RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

RUB

MA Study Programme
European Culture and Economy (MA ECUE)



IMPRESSUM: MA Study Programme ECUE (2025)

CONTACTS

Director
Prof. Dr. Rainer Eising_Chair of Comparative Political Science
Office: GD E2/ 255_phone: ++49 (0)234 32 25172_email: rainer.eising@rub.de
Programme Coordination
Marcus Reinecke
Office: GD E1/ 159_phone: ++49 (0)234 32 28750_email: marcus.reinecke@rub.de; ecue@rub.de
Student Council ECUE
office: GABF 05/ 508_email: fachschaftsratECUE@rub.de

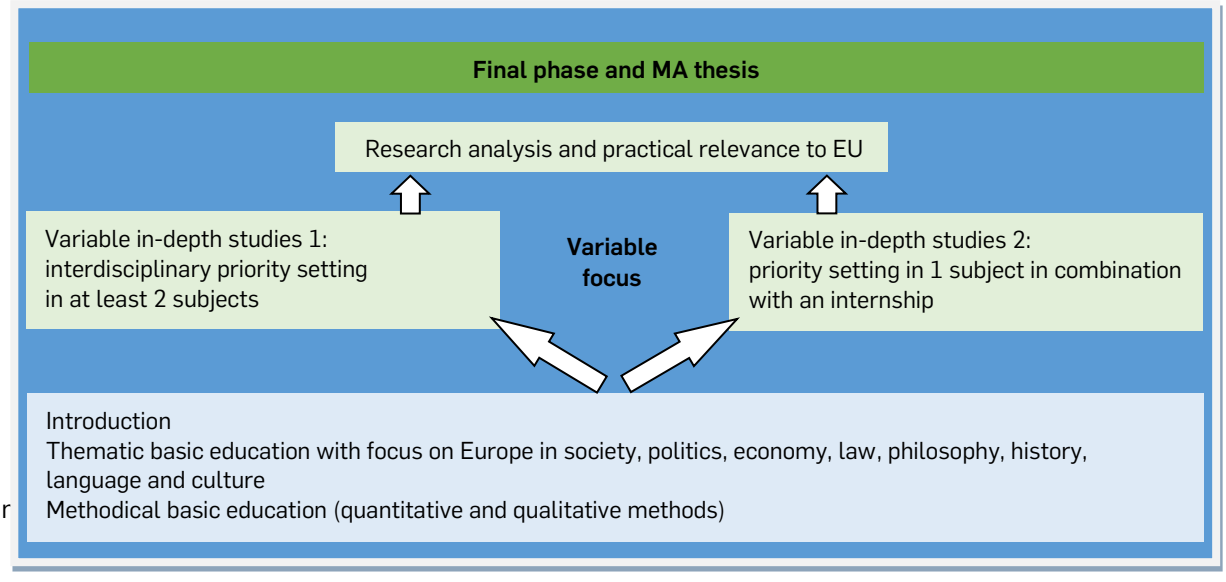
DURATION OF STUDIES

The study programme comprises two years (4 semesters standard period of study) and 120 ECTS. The entire curriculum of the study programme is modularised. The modules are self-contained both thematically and temporally. Each module is assessed with an overall grade and is assigned credit points (CP) according to the ECTS standard, which correspond to the respective required study effort.

CONTENTS AND AIMS

The internationally and interdisciplinary oriented MA study programme ECUE focuses on European, social, cultural, economic and political developments, structures and processes. It enables students to deal with these topics in depth through the multi-perspective and interdisciplinary interlinking of knowledge from the participating subjects in the fields of sociology, political science, economics, philology, history and philosophy. The central subject of the study programme is to work out, reflect and analyse developments, structures and processes of the European social, cultural and economic area in a comparative perspective. In doing so, Europe and the construction of the European as a problem - and not as a presupposed definition - form the focus of the study programme.
The declared aim of the MA study programme ECUE is to address the convergence and divergence of the social, cultural and economic area of Europe in a comparative perspective and to enable students to engage in in-depth discussions. Taking into account the requirements and changes in the professional world, the study programme provides students with the subject-specific knowledge, skills and methods that enable them to work scientifically, to critically classify scientific findings and to act responsibly. The students acquire analytical, methodical, communicative, social and cultural competences both in the subject modules and in separate offers, in which reflection, dialogical understanding and argumentation are practised through self-activity and in teamwork and lead into public presentations of achieved study results. Thus, interdisciplinary theoretical and methodological competence is trained. The teaching content in the modules is linked to international lines of research and discussion.

