

# Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology

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## Degree Information for the Master of Arts (MA)

Institute for Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology  
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## **1. Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology**

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Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology in a nutshell: KAAE (referred to at other universities as Folk Studies or Empirical Cultural Studies) explores everyday European culture using predominantly qualitative methods. Research topics include bodies of knowledge, interpretive patterns and other cultural practices that are structured by the everyday. KAAE analyzes tangible and intangible cultural goods as expressions of values and norms, mutual exchange and differentiation processes within social classes and groups, as well as transformation processes within society, the working world and cultural institutions. The goal of cultural-anthropological analysis is to demonstrate the constancy and change of daily life in the past as well as the present by using comparative methods and to contribute to the solution of socio-cultural problems in society.

### **Study Goals & Qualifications Profile**

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The master's program at the Göttingen Institute is research-oriented and enables the use of local, transnational and culturally comparative methodologies to independently solve questions of the phenomena of everyday culture. The core of the program is an Instructional Research Project such as the design and production of ethnographic films in the emphasis in Curriculum Visual Anthropology.

The MA program creates autonomy in the development and methodological implementation of research tasks. This, as well as the applied principle of "learning through research" in the Instructional Research Project, helps to train competence in the communication of knowledge in various formats. Graduates are equipped with skills in independent inquiry and documentation methods as well as the further processing in various formats (text, image, sound in both analog and digital forms) of those methods. The advanced content-related, theoretical and methodological expertise of KAAE provides excellent interdisciplinary networking and solid career opportunities in various culture-work professions in Europe and abroad.

Graduates are qualified for independent work in curatorial settings (including but not limited to art-historical and regional museums), the media (print and electronic media, television, radio) and arts and social administration (e.g. environmental or cultural administration, or social work with youth, the elderly, or migrants, etc.). Numerous other professional possibilities arise from individual subject combinations.

The program also prepares students for further academic qualifications, such as a PhD.

### **Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology in Göttingen**

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With three professorships, the Göttingen Institute is one of the largest KAAE institutes in the German-speaking world, which, thanks also to the different foci of the teachers as well as locally available resources, ensures a continued high level of professionalism in the whole breadth of the field.

The core of the MA degree tracks are KAAE research modules. Building on solid methodological and theoretical training, the implementation of scholarly research in various communications formats (publications, exhibitions or documentaries--analogue or digital) is practiced at every step. In more theory-oriented modules, however, practical and intellectual skills are taught. In both the research and theory modules, the primary objective is the students' ability to independently create scholarly work.

At the Institute for KAAE, opportunities to become involved in current research are manifold: student assistant positions provide insight into ongoing projects; graduate theses may be drafted around aspects of such projects. More information about these ongoing projects can be found on the Institute's homepage.

Furthermore, the Institute produces several book series in which the results of Instructional Research Projects, conferences, and also particularly successful Master's theses and Doctoral dissertations are published. The editorial staff of the

journal Kulturen (located within the Institute) is always open to student contributions.

## Topics of Teaching and Research

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Within the program, students benefit from a close connection to the Institute's current research initiatives. Major topics which define the work of the participating scholars include:

- culture in the interplay between business and politics, such as the areas of tourism, heritage and cultural resources
- communication and folklore research from orality to digitality--from face-to-face to television series
- work in a globalized world--from handicrafts to fine arts, from rural change to services in the problematic of migration
- "Europe" and processes of Europeanization: present-day- and problem-oriented European Ethnology that researches region-specific and local constellations and transformations of everyday life
- anthropology of politics: cultural-historical and ethnographic research into political practices, rationalities, technologies, institutions, knowledge processes and materialities
- Critical Border Studies and ethnographic border regime analysis
- migration research
- gender studies in historical and contemporary perspectives; understanding gender as a relational category from a perspective of intersectionality; close cooperation with the Göttingen Center for Gender Research
- urban studies

- recent methodology debates in historical- and present-day-oriented research: ethnography of the senses, Netnography and digital ethnography, methodological enhancements in the wake of "global ethnography" and multi-sited research, Actor-Network-Theory (ANT) and Science and Technology Studies (STS)
- New Museology: dealing with artistic practices, mediality and new media as well as approaches to representational practices via the history of knowledge
- On the basis of common theoretical and methodological work, an emphasis in visual anthropology (Curriculum Visual Anthropology [CVA]) can be added to the standard program of study. Film and photography are key formats of audio-visual ethnography. The graduates of the CVA are equipped with knowledge of media analysis, production and reception processes, which continues to acquire ever greater importance not only in journalism, but also in public relations and museums.

