chosen classes will fit the student's study focus, the student must consult with the respective focus advisor in advance.

 <b>Kyoto University</b> <b>[KU]</b> <b>HOME</b>	1st		2nd	
	Spring	Fall	Spring	Fall
	<b>GSL</b>	<b>GSL</b>	<b>HCTS</b>	<b>HCTS</b>
 <b>Heidelberg University [HDU]</b> <b>HOME</b>	1st		2nd	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
	<b>HCTS</b>	<b>HCTS</b>	<b>GSL</b>	<b>GSL</b>

**Program Structure**

## Consultation

We aim to provide our students with excellent guidance throughout the JD Master in Transcultural Studies and beyond. Consultation is divided between the program coordinator(s), the examination officer(s), and the academic focus advisors. Students should address all general questions regarding the program to the respective program coordinator, who will assist students or refer them to the focus advisors or professors. For all issues related to the overall examination regulations and the accreditation of courses, students should consult the examination officer in Heidelberg or the Student Affairs division in Kyoto. Inquiries regarding the academic content of courses, the study focus, or options for mobility and research should be addressed to the respective academic focus advisor. For planning the master's thesis students should contact the respective professors. Finally, details of specific courses are best clarified directly with the course teacher.

We strongly advise students to consult with the program coordinator and/or the academic focus advisors to finalize their choice of study focus after the first semester, and to plan their time at the partner.

Students should familiarize themselves with the regulations and structure of the program as well as with the consultation hours of the above-mentioned persons and should make appointments where necessary. All relevant documents, contact details and office hours are up to date on the website of the JDTS: [www.cats.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/jdts](http://www.cats.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/jdts). Students should also include a brief note on what they wish to clarify during the appointment.

## Abbreviations, Terms, Workload

Abbreviation	Explanation	Applies to
AT	Attendance Time, given in minutes	KU
CC	A compulsory <i>course (status)</i> .	KU
CP	<i>Credit Points</i>	HDU/KU
CM	Compulsory <i>Module</i>	HDU
CTP	Contact Time (attendance) & Preparation	HDU
EC	An elective or optional <i>course (status)</i> .	KU
ECTS	European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System	HDU
EM	Elective <i>Module</i>	HDU
GSL	Graduate School of Letters	KU
HCTS	Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies	HDU
KBR	Knowledge, Belief and Religion, a <i>Study Focus</i>	HDU/KU
Loc	Location (Kyoto or Heidelberg)	HDU/KU
OE	Oral Examination/Presentation	HDU/KU
REM	Required Elective <i>Module</i>	HDU



SEG	Society, Economy and Governance, a <i>Study Focus</i>	HDU/KU
Sem.	Semester (6-month period)	HDU/KU
SEU	Standards for Establishment of Universities	KU
Sta	(Course) <i>status</i>	KU
SWS	“Semesterwochenstunde,” 1 SWS equals 90 minutes	HDU
VMC	Visual, Media and Material Culture, a <i>Study Focus</i>	HDU/KU
WE	Written Exam/Report/Research Paper	HDU/KU

Term	Explanation	Applies to
Course (Status)	Courses are divided into two different kinds, or statuses: 1) compulsory (students have to take this particular course), and 2) elective (or, optional; students may choose from a list of courses). This hierarchy functions similar to the statuses of <i>modules</i> .	KU
Credit Points	Each credit point stands for a certain amount of workload and is awarded to a student upon completing a course or module. HDU follows the system of <i>ECTS credits</i> , and KU the system of <i>SEU credits</i> .	HDU/KU
ECTS credits	One ECTS credit equals 30 working hours based on estimates for the average student.	HDU
ECTS grades	The ECTS grading system by the European Commission seeks to make local grades comparable and defines a grading scale based on the class percentile, divided into two subgroups, pass and fail. See also Annex 2, grade conversion.	HDU
Module (Status)	A module is a set of thematically linked courses. There are three different kinds of modules, 1) compulsory (have to be taken by all students), 2) required elective (have to be taken by all students but leave a certain degree of choice between modules), and 3) elective modules. This hierarchy is similar to the one given for <i>course statuses</i> , see above.	HDU
SEU credits	One credit equals 45 working hours, based on the <i>Standards for Establishment of Universities</i> .	KU
Standards for Establishment of Universities	A ministerial ordinance part of the Japanese quality assurance framework for higher education, based on the provisions of the School Education Act of 1947, specifying standards for teacher qualification, curricula, admission and graduation in Japan.	KU
Tutorium	An auxiliary course in support of a main course, e.g. a discussion class in addition to a lecture series.	HDU/KU
Workload	See <i>Credit Points</i> , <i>ECTS credits</i> , <i>SEU credits</i> .	HDU/KU