Schematic Overview of the Study Structure



Ir

- Introductory Module (IM)
- Basic Module Philosophy and Law (BPL)
- Basic Module History (BH)
- Basic Module Language and Culture (BLC)
- Basic Module Economics (BE)
- Basic Module Politics and Society (BPS)
- Research Methods 1 (RM1)
- 2 In-depth Modules (IDM1 and IDM2) OR In-depth Module (IDM1) and Practice Module (PM)
- Research Methods 2 (RM 2)

The following is specified for the formal structure of the modules:

- all modules in the MA study programme ECUE are understood as curricular units that should basically only be studied in their entirety;
- a module usually consists of two courses (4 contact hours per week);
- exceptions are the module Research Methods 1 (three courses with a total of 6 contact hours per week) and Research Methods 2 (two courses and study excursion with a total of 7 contact hours per week); the structure of the specialisation modules depends on what is offered by the participating faculties;
- the module scope in the basic modules and in the in-depth modules is 10 credit points (CP) each according to ECTS;
- the module scope in the Research Methods modules RM1 and RM2 is 12 CP resp. 15 CP according to ECTS.

Basic Studies

The subject-specific basic modules (1st – 2nd semester) cover the following study contents:

- introductory module and intercultural competence in theory and practice
- European philosophy (e.g., questions of economic ethics, climate and energy ethics, digital ethics, morality and responsibility)
- European law
- European history (19th and 20th century)
- EU-English (language training with special relation to institutions of the EU and current debates)
- Concepts of Europe from cultural and historical perspectives
- Basics of micro and macroeconomics
- European integration and economic policy
- Institutions and political system of the EU
- sociological aspects of societies and cultures in Europe

All contents have an introductory character, diverse thematic overlaps with different disciplinary perspectives and a reference to Europe. The distribution among the subjects involved in the MA study programme ECUE – sociology, political science, economics, philology, history, and philosophy – in combination with the respective subject background from the first degree and the methods training, guarantees preparation for the individually selectable, subject-specific specialisation in the 3rd semester.

Methods Studies

The basic method training in the first semester is interdisciplinary with a focus on subject-related needs of the ECUE students. In the 2nd semester selective subject-related qualitative research methods allows an initial specialisation option and orientation with regard to the deepening of disciplinary content in the 3rd semester.

In-Depth Studies

Through the selection of study foci in the in-depth modules (3rd and 4th semesters), a target guidance of the study towards the degree takes place. In their interdisciplinary final thesis, students consider at least one subject in which they have taken an in-depth module.

There are two options for specialising within the framework of the in-depth modules:

- an interdisciplinary specialisation in European or international subject areas in at least two of the subjects involved in the study programme;
- a specialised in-depth study of European or international topics in combination with an internship.

Integration of an Internship

With the option of an internship module, students have the opportunity to integrate an internship into the course of study. An internship of at least six weeks' duration (incl. internship report) is credited with 10 CP in the specialisation area when choosing the internship module.
The preparation and search for a suitable internship place is done by the students. A feedback discussion based on the internship report takes place within the framework of the study progress report.

Mobility (optional study abroad)

There is no compulsory study abroad during the study programme; however, it can be integrated into the course of study. Achievements made in the study abroad can be credited after consultation with the study programme coordinator and/or the module coordinators. Due to the variable design of the specialisation modules, it is recommended to carry out a study abroad in the 3rd or 4th semester.

STUDY ACHIEVEMENTS AND MODULE EXAMINATIONS

Modules	**Study Achievements***	**CP**
Introductory Module (IM)	2 S	3
Basic Module Philosophy and Law (BPL)	2 S/1 ME	10
Basic Module History (BH)	2 S/ 1 ME	10
Basic Module Language and Culture (BLC)	2 S/ 1 ME	10
Basic Module Economics (BE)	2 S/ 1 ME	10
Basic Module Politics and Society (BPS)	2 S/ 1 ME	10
Research Methods 1 (RM 1)	2 S/ 1 ME	12
Research Methods 2 (RM 2)	2 S/ 1 ST/ 1 ME	15
In-depth Module 1 (IDM 1)	2 S/ 1 ME	10
In-depth Module 2 (IDM 2) *or* Practice Module (PM)	2 S/ 1 ME *or* internship + report	10
Final Module (FM): MA thesis	4–6 months	20
Sum of study achievements		120

* S = study achievement/ ME = module examination/ ST = study trip

Examination standard in the modules is the module examination (ME), which is embedded in a course (seminar or lecture). Module examinations can be written examinations (min. 90/max. 120 min.) or oral examinations (min. 20/max. 30 min.). However, both types of examinations are more of a supplement to the forms of examination integrated into the courses. In general, the dominant form of examination in the subjects involved in the MA study programme ECUE is a presentation in combination with a term paper (usually 15–20 pages/max. 50,000 characters). The respective range of examination forms is determined by the individual lecturers, who also ensure that the learning objectives of the entire module are focused on as examples. At least three assignments and one oral examination must be completed within all module examinations in order to graduate.
In addition to the examinations during the course of study or at the end of the module, the instrument of ungraded study achievements (S) is used as a prerequisite for the completion of a module. This is a didactic device of involving the students in the teaching process, for example, the preparation of lesson minutes, the writing of short thematic essays, input presentations, the assumption of leadership of working groups, etc.