## 2. The Master's Degree Program

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The MA program in Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology at the Georg-August-University can be completed as a *monodisciplinary track* (one subject) or studied in combination with another subject. The student must decide how intensively she/he wants to study Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology. The range is 78 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System credits), 42 ECTS or as a module package to complement another degree program (~36 ECTS).

In addition to the general Master's in Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology, an emphasis in "Curriculum Visual Anthropology" (CVA) can be added to the 78 ECTS track.

For the degree of "MA," a total of 120 ECTS must be achieved. This number is arrived at by adding the ECTS acquired in the standard

course of study to the 30 ECTS for the Master's thesis.

The tracks of the MA program in Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology at a glance:

#### **Master's Degree in total: 120 ECTS**

##### **First Track, KAAE:**

MA degree in KAAE 78 ECTS  
Professionalization /  
Core Competencies 12 ECTS  
Master's Thesis 30 ECTS

##### **Second Track, KAAE with CVA:**

MA degree in KAAE, *with Emphasis in CVA* 78 ECTS  
Core Competencies 12 ECTS  
Master's Thesis 30 ECTS

##### **Third Track, KAAE with a second subject:**

MA degree in KAAE 42 ECTS  
Module package from the second subject 36 ECTS  
Professionalization /  
Core Competencies 12 ECTS  
Master's Thesis 30 ECTS

##### **Fourth Track, KAAE as a second subject:**

MA degree in another subject 42 ECTS  
Module package KAAE 36 ECTS  
Core Competencies 12 ECTS  
Master's thesis in the other subject 30 ECTS

## **Program Organization**

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The program consists of well-defined modules which must be completed in a fixed order. In general, a module comprises several events organized around a single topic.

Seminars and Instructional Research Projects are the main types of course within the scope of the MA program. These courses are complemented by self-study as well as individual empirical research.

Altogether, the master's program lasts four semesters. After obtaining the required number of ECTS, the Master's thesis may be written.

A period of study abroad is desirable and encouraged by the recognition of credits.

Those students who have chosen the emphasis in "Curriculum Visual Anthropology" will create an ethnographic film as an integral component of the master's thesis.

## **Admission Requirements**

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Prerequisite for admission to the MA program in Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology is the successful completion of a Bachelor's degree in Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology or another closely related cultural studies discipline.

Admission from other disciplines will be made on a case by case basis with special attention paid to the "subject-specific relevance" of the candidate's previous achievements. When necessary, (a lack of) specific essential subject matter can be compensated for via so-called "learning agreements."

The exact requirements for admission can be found in the relevant admissions regulations.

## **Coursework & Exams**

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Each module is concluded with a module-specific examination the nature and scope of which is governed by the module handbook for that subject. Module-specific examinations can be made up of different tasks: a term paper, a presentation, an oral exam, a written exam, etc.

The grade and number of ECTS points achieved for each module make up a percentage of the final grade and are listed on the final transcript. Students are therefore, from the very first day of their studies, working toward their final grade.

## **Types of Courses**

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### **Lectures:**

In a lecture, an instructor presents a topic from Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology. Above all, lectures offer an overview of a subject. Some lectures are followed up with in-depth tutorials.

### **Seminars:**

In contrast to a lecture, active participation and therefore help in shaping the course is expected from students in seminars--frequently in the form of presentations. In seminars, advanced

methodological and theoretical fundamentals are discussed and broadened.

### **Exercise:**

In exercise courses, and especially within the CVA emphasis, the practical application of learned skills (such as small-scale independent field research) is undertaken.

### **Instructional Research Project:**

Under an instructor's guidance, students produce one of the centerpieces of their MA studies: independent scholarship which is then publicly presented, using suitable resources, to the Institute. This exercise in effectively interfacing with the public is often performed in cooperation with institutions of applied cultural studies. Unlike in other types of courses, the end-product of the Institutional Research Project is always something designed for public consumption--such as an exhibition, a book or a film.