## Kyoto University Model Curriculum

Disclaimer: Kyoto University does not organize its teaching in the form of “modules.” The courses are listed as modules only to allow for a comparison of the curriculum between the two institutions. For the Heidelberg University model curriculum, see the “Description of Modules” at [transcultural.uni-hd.de](http://transcultural.uni-hd.de).

If not otherwise specified, all courses must be graded. The module grades in Heidelberg are based on the individual course grades, weighted by their credit points.

Credit points given in brackets ( ) indicate the number of credit points needed in full or partial achievement of a module through courses attended at other institutes (import).

Loc	Module	Sem	Course	CP (SEU/ ECTS)	AT	Sta	Requirements
Kyoto University	Introduction to Transcultural Studies (8 SEU CP)	1	Lecture “Introduction to Transcultural Studies”	2 / 4	90	CC	WE (written exam)
		1	Tutorium “Introduction to Transcultural Studies” (ungraded)	2 / 1	90	CC	AT
		1	Tutorium “Research Skills” (research colloquium, ungraded)	2 / 1	90	CC	OE (presentation)
		1	Introductory seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 8	90	CC	OE (presentation) WE (research paper)
	Skills for Transcultural Studies (2-4 SEU CP)	1	Language and/or method classes within the study program or in partner programs in consultation with the academic advisor.	(2) see requ.	N/A	EC	Credit points, AT as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended.
		1	Language and/or method classes within the study program or in partner programs in consultation with the academic advisor.	(2) see requ.	N/A	EC	Credit points, AT as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended.
	Focus 1 – Foundations (6 SEU CP)	1	Seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 8	90	EC	OE (presentation) WE (research paper)
		1-2	Seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 4	90	EC	OE (presentation)
		1-2	Seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 4	90	EC	OE (presentation)

Heidelberg University	Skills for Transcultural Studies (2-4 SEU CP)	2	Language and/or method classes within the study program or in partner programs in consultation with the academic advisor.	(2) see requ.	N/A	EC	Credit points, AT as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended.
		2	Language and/or method classes within the study program or in partner programs in consultation with the academic advisor.	(2) see requ.	N/A	EC	Credit points, AT as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended.
		2	Seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 8	90	EC	OE (presentation) WE (research paper)
		2	Seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 8	90	EC	OE (presentation) WE (research paper)
	Focus 2 – Advanced Studies (4 SEU CP)	2	Seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 8	90	EC	OE (presentation) WE (research paper)
		2	Seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 8	90	EC	OE (presentation) WE (research paper)
	Research 1 (4 SEU CP)	3	Seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 8	90	EC	OE (presentation) WE (research paper)
		3	Seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 8	90	EC	OE (presentation) WE (research paper)
	Research 2 (6 SEU CP)	3	Seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 4	90	EC	OE (presentation)
		3	Seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 4	90	EC	OE (presentation)
		3	Seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 4	90	EC	OE (presentation)
	Oral Master Exam.	3	Oral examination	N/A	N/A	N/A	OE (presentation)
	Research 3 (2 SEU CP)	4	Research colloquium (seminar)	2 / 4	90	CC	OE (presentation)
	Masters Thesis	4	Master's thesis	N/A	N/A	N/A	WE of ca. 25,000 words OE (defense)

## Master's Thesis

Admission to final examinations (oral master examination, master's thesis) follow the respective internal regulations of each partner (application deadlines, examiner regulations, admission procedures etc.).

The following regulations apply for master's theses written in partial fulfilment for the joint degree M.A. Transcultural Studies at either KU or HDU as home institution.

