



Bachelor of Arts

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Information for new students

Start of the program: every winter semester

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The study program

Dear students,

with our BA study program *Cultural and Social Studies*, we offer you a bilingual degree that takes place in English and German. During your studies, you will get to know the histories, structures and topics that define today's cultural and social world.

In the beginning we will introduce you to the objectives, questions, and methods of the disciplines that study culture and society, that is, cultural history, literary study, linguistics and comparative social sciences. You then specialise in interdisciplinary topic-based modules that focus on *Media*, *Diversity* or *Europe/s*.

You can start your studies without knowing German, the first courses will all be in English. You will acquire German skills during your studies and also have courses in German later. You have to reach a good competence in German (B2) by the end of the program and you have to perform at least one content-based exam in German. We recommend a C1 level as this is necessary if you want to take up a master's program in Germany afterwards.

English has to be on a good level (B2) when you take up your studies. You can improve it during the program. In addition, you will learn one other language (unless you must improve both English *and* German and already know another language).

You will do an at least one-month internship and spend at least three months of your study time abroad. If you are not from a German-speaking background, you can also remain in Germany (or a German-speaking area) to realise an internship or a 'study abroad'.

General information

Before you receive detailed information on the CuSo degree program, we would first like to explain some basic terms related to the Bachelor's degree program. These are important, so that you will later understand all the explanations about the CuSo degree program.

Standard period of study

A normal Bachelor's program is usually designed to be completed in 6 semesters of standard study time. It is however possible to extend your time of study. After 10 semesters of studying the examination office (Prüfungsamt) will invite you for a mandatory student counselling (Studienberatung) to plan your further study time.



Modules

The study program is divided into so-called "modules". A module bundles thematically, systematically and/or methodically related content and is composed of various courses in this subject area (e.g. lecture and an accompanying seminar). The number, scope, contents of the modules, the module requirements and the examination procedures are regulated in the subject-specific regulations of the respective subjects and can be read in the module descriptions.

Study plan

In the appendix of this document, you can find the exemplary study plan for the program. This plan is a model and shows how you can schedule your studies to complete them in the recommended 6 semesters. You do not have to stick to this plan necessarily, there is always room for shifting and swapping and it is also possible to extend your study time (just note that financial support like BAföG ends after a certain period of time/amount of semesters).

ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)

It is generally said that each 30 hours of study results in one credit point (CP). Credit points are therefore a measure of the required "workload" in the degree program. Modules and courses can be of varying scope: they can comprise only 1 but also 9 CP (for courses) or 12, but also 36 credit points (for modules). On average, 30 CP are achieved per study semester. The CP are awarded to everyone who completes a module or a course successfully, regardless of the grade achieved. The assessment with CP is carried out according to the rules of the "European Credit Transfer System", ECTS for short. Thus, courses that have been taken at other universities – e.g. during studies abroad – and completed with examinations can be recognized in the Bachelor's (or Master's) program (provided the content fits). A complete Bachelor's degree program (of 6 semesters) comprises at least 180 CP.

Structure of the program

The modules that are introduced in the following can be seen as clusters of topics/methods that have to be studied during the program. The numbers of the modules do not necessarily tell at what time in your studies you have to schedule courses in this module. For example, the course of academic writing (module 6) will already take place in the first semester. For a better overview see the exemplary study plan in the appendix of this document.

Modules of the CuSo program

The program is structured in 8 modules plus the final exam (BA thesis and oral exam). To finalize the study program, 180 ECTS have to be acquired.



Module 1: Cultural and social studies: Introduction (15 ECTS)

This module provides you the basis of your studies by giving an overview of disciplinary approaches to studying culture and society in a lecture series by professors of the faculty and an accompanying seminar provided in English.

Module 2: Cultural and social studies: Consolidation (15 ECTS)

In this module you will go deeper into the matter of general cultural sciences by taking two courses in English.

Module 3: Elective compulsory module 1 (30 ECTS)

Together with module 4, these are your central studies. In this module you choose one of the following three fields and attend four courses in it:

Europe/s – History, Culture, Politics
Media – Image, Text and Language
Difference – Migration, Gender and Diversity
Planned for 2022: Digital Society and Popular Culture

Two courses have to be completed with 6, the other two with 9 ECTS.

The courses can be attended in either English or German.

Module 4: Elective compulsory module 2 (30 ECTS)

What is said for module 3 applies here as well. You choose a second field of the three mentioned above and attend another four courses in this field.