### **Reading Seminar:**

In a reading seminar, several academic articles or monographs relating to the seminar's topic are discussed in one to two sessions, and small-scale independent field research may be undertaken.

### 3. MA Degree Tracks

#### ◆ MA program in KAAE: Mono-disciplinary (78 ECTS)

	Modules in the MA degree in KAAE (78 ECTS)
<b>1st Semester</b>	<p><b>M.KAAE.101 "Advanced Research-Oriented Theory and Methodology", 9 ECTS, 3 credit hours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar or lecture: "The Theories and Theorists of Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology" 2 hours per week <u>or</u> Seminar or lecture: "Problems of Field Research in Theory and Practice"</li> <li><u>or</u></li> <li>Seminar or Lecture: "Problems of Cultural-Historical Research in Theory and Practice" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reading Seminar or Exercise 1 hour per week</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>M.KAAE.155 "Instructional Research Project: Part One (there are two parts for a total of 24 ECTS), 12 ECTS, 4 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two-semester project, Part 1 4 hours per week</li> </ul>
<b>2nd Semester</b>	<p><b>M.KAAE.102 "Research Perspectives on Everyday Culture", 9 ECTS, 3 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar or lecture: "Topics in the Research of Everyday Culture" 2 hours per week</li> <li>▪ Reading seminar or Exercise 1 hour per week</li> </ul> <p><b>M.KAAE.155 "Instructional Research Project": Part Two (there are two parts for a total of 24 ECTS credits), 12 ECTS, 4 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two-semester project, Part 2 4 hours per week</li> </ul> <p><b>M.KAAE.221 "Practical KAAE Experience", 6 ECTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation in either a four-day excursion or at least two days of a conference (With preparation and follow-up)</li> <li>▪ Participation in the colloquium</li> </ul>
<b>3rd Semester</b>	<p><b>M.KAAE.103 "Processes and Forms of Cultural Acquisition and Communication", 9 ECTS, 3 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar: "Areas of Research in Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology" 2 hours per week</li> <li>▪ Reading seminar or Exercise 1 hour per week</li> </ul> <p><b>M. KAAE.104 "Advanced Topic and Research Design", 9 ECTS, 3 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar: "Research Topics in Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology" 2 hours per week</li> <li>▪ Master's Colloquium 1 hour per week</li> </ul> <p><b>M. KAAE.107 "European Ethnologies", 12 ECTS, 4 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar: "European Ethnologies" 2 hours per week</li> <li>▪ Seminar or lecture: "European Ethnologies" 2 hours per week</li> </ul>
<b>4th Semester</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Master's thesis, 30 ECTS</li> </ul>

◆ MA program in KAAE with an emphasis in Curriculum Visual Anthropology (78 ECTS)

	<b>Modules in the MA degree in KAAE (78 ECTS)</b>
<b>1st Semester</b>	<p><b>M.KAAE.101 "Advanced Research-Oriented Theory and Methodology", 9 ECTS, 3 credit hours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar or lecture: "The Theories and Theorists of Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology"</li> </ul> <p>2 hours per week</p> <p>or</p> <p>Seminar or lecture: "Problems of Field Research in Theory and Practice"</p> <p>or</p> <p>Seminar or Lecture: "Problems of Cultural-Historical Research in Theory and Practice"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reading Seminar or Exercise</li> </ul> <p>1 hour per week</p> <p><b>M.KAAE.110 "Introduction to the Theory and Praxis of Ethnographic Films", 10 ECTS, 3 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar: "Introduction to the Theory and Praxis of Ethnographic Films"</li> </ul> <p>2 hours per week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exercise: Methodology, Design, and Technologies of Ethnographic Film Production</li> </ul> <p>1 hour per week</p> <p><b>M. KAAE.209 "Academic History and Classics of Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology", 6 ECTS, 2 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar or lecture: "Academic History and Classics of Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology"</li> </ul> <p>2 hours per week</p>
<b>2nd Semester</b>	<p><b>M.KAAE.102 "Research Perspectives on Everyday Culture", 9 ECTS, 3 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar or lecture: "Topics in the Research of Everyday Culture"</li> </ul> <p>2 hours per week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reading seminar or Exercise</li> </ul> <p>1 hour per week</p> <p><b>M.KAAE.211 "Designing Ethnographic Films", 10 ECTS, 4 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar: "Designing Ethnographic Films"</li> </ul> <p>4 hours per week</p> <p><b>M.KAAE.221 "Practical KAAE Experience", 6 ECTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participation in either a four-day excursion or at least two days of a conference (With preparation and follow-up)</li> <li>▪ Participation in the colloquium</li> </ul>
<b>3rd Semester</b>	<p><b>M.KAAE.103 "Processes and Forms of Cultural Acquisition and Communication", 9 ECTS, 3 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar: "Areas of Research in Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology"</li> </ul> <p>2 hours per week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reading seminar or Exercise</li> </ul> <p>1 hour per week</p> <p><b>M. KAAE.104 "Advanced Topic and Research Design", 9 ECTS, 3 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar: "Research Topics in Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology"</li> </ul> <p>2 hours per week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Master's Colloquium</li> </ul> <p>1 hour per week</p> <p><b>M. KAAE.112 "Research and Production Design of Ethnographic Films", 8 ECTS, 5 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar: "Production of Ethnographic Films"</li> </ul> <p>4 hours per week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MA Colloquium "Academic Film"</li> </ul> <p>1 hour per week</p>
<b>Se   h   4t</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Master's thesis, 30 ECTS</li> </ul>