- The topic of the master's thesis is to be determined in accord with both supervisors.
- Students have to submit the thesis in accordance with the internal regulations of their home institution.
- The assignment of topic and scope of the master's thesis should be as such that it can be completed in the given time period. The scope of the thesis should not exceed 25,000 words in English (or German). A thesis of less than 20,000 words or more than 40,000 is an automatic fail. In case the thesis is written in Japanese it should not exceed 40,000 characters.
- Submission: The master's thesis has to be submitted electronically as PDF. If mandatory according to the internal regulations of a partner, any necessary documents, especially those to be signed by the student (e.g., a declaration against plagiarism), have to be submitted as scan as well as the original by postal mail or in person.
- Evaluation: The grading period shall be in accordance with the internal regulations of the home university.
- Misconduct: Cases of misconduct (e.g., plagiarism) will be handled in accordance with the regulations of the home university.

## Description of Modules

<b>Introduction to Transcultural Studies</b>					
<b>Module Status:</b> Compulsory Module					
<b>Frequency:</b> offered every summer semester (KU) / every winter semester (HDU)					
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> First semester   one semester					
<b>Content and Aims of the Module:</b> <p>This module introduces students to concepts, methods, and theories of transcultural studies. It is made up of four parts. The introductory lecture, co-taught by professors representing the three study foci (KBR, SEG, VMC), provides students in the first part with an overview of the history and basic concepts of the transcultural approach. The second part illustrates this approach with selected examples from each study focus. Topics include transcultural perspectives on themes such as language, space, knowledge, markets, migration, citizenship, urbanity, institutions, art, and visuality. The mandatory tutorial is devoted to practicing, clarifying, and discussing problems raised in the lecture. The second tutorial "Research Skills" (KU: equivalent to a research colloquium) introduces students to advanced techniques of research and writing in the context of each university's research infrastructure. The introductory seminar is designed to apply the skills, theories and concepts from the other parts of the module in a specific thematic area.</p>					
<b>Objectives of Module:</b> <p>With the completion of the module students have acquired the following competences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Broad knowledge of the basic concepts, methods, and theories of transcultural studies</li> <li>- A nuanced understanding of transcultural phenomena in Asia and Europe, past and present</li> <li>- Basic skills in applying concepts, methods, and theories of transcultural studies to specific problems in the three study foci</li> <li>- Basic skills in independent research</li> <li>- Proficiency in utilizing the university's research infrastructure</li> <li>- Ability to present and write in academic English</li> </ul>					
<b>Use of Module:</b> Prerequisite for Modules "Oral Examination" and "MA Thesis"					
<b>Conditions for Participation:</b> n/a					
<b>Grade of Module (HDU):</b> Average of grades, weighted by the number of credit points					
Course	SWS / AT	CP*	Semester	Course Status	Study and Examination Requirements
Lecture "Introduction to Transcultural Studies"	2 / 90	4 / 2	1	CC	CTP, WE
Tutorium "Introduction to Transcultural Studies"	2 / 90	1 / 2	1	CC	CTP
Tutorium "Research Skills"	2 / 90	1 / 2	1	CC	CTP
Introductory seminar in the study focus (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 90	8 / 2	1	CC	CTP, OE, WE
* ECTS credits / SEU credits					

<b>Skills and Methods for Transcultural Studies</b>					
<b>Module Status:</b> Required Elective Module (REM)					
<b>Frequency:</b> offered every semester					
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> First and / or second semester   one to two semesters					
<b>Content and Aims of the Module:</b> This module provides students with the specific skills necessary for advanced research in transcultural studies. Depending on their desired specialization, students choose seminars with a focus on qualitative methodology (including philological, historical, and ethnographic methods as well as visual and media analysis) or language courses.					
<b>Objectives of Module:</b> With the successful completion of this module students have acquired the following competences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advanced linguistic or methodological skills necessary to develop research questions related to specific transcultural problems</li> <li>- Ability to design independent research in the form of textual analysis, image/media analysis, archival research, or ethnographic fieldwork</li> <li>- Skills to organize and manage material and data resources effectively.</li> </ul>					
<b>Use of Module:</b> Prerequisite for Modules “Oral Examination” and “MA Thesis”					
<b>Conditions for Participation:</b> Attendance or completion of module “Introduction to Transcultural Studies”					
<b>Grade of Module (HDU):</b> Average of grades, weighted by the number of credit points					
Course	SWS / AT	CP*	Semester	Course Status	Study and Examination Requirements
<b>Language and/or method classes</b> offered in the MA TS or in a master program at partner institutes at Heidelberg University in consultation with focus advisor (HDU)	n.s.	(12) / n/a	1 - 2	n/a	Credit points, SWS as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended.
<b>Language and/or method classes</b> within the study program or in partner programs in consultation with the academic advisor (KU)	n.s.	n/a / (4)	1 -2	EC	Credit points, AT as well as study and examination forms depend on the requirements of the courses attended.
* ECTS credits / SEU credits					