Two courses have to be completed with 6, two with 9 ECTS.

The courses can be attended in either English or German.

- ➔ In module 3 and, you will attend 4 courses each, that is 8 in total. At least 6 ECTS have to be acquired in German (orally or in written form).

Module 5: Optionmodule: one of the elective compulsory modules previously attended (12 ECTS) OR Economics (12 ECTS) OR Digital Society (12 ECTS)

This is your optional choice. You can either deepen your focus on one of the fields you chose in modules 3 and 4 by attending two more courses in these fields (6 ECTS each).

You can also decide to do 12 ECTS at the Economics Department of Viadrina.

Another option is to attend two courses (6 ECTS each) that are classified as “Digital Society” optional module.

You can attend the courses in this module in English or German.



Module 6: Methods, Academic Writing and Research Skills (12 ECTS)

The module focuses on methods in science to ensure access to academic standards as they are common in German social and cultural sciences.

Is it composed of:

- Academic Writing class (to be attended in the **beginning**)
- attending a colloquium in one of the four academic disciplines (to be attended in German) → these are provided in every department of Viadrina. The one you attend must be related to the topic of your BA Thesis.
- a program-specific interdisciplinary colloquium in which your BA thesis research design is presented and an exposé is written (at the **end** of your studies).

Module 7: Language Skills (36 ECTS)

In this module you learn new languages and can improve languages skills you already have. You have to acquire 36 ECTS by doing language courses and the required language certificates of the Viadrina (Unicert). Further explanation on the choices are found in the section *Languages*.

Module 8: Practical Skills (18 ECTS)

This module serves to prepare you for your professional careers and give you further key skills. An at least four weeks internship in full-time is mandatory for everyone (6 ECTS). Additionally, you choose other seminars in “Praxisrelevante Fertigkeiten” (“practical skills”) and acquire 12 more ECTS.

Other option: you can settle the entire module by doing a three-months internship in full-time (or three one-month internships in full-time) and acquire the full 18 ECTS by that. For more information see section *Internship and study abroad*.

Languages

At the beginning of your studies, you have to have at least a **B2 level in English**. From here on, there are several options how you can learn new languages and improve language skills you already have.

Students without German backgrounds will have to achieve at least a B2 level in German by the final BA semester. The students are strongly advised to reach C1 level if they plan to continue their studies in Germany.

You can choose another foreign language and reach at least B1 here. If you choose to improve your English instead, you can level up to C1. Students with Anglophone backgrounds are excluded from choosing English as a foreign language.