MASTER'S EXAMAMINATION

The Master's thesis (80 pages/ 200,000 characters) is written on an interdisciplinary topic or question from the context of the MA study programme ECUE. The topic or question should be linked to a completed specialisation module. Students have a period of four months (max. six months for an empirical topic) to complete the Master's thesis (20 CP).

MODULE STRUCTURE

<table>
<tr><td colspan="6">1st – 2nd semester</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Introductory Module (IM) (3 CP/ 2 S)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Basic Module Philosophy and Law (BPL)
(10 CP/ 2 S + 1 ME)</td><td>Basic Module History (BH)
(10 CP/ 2 S + 1 ME)</td><td>Basic Module Language and Culture (BMLC)
(10 CP/ 2 S + 1 ME)</td><td>Basic Module Economics (BE)
(10 CP/ 2 S + 1 ME)</td><td>Basic Module Politics and Society (BPS)
(10 CP/ 2 S + 1 ME)</td><td>Research Methods 1 (RM 1)
(12 CP/ 3 S + 1 ME)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">3rd – 4th semester</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">In-depth Module 1 (IDM 1)
(10 CP/ 2 S + 1 ME)</td><td colspan="2">In-depth Module 2 (IDM 2)
(10 CP/ 2 S + 1 ME)</td><td rowspan="2">Research Methods 2 (RM 2):
3rd semester
- Research Design in EU Studies
- 4days study trip to Brussels</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">OR</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">In-depth Module (IDM)
(10 CP/ 2 S + 1 ME)</td><td colspan="2">Practice Module (PM)
(10 CP/ minimum 6 weeks internship + report)</td><td rowspan="2">4th semester
- Interdisciplinary Final Colloquium

(15 CP / 2 S, 1 ST, 1 ME)</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="5">MA-Arbeit (20 CP)
Interdisziplinäre Abschlussarbeit mit Schwerpunkt in mindestens einem Fach, in dem ein Vertiefungsmodul belegt wurde</td></tr>
</table>

(CP = Credit Points according to ECTS / S = study achievement/ ME = module examination / ST = study trip

CURICULUM [1]

1th – 2nd semester				
	Module	**Contact Hours**	**Module Completion**	**CP**
Introduction	Introductory Module (IM)	3	active participation	3
Basics	Basic Module Philosophy and Law (BPL)	2 2	exam* to one out of two courses	10
	Basic Module History (BH)	4	exam* in 1th semester	10
	Basic Module Language and Culture (BLC)	2 2	exam* to one out of two courses	10
	Basic Module Economics (BE)	2 2	exam* to one out of two courses	10
	Basic Module Politics and Society (BPS)	2 2	exam* to one out of two courses	10
Methods	Research Methods 1 (FM 1)	4 2	exam* in 2nd semester	8 4
			max sum of CP in 1st +2nd semester	**65**
Optionally, a module completion of a basic module, which is not chosen as a focus in the in-depth module(s), can be achieved in the 3rd semester.				
			minimum sum of CP im 1st +2nd semester	**59**
3. – 4. semester				
	Module	**Contact Hours**	**Module Completion**	**CP**
specialisation	In-depth Module 1 (IDM 1)	4	exam* to one out of two courses	10
methods	In-depth Module 2 (IDM 2)	4	exam* to one out of two courses	10
	Research Methods 2 (RM 2)	6 2	exam* in 3rd semester	12 3
degree	**MA thesis**			20
	OR			
specialisation	In-depth Module (IDM)	4	exam* to one out of two courses	10
	Practice Module (PM)	internship (full time, minimum 6 weeks) + report (after 2nd and before 4th semester)		10
methods	Research Methods 2 (RM 2)	2 4	exam* in in 3rd semester	12 3
degree	**MA thesis**			20
			max sum of CP in 3rd + 4th semester (incl. 6 CP from 2nd semester)	**61**
			minimum sum of CP in 3rd + 4th semester	**55**

[1] This is an exemplary course of study, i.e. deviations can be made depending on the specific study planning.
* Forms of examination can usually be: in-class written test, term paper, oral examination, or equivalent forms. More details can be found in the respective module and/ or course description.