<b>Focus 1 – Foundations</b>					
<b>Module Status:</b> Required Elective Module (REM)					
<b>Frequency:</b> offered every study year					
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> First and / or second semester   one to two semesters					
<b>Content and Aims of the Module:</b> This module, which consists of two seminars, builds upon the qualifications the students have acquired through the module “Introduction to Transcultural Studies”. In the introductory seminar, students receive an overview of genres of primary sources and empirical data relevant to the chosen study focus. They are introduced to and engage with the relevant theoretical and methodological debates in structured discussions and learn to apply their insights to concrete case studies. In the second seminar, students gain more in-depth knowledge of specific topics and regions within their study focus. They apply the acquired methodological tools to discuss and analyse primary and secondary sources in the framework of current academic discussions. Both seminars require a high degree of active engagement, including oral discussions and presentations as well as written assignments, to help students prepare for their master’s thesis.					
<b>Objectives of Module:</b> With the successful completion of this module students have acquired the following competences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Theoretical and empirical knowledge of regions, topics, methods, and theories relevant to their study focus</li> <li>- Ability to identify and analyse relevant sources and empirical data</li> <li>- Ability to adapt methodological approaches to specific research topics</li> <li>- Ability to present and discuss their findings both in writing and speech and integrate audiovisual media</li> </ul>					
<b>Use of Module:</b> Prerequisite for Modules “Oral Examination” and “MA Thesis”					
<b>Conditions for Participation:</b> Completion of module “Introduction to Transcultural Studies”					
<b>Grade of Module (HDU):</b> Average of grades, weighted by the number of credit points					
Course	SWS / AT	CP*	Semester	Course Status	Study and Examination Requirements
<b>Seminar in the chosen study focus</b> ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 90	8 / 2	1 - 2	CC	CTP, OE, WE
<b>Seminar in the chosen study focus</b> ( KBR / SEG / VMC) <i>OR</i>	2 / 90	8 / 2	1 - 2	CC	CTP, OE, WE
<b>Reduced seminar in the chosen study focus</b> (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 90	4 / 2		EC	CTP, WE
<b>Reduced seminar in the chosen study focus</b> (KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 90	4 / 2		EC	CTP, WE
* ECTS credits / SEU credits					

<b>Focus 2 – Advanced Studies</b>					
<b>Module Status:</b> Required Elective Module (REM)					
<b>Frequency:</b> offered every study year					
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> Second semester   one semesters					
<b>Content and Aims of the Module:</b> This module, which consists of two seminars, builds upon the skills students have acquired in "Focus 1 – Foundations". The advanced seminars provide intensified engagement with concepts, theories, and methods applied to sources and data relevant to the study focus (KBR, SEG, VMC) chosen by the student. In research-oriented courses, students learn to design their own specialized projects and conduct them effectively. They transfer the methods and skills acquired in previous modules to concrete cases in their own field of specialization. Both seminars require a high degree of active engagement, including oral discussions and presentations as well as written assignments, to prepare students for their master's thesis.					
<b>Objectives of Module:</b> With the successful completion of this module students have acquired the following competences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advanced theoretical and empirical knowledge of regions, topics, methods and theories relevant to their study focus</li> <li>- Ability to apply methodological approaches to specific research topics</li> <li>- Ability to analyse relevant sources and empirical data and connect them to current debates</li> <li>- Ability to present and discuss their findings both in writing and speech and integrate audiovisual media</li> </ul>					
<b>Use of Module:</b> Prerequisite for Modules "Oral Examination" and "MA Thesis"					
<b>Conditions for Participation:</b> Completion of module "Introduction to Transcultural Studies," attendance or completion of module "Focus 1"					
<b>Grade of Module (HDU):</b> Average of grades, weighted by the number of credit points					
Course	SWS / AT	CP*	Semester	Course Status	Study and Examination Requirements
<b>Seminar in the chosen study focus</b> ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 90	8 / 2	2	CC	CTP, OE, WE
<b>Seminar in the chosen study focus</b> ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	2 / 90	8 / 2	2	CC	CTP, OE, WE (KU: research colloquium; CTP, OE)
* ECTS credits / SEU credits					