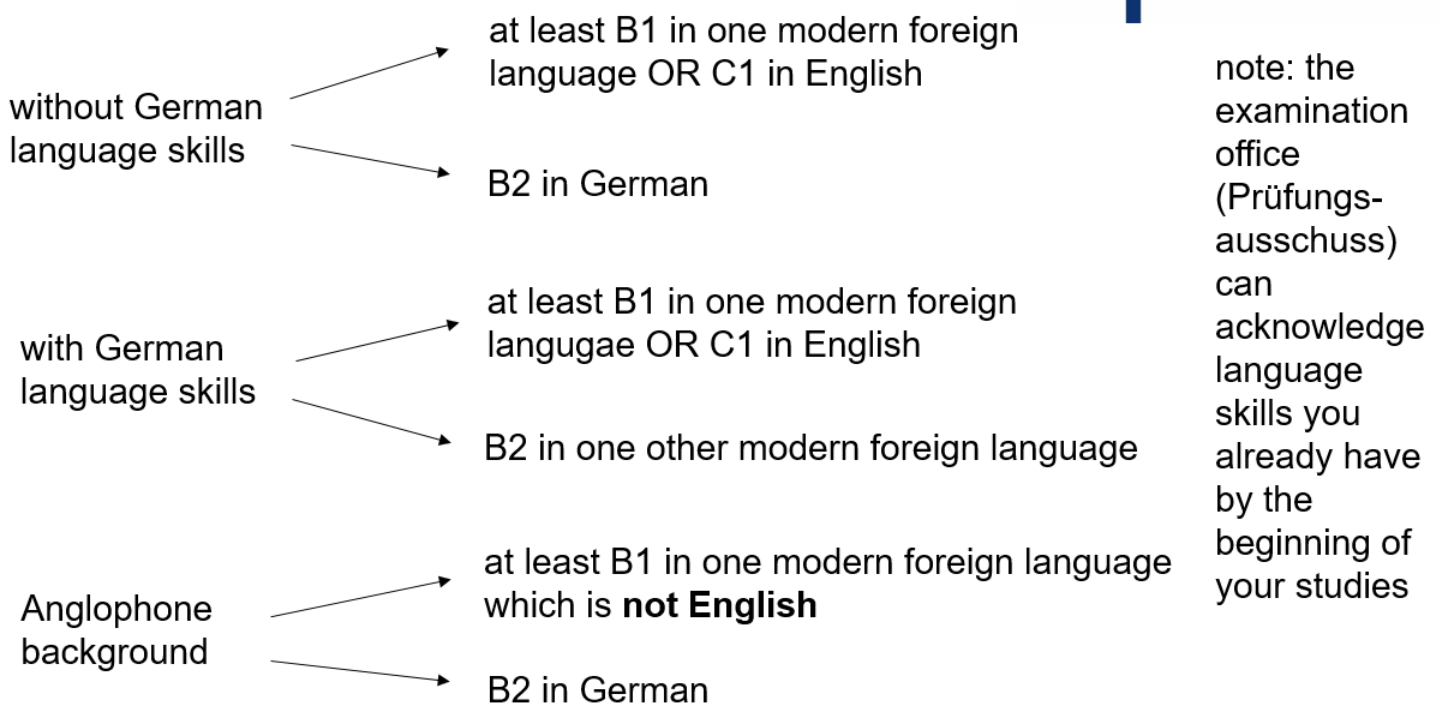


Students with German backgrounds can choose one foreign language which is not English and reach level B2 here. Besides, you can either take another foreign language and reach level B1 or you choose to improve your English and level up to C1.



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PRECONDITION: English (at least) B2



12 → At the end of your studies, you will have skills in at least 3 languages: English, German and one (or two) modern foreign language

Internship and study abroad

As mentioned above, an at least 1 month internship is mandatory for everyone.

Concerning the time abroad, you can either **study** abroad or do an **internship** abroad.

If you are not from a German-speaking background, you can decide to do an internship in Germany that is then recognized as “stay abroad”.

If you do a three-months internship abroad, you kill two birds with one stone: the required time abroad and the mandatory internship. You will get 18 ECTS for module 8 (practical skills).

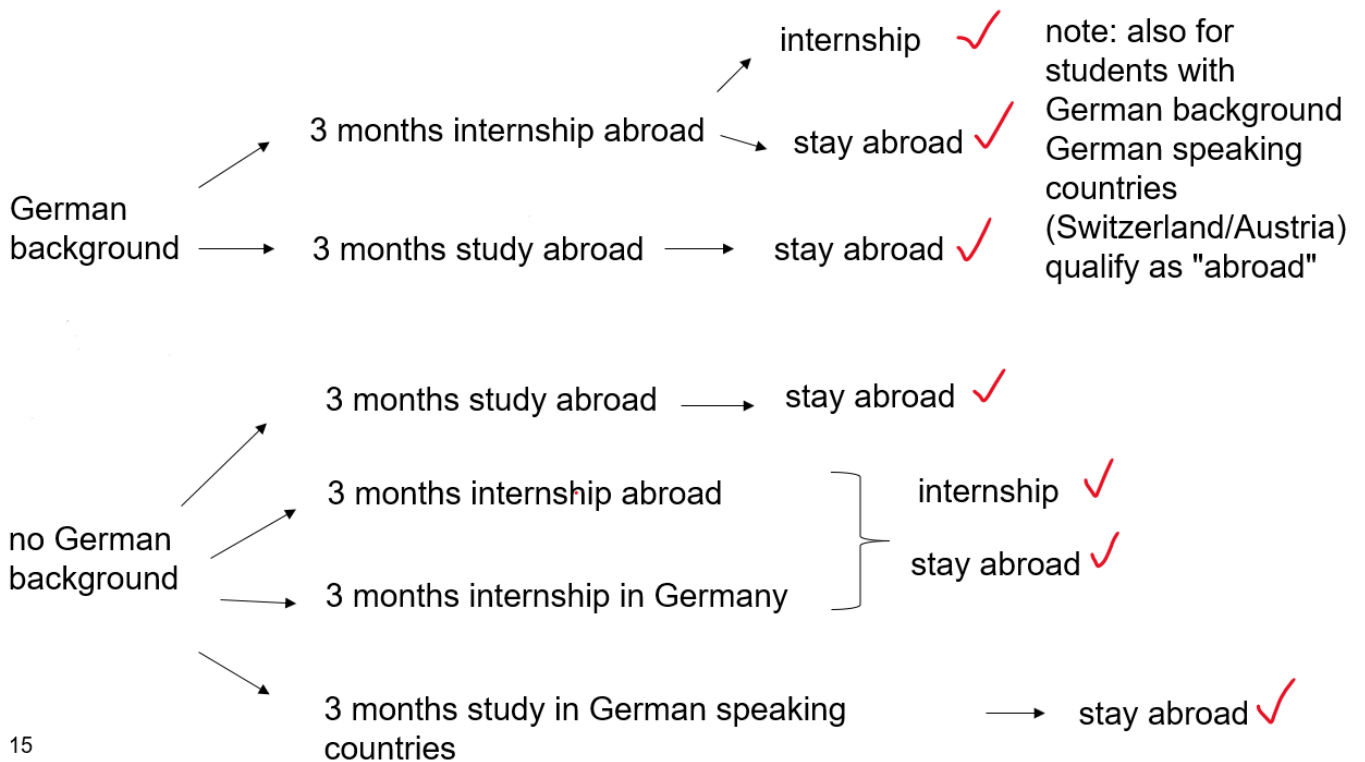


If you decide to study abroad, you have to acquire at least 6, maximum 30 ECTS in courses that go with the topics of the modules 1-5 and 8.



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Internship and study abroad



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Exams

Every form of course and lecture requires a certain form of exam. You will be informed about the examination mode at the beginning of each course. In general, there are several options depending on the amount of credit points you want to achieve, like writing term papers, having oral exams or giving a presentation in class plus a certain amount of documentation. The form of examination can vary depending on your teacher.

BA thesis and final exam

At the very end of your studies, you will write your Bachelor Thesis (9 ECTS). It can be written in either English or German. The volume of the thesis is generally to be around 40 pages. You



have 8 weeks to complete the thesis. The topic is free but has to be related to one of the four established disciplines.

The thesis is evaluated by at least two examiners who are specialists in the respective discipline and subject area addressed in the thesis.

- ➔ The discipline of your thesis is later noted on your degree certificate to assist you in applying for master's degree programs.
- ➔ It is important that you acquire at least 30 ECTS in one discipline (cultural history, comparative social sciences, literary studies, or linguistics) to be eligible to a master's program in the respective field after you have finished your BA degree.

Having completed all the required ECTS and the BA thesis, you will have your final oral exam of 60 minutes in total (3 ECTS) with again two examiners.

The exam is composed of three parts (20min each) with each one topic of the modules 3 and 4. The topic of your thesis can be one of the three.

For further information see Study and Examination Regulations.

Contact persons and services

Dr. Oliver Kossack - Program Coordinator

If you have questions regarding the application process, student counselling, course guidance, the different modules, study documents or language requirements, the **program coordinator** is the right person to contact.

Mail: cuaso@europa-uni.de

Tel.: +49 (0)335 5534 2273

Main Building, Room 059
Große Scharrnstraße 59
15230 Frankfurt (Oder)

Prof. Dr. Britta Schneider – Academic Management

The **academic management** of the program is responsible for module content and the design of the academic curriculum.

Mail: BSchneider@europa-uni.de

Tel.: +49 (0)335 5534 2734

Audimax, Room 122
Große Scharrnstraße 59
15230 Frankfurt (Oder)



Prof. Dr. Nicole Richter – Chairperson of the Examination Board

The **chairperson of the examination board** is your contact person for the recognition of external study achievements from Germany and abroad or the change to a new study regulation.

Mail: buero-nrichter@europa-uni.de

Tel.: +49 (0)335 5534 16 6 845 / +48 61829 6 845

Collegium Polonicum, Room 132
Ul. Kościuszki 1
69-100 Słubice

Central Student Advisory Service (Zentrale Studienberatung)

With any question about how to organize your studies at European University Viadrina, if you need support in personal decision making or help in planning and designing your course or if you have difficulties with your studies, you can always contact the **central student advisory service**. They will help you find your way through the university jungle and help you with any question you have. This is free of charge for you so don't hesitate to contact them. Every semester, there are special offers of different workshops for students.