<b>Research 1</b>
<b>Module Status:</b> N/A
<b>Frequency:</b> offered every summer semester (KU)
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> Second or third semester   one semesters
<p><b>Content and Aims of the Module:</b></p> <p>The module “Research 1” builds on the theoretical, methodological, and regional competences acquired in the first year of study and allows for further specialization in line with the individual study goals of the students in preparation for their master’s thesis. It further complements the modules “Research 2” and “Research 3” by advancing and practising methodological skills and their application to theoretical and research-related questions.</p> <p>To allow a maximum of academic mobility, students may complete this module by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) attending research-based seminars the partner university abroad (Heidelberg University). They engage in advanced discussions to identify and evaluate theories and methods specifically relevant to their master’s thesis. In the two research papers students apply the acquired knowledge on small scale research projects of their own design, analyse their findings and discuss and evaluate analytical and theoretical problems with regard to the master’s thesis.</li> <li>(2) organising and completing a research-related internship at an extramural institution in Germany. Possible institutions include cultural organisations (e.g. museums), non-profit organisations (e.g. GTZ), and companies engaged in international contexts. The internship allows an analytical insight into concrete applications. Alternatively, guided field or archival work is possible. Each option is closely mentored by the supervisor of the planned master’s thesis with whom students design a small-scale research project to be realized in line with their internship or through the field/archival work. Upon completion of the project, students submit a written report to the supervisor. In this report students apply their acquired knowledge, analyse the collected data, and discuss and evaluate their findings and analytical and theoretical problems.</li> </ol> <p>The respective focus advisor and the supervisor of the master’s thesis will guide the student in choosing between these options and in the concrete planning of the course schedule or internship, respectively. To this end, students are required to formulate and discuss their plans for the module “Research 1” with their focus advisor in due time. “Research 1, 2 &amp; 3” may be organised together or separately.</p>
<p><b>Objectives of Module:</b></p> <p>With the completion of the module students have acquired the following competences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advanced theoretical and empirical knowledge of regions, topics, methodologies, and theories necessary to design and realise their individual study and research goals;</li> <li>- Ability to plan, structure and realize an independent time and work plan for a small-scale research project in preparation for the master’s thesis;</li> <li>- Ability to modify and apply theoretical and methodological approaches to small-scale research projects of their own design</li> <li>- Ability to present and discuss their findings in writing and oral presentations in line with international academic standards.</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Module:</b> Prerequisite for Module “MA Thesis”

<b>Conditions for Participation:</b> Completion of modules “Introduction to Transcultural Studies,” “Skills for Transcultural Studies,” “Focus 1” and “Focus 2”					
<b>Grade of Module (HDU):</b> N/A					
Course	SWS / AT	CP*	Semester	Course Status	Study and Examination Requirements
<b>Seminar in the chosen study focus</b> ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	n.s. / 90	n/a / 2	3	EC	CTP, OE, WE
<b>Research colloquium (seminar) in the chosen study focus</b> ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	n.s. / 90	n/a / 2	3	EC	CTP, OE
<i>OR</i>					
<b>Research related internship mentored by one of the supervisors of the master's thesis</b>	n.s.	4	3	n/a	Credit points for the internship depend on the transferable working hours within the internship and a written research report graded by the thesis advisor (WE).
<b>Research colloquium (seminar) in the chosen study focus</b> ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	n.s. / 90	n/a / 2	3	EC	CTP, OE
* ECTS credits / SEU credits					