<https://www.europa-uni.de/en/struktur/zse/zsb/studienberatung/index.html>

Examination Board (Prüfungsausschuss)

The **examination board** is responsible for all your prior and ongoing grades and credits, the placement in higher semesters and other applications relevant to the course of studies. If you need a service from the examination board, directly contact **Prof. Dr. Nicole Richter** (see above).

https://www.kuwi.europa-uni.de/de/dekanat/Gremien-der-Fakultaet/Pruefungsausschuesse_kuwi/index.html

Examination Office (Prüfungsamt)

The **examination office** is the service to contact if you want to register your Bachelor Thesis and for your final exam, if you need a certificate or a Transcript of Records.

https://www.europa-uni.de/en/struktur/verwaltung/dezernat_1/Studienservice/pruefungsamt/index.html



FAQ

How to enroll for courses?

To see what courses are available this semester, consider the **Course Catalog**. On **viaCampus** (<https://viacampus.europa-uni.de/qisserver/pages/cs/sys/portal/hisinoneStartPage.faces>) you can find all information on course contents, schedules and modules.

By clicking on one of the courses in viaCampus you will find additional information on the course and if it's analogue or online, as well as the link to "moodle". Click on the moodle-link and enroll if you want to pick that particular course. You will find more details once inside the course on the moodle-platform.

Please enroll and participate always using your viadrina-account (eg. euv000000@europa-uni.de).

I already have a B2/C1 level in English and/or German. What to do?

You can have your B2/C1 certificate approved by the Examination Board. Please contact Dr. Nicole Richter (buero-nrichter@europa-uni.de) to do so. If you already have this level in English or German, you don't have to go on studying that language (but you can of course). The additional foreign language will still be required.

I am a student without German background and have a B2 or C1 certificate for German. Do I still have to study German?

If you want to take up a master's program in Germany after your bachelor, the recommended level of German at the end of your studies is C1. If you already have B2 in German when you take up the CuSo program, it is a good idea to level up your German on C1 (or even C2). If you already have the C1 certificate, you don't have to take another German language course. Please get the certificates approved by the Examination Board.

Do I have to do an entry-level test (Einstufungstest) for a language course?

Yes. If you take up a language course, no matter what level you have already, you have to do the entry-level test. This is to propose you the courses that fit your level. The tests start in the first two weeks of the semester. You can find the dates on the webpage of the Language Centre: <https://www.sz.europa-uni.de/en/index.html>. The exception is if you start a new language without any knowledge, then you don't have to do a test.

How to enroll for language courses?

You can find the language departments that offer courses at Viadrina on the webpage of the Language Centre: <https://www.sz.europa-uni.de/en/index.html>. Click on the language you want to study, and you will find further information about courses and about time and date of the **entry-level test** you have to do to be able to choose a course that corresponds to your level. **Watch out:** the entry-level tests take place in the first two weeks of the semester! If you take up a new language without any previous knowledge, you just enroll for the first level course.

Do I have to follow the study plan?

No. The study plan is a recommendation, a model you can follow, e.g. to ensure you will finish your studies in six semesters. It is recommended to acquire 30 ECTS in one semester but you can also do less. Just take into account that this will probably extend your study time (maybe important for e.g. for financial reasons). Nevertheless, you can always swap and switch courses and do things in other semesters than in the plan. Only the first semester is quite fixed. You have to take the lecture series, the accompanying seminar and the academic writing class.

Appendix

Exemplary Study Plan

Musterstudienverlaufsplan *Cultural and Social Studies*

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| 1. Semester 30 ECTS | Modul 1 "Introduction to Cultural and Social Studies" (6 ECTS) | Modul 1 "Introduction to Terms, Theories and Methods" (9 ECTS) | Modul 2 Cultural and Social Studies: Consolidation (6 ECTS) | Modul 6 Peer-Writing Group (3 ECTS) | Modul 7 Language Skills (12 ECTS) |
| 2. Semester 30 ECTS | Modul 2 Cultural and Social Studies: Consolidation (9 ECTS) | Modul 3 WAHLPFLICHT – EUROPE/S, DIVERSITY, MEDIA (6 ECTS) | Modul 3 WAHLPFLICHT – EUROPE/S, DIVERSITY, MEDIA (6 ECTS) | Modul 8 Practical Skills (3 ECTS) | |
| 3. Semester 30 ECTS | Modul 3 WAHLPFLICHT – EUROPE/S, DIVERSITY, MEDIA (9 ECTS) | Modul 3 WAHLPFLICHT – EUROPE/S, DIVERSITY, MEDIA (9 ECTS) | Modul 4 WAHLPFLICHT – EUROPE/S, DIVERSITY, MEDIA (6 ECTS) | | Modul 7 Language Skills (12 ECTS) |
| 4. Semester 30 ECTS | Modul 4 WAHLPFLICHT – EUROPE/S, DIVERSITY, MEDIA (6 ECTS) | Modul 4 WAHLPFLICHT – EUROPE/S, DIVERSITY, MEDIA (9 ECTS) | Modul 8 Practical Skills (3 ECTS) | Modul 8 Practical Skills – 4-wöchiges Praktikum (6 ECTS) | |
| 5. Semester 30 ECTS | Modul 4 WAHLPFLICHT – EUROPE/S, DIVERSITY, MEDIA (9 ECTS) | Modul 5 Optionsmodul (Wiwi <i>oder</i> Europe/s, Diversity, Media) (6 ECTS) | Modul 6 Vorbereitendes BA Kolloquium (3 ECTS) | Modul 6 Fachkolloquium (6 ECTS) | Modul 7 Language Skills (12 ECTS) |
| 6. Semester 30 ECTS | BA Arbeit und Abschlusskolloquium (9 + 3 ECTS) | Modul 5 Optionsmodul (Wiwi <i>oder</i> Europe/s, Diversity, Media) (6 ECTS) | | Modul 8 Practical Skills (6 ECTS) | |