<b>Research 2</b>
<b>Module Status:</b> N/A
<b>Frequency:</b> offered every summer semester (KU)
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> Third semester   one semesters
<p><b>Content and Aims of the Module:</b></p> <p>The module “Research 2” builds on the theoretical, methodological, and regional competences acquired in the first year of study and allows for further specialization in line with the individual study goals of the students in preparation for their master’s thesis. It further complements the modules “Research 1” and “Research 3” by advancing and practising methodological skills and their application to theoretical and research-related questions.</p> <p>To allow a maximum of academic mobility, students may complete this module by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) attending research-based seminars the partner university abroad (Heidelberg University). They engage in advanced discussions to identify and evaluate theories and methods specifically relevant to their master’s thesis. In the two research papers students apply the acquired knowledge on small scale research projects of their own design, analyse their findings and discuss and evaluate analytical and theoretical problems with regard to the master’s thesis.</li> <li>(2) organising and completing a research-related internship at an extramural institution in Germany. Possible institutions include cultural organisations (e.g. museums), non-profit organisations (e.g. GTZ), and companies engaged in international contexts. The internship allows an analytical insight into concrete applications. Alternatively, guided field or archival work is possible. Each option is closely mentored by the supervisor of the planned master’s thesis with whom students design a small-scale research project to be realized in line with their internship or through the field/archival work. Upon completion of the project, students submit a written report to the supervisor. In this report students apply their acquired knowledge, analyse the collected data, and discuss and evaluate their findings and analytical and theoretical problems.</li> </ol> <p>The respective focus advisor and the supervisor of the master’s thesis will guide the student in choosing between these options and in the concrete planning of the course schedule or internship, respectively. To this end, students are required to formulate and discuss their plans for the module “Research 2” with their focus advisor in due time. “Research 1, 2 &amp; 3” may be organised together or separately.</p>
<p><b>Objectives of Module:</b></p> <p>With the completion of the module students have acquired the following competences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advanced methodological and / or linguistic competences necessary to design and realize their study and research</li> <li>- Ability to present and discuss their findings in writing and speech in line with international academic standards.</li> </ul>
<b>Use of Module:</b> Prerequisite for Module “MA Thesis”
<b>Conditions for Participation:</b> Completion of modules “Introduction to Transcultural Studies,” “Skills for Transcultural Studies,” “Focus 1” and “Focus 2”
<b>Grade of Module (HDU):</b> N/A

Course	SWS / AT	CP*	Semester	Course Status	Study and Examination Requirements
<b>Seminar in the chosen study focus</b> ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	n.s. / 90	n/a / 2	3	EC	CTP, OE, WE
<b>Seminar in the chosen study focus</b> ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	n.s. / 90	n/a / 2	3	EC	CTP, OE, WE
<b>Seminar in the chosen study focus</b> ( KBR / SEG / VMC)	n.s. / 90	n/a / 2	3	EC	CTP, OE, WE
<i>OR</i>					
<b>Research related internship mentored by one of the supervisors of the master's thesis</b>	n.s.	6	3	n/a	Credit points for the internship depend on the transferable working hours within the internship and a written research report graded by the thesis advisor (WE).
* ECTS credits / SEU credits					

<b>Research 3</b>					
<b>Module Status:</b> N/A					
<b>Frequency:</b> offered every winter semester (KU)					
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> Fourth semester   one semesters					
<b>Content and Aims of the Module:</b> The module “Research 3” comprises a research colloquium (KU only; HDU: part of module “Master’s Thesis”). During the colloquium students develop, present, and discuss their research plans in front of their supervisors and fellow students. Furthermore, writing samples from the master’s thesis are presented and discussed. This regular feedback will facilitate a structured completion of the thesis.					
<b>Objectives of Module:</b> With the completion of the module students have acquired the following competences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to relate and critically discuss complex research issues within the field of Transcultural Studies</li> </ul>					
<b>Use of Module:</b> Prerequisite for Module “MA Thesis”					
<b>Conditions for Participation:</b> Completion of modules “Introduction to Transcultural Studies,” “Skills for Transcultural Studies,” “Focus 1” and “Focus 2”					
<b>Grade of Module (HDU):</b> N/A					
Course	SWS / AT	CP*	Semester	Course Status	Study and Examination Requirements
<b>Research colloquium (seminar)</b>	n.s. / 90	n/a / 2	4	CC	CTP, OE
* ECTS credits / SEU credits					