Module Plan

| Module | | ECTS credits | Courses | No. of course hours | Self-directed study in hours | Workload (total) |
|--|--|--------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Cultural and Social Studies: Introduction - "Introduction to Cultural and Social Studies" Series of lectures in English (Literature, Linguistics, Cultural History, Comparative Social Sciences), 6 ECTS credits - "Introduction to Terms, Theories and Methods", Seminar in English, 9 ECTS credits | 15 | 4 | 60 | 390 | 450 |
| 2 | Cultural and Social Studies: Consolidation - 1 consolidation course in English (9 ECTS credits) - 1 consolidation course in English (6 ECTS credits) | 15 | 4 | 60 | 390 | 450 |
| 3 | Elective compulsory module 1: - 2 consolidation courses, in English or German (9 ECTS credits each) - 2 consolidation courses, in English or German (6 ECTS credits each) | 30 | 8 | 120 | 780 | 900 |
| 4 | Elective compulsory module 2: - 2 consolidation courses, in English or German (9 ECTS credits each) - 2 consolidation courses, in English or German (6 ECTS credits each) | 30 | 8 | 120 | 780 | 900 |
| 5 | Option module: one of the elective compulsory modules previously attended OR Business Administration and Economics OR "Digital Societies" - 2 consolidation courses, in English or German (6 ECTS credits each) | 12 | 4 | 60 | 300 | 360 |
| 6 | Methods, Academic Writing and Research Skills - Colloquium (6 ECTS credits) - Preparatory BA Colloquium (3 ECTS credits) - Tutorial – Peer writing group, assisted by a Writing Fellow (3 ECTS credits) | 12 | 6 | 90 | 270 | 360 |
| 7 | Language Skills - For students with a higher education entrance qualification taken in a language other than German: German (B2) and one other foreign language (B1) or (C1) if the language is English - For students with a higher education entrance qualification taken in German: One foreign language other than English (B2), one other foreign language (B1) or (C1) if the language is English | 36 | 32 | 480 | 600 | 1080 |
| 8 | Practical Skills - full-time internship of at least 4 weeks' duration (min. 6 ECTS credits) - other elements of practical relevance (max. 12 ECTS credits) | 18 | 0 – 8 | 0 – 120 | 420 – 540 | 540 |
| Written Bachelor's thesis | | 9 | 0 | 0 | 270 | 270 |
| Final colloquium (oral Bachelor's examination) | | 3 | 0 | 0 | 90 | 90 |
| Total | | 180 | 66 – 76 | 990 – 1110 | 4290 – 4410 | 5400 |

Study and Examination Regulations (Studien- und Prüfungsordnung)(English/German)

You can find the respective documents under the following links:

English: https://www.europa-uni.de/de/struktur/verwaltung/dezernat_2/amtliche_bekanntmachungen/gueltige-ordnungen/Kuwi/BA_CSS/SPO_Cultural-and-Social_Studies-mit-OM-Digital_Societies_englisch-Spalten.pdf

German: https://www.europa-uni.de/de/struktur/verwaltung/dezernat_2/amtliche_bekanntmachungen/gueltige-ordnungen/Kuwi/BA_CSS/Kuwi_SPO_Cultural-and-Social_Studies-mit-OM-Digital_Societies.pdf