<b>Oral Examination</b>					
<b>Module Status:</b> Compulsory Module					
<b>Frequency:</b> offered every study year					
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> Third semester (end)   one semester					
<b>Content and Aims of the Module:</b> The oral examination lasts approximately 30 minutes. The examination is held by two examiners. The first examiner is the supervisor of the master's thesis. In the oral examination, students demonstrate their knowledge of Transcultural Studies and defend their master's thesis in a broader context.					
<b>Objectives of Module:</b> With the successful completion of this module students have acquired the following competences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to present, analyse, and critically discuss the state of the topic of their thesis;</li> <li>- Ability to critically relate specific research questions to a broader disciplinary field;</li> <li>- Ability to present arguments in line with academic standards.</li> </ul>					
<b>Use of Module:</b> n/a					
<b>Conditions for Participation:</b> Completion of modules "Introduction to Transcultural Studies," "Skills for Transcultural Studies," "Focus 1" and "Focus 2," "Master's Thesis"					
<b>Grade of Module (HDU):</b> N/A					
Course	SWS / AT	CP*	Semester	Course Status	Study and Examination Requirements
oral examination of 30 minutes; no class	n/a	n/a / n/a	4	n/a	OE (4 CP) = Oral examination of 30 minutes as defense of the master's thesis
* ECTS credits / SEU credits					

<b>Master's Thesis</b>					
<b>Module Status:</b> Compulsory Module					
<b>Frequency:</b> offered every study year					
<b>Suggested Semester / Duration:</b> Fourth semester   one semester					
<p><b>Content and Aims of the Module:</b></p> <p>This module comprises a research colloquium (HDU only; KDU: separate module “Research 3”) and the master’s thesis.</p> <p>During the colloquium students develop, present, and discuss their research plans in front of their supervisors and fellow students. Furthermore, writing samples from the master’s thesis are presented and discussed. This regular feedback will facilitate a structured completion of the thesis. In the master’s thesis students apply relevant methodologies and theories of Transcultural Studies, as well as linguistic competences, regional knowledge, and project management skills to a research project of their own design and in line with the chosen study focus. In consultation with their supervisor, students develop a specific research question and select relevant methods and research material. They contextualize their project within the state of the art of scientific debates and present their findings in written academic English.</p> <p>Students have a maximum of five months to complete their master’s thesis (as per HDU regulations) and submit at the deadlines stipulated by KU (either January 6 or July 15). After submission, students present their thesis in an oral defense.</p>					
<p><b>Objectives of Module:</b></p> <p>With the successful completion of this module students have acquired the following competences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ability to independently design and realise a research project (research question, line of argumentation etc.)</li> <li>- Ability to relate and critically discuss complex research issues within the field of Transcultural Studies</li> <li>- Advanced time and project management skills.</li> </ul>					
<b>Use of Module:</b> n/a					
<b>Conditions for Participation:</b> Registration or completion of module “Oral examination” (HDU)					
<b>Grade of Module (HDU):</b> Grade of the master’s thesis					
Course	SWS / AT	CP*	Semester	Course Status	Study and Examination Requirements
Research colloquium (ungraded)	2 / n/a	2 / n/a	4 (HDU)	n/a	CTP, OE
Master’s thesis	n/a	28 / n/a	4	CC	Master’s thesis on a topic within the chosen study focus (approx. 25,000 words = approx. 150,000 characters)
* ECTS credits / SEU credits					



# Grades and Grade Conversion

## Course Grades

Conversion table for marks (ECTS – Japan – Germany)			
	ECTS	JP	DE
Excellent	A	A+ (100-96)	1,0
		A (95-90)	1,3
Pass with distinction	B	A (85-89)	1,7
		B (84-77)	2,0
			2,3
Pass	C	B (76-75)	2,7
		C (74-67)	3,0
			3,3
	D	C (66-65)	3,7
		D (64-61)	4,0
	E	D (60)	4,0
Fail	FX	F (59-0)	5.0

## Final Grades

Conversion table for final grades (ECTS – Japan – Germany) BA and MA			
	ECTS	JP	DE
Excellent	A	A+	1,0 to 1,5 (= sehr gut)
Pass with distinction	B	A	1,6 to 2,5 (= gut)
Pass	C	B	2,6 to 3,5 (= befriedigend)
	D	C	3,6 to 4,0 (= ausreichend)
	E	D	4,0 (=ausreichend)
Fail	FX	F	5,0 (= nicht ausreichend)