◆ **MA program in KAAE (42 ECTS) in combination with a module package from a second subject**

	Modules in the MA program in KAAE (42 ECTS)
1st Semester	<p>M.KAAE.101 "Advanced Research-Oriented Theory and Methodology", 9 ECTS, 3 credit hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar or lecture: "The Theories and Theorists of Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology" 2 hours per week</li> <li>or</li> <li>Seminar or lecture: "Problems of Field Research in Theory and Practice"</li> <li>or</li> <li>Seminar or Lecture: "Problems of Cultural-Historical Research in Theory and Practice" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reading seminar or Exercise</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>1 hour per week</p> <p>M.KAAE.155 "Instructional Research Project: Part One (there are two parts for a total of 24 ECTS), 12 ECTS, 4 hours per week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two-semester project, Part 1</li> </ul> <p>4 hours per week</p>
2nd Semester	<p>M.KAAE.155 "Instructional Research Project": Part Two (there are two parts for a total of 24 ECTS credits), 12 ECTS, 4 hours per week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two-semester project, Part 2</li> </ul> <p>4 hours per week</p>
3rd Semester	<p>M. KAAE.104 "Advanced Topic and Research Design", 9 ECTS, 3 hours per week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar: "Research Topics in Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology"</li> </ul> <p>2 hours per week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Master's Colloquium</li> </ul> <p>1 hour per week</p>
4th Semester	Master's thesis, 30 ECTS

◆ **KAEE as a module package (36 ECTS) combined with an MA degree in another subject**

	Modules in KAAE (36 ECTS)
1st Semester	<p><b>M.KAAE.101 "Advanced Research-Oriented Theory and Methodology", 9 ECTS, 3 credit hours</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar or lecture: "The Theories and Theorists of Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology" 2 hours per week</li> <li>or</li> <li>Seminar or lecture: "Problems of Field Research in Theory and Practice"</li> <li>or</li> <li>Seminar or Lecture: "Problems of Cultural-Historical Research in Theory and Practice" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reading Seminar or Exercise</li> <li>1 hour per week</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>M. KAAE.209 "Academic History and Classics of Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology", 6 ECTS, 2 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar or lecture: "Academic History and Classics of Cultural Anthropology / European Ethnology"</li> <li>2 hours per week</li> </ul>
2nd Semester	<p><b>M.KAAE.102 "Research Perspectives on Everyday Culture", 9 ECTS, 3 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar or lecture: "Topics in the Research of Everyday Culture"</li> <li>2 hours per week</li> <li>▪ Reading seminar or Exercise</li> <li>1 hour per week</li> </ul>
3rd Semester	<p><b>M. KAAE.107 "European Ethnologies", 12 ECTS, 4 hours per week</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seminar: "European Ethnologies"</li> <li>2 hours per week</li> <li>▪ Seminar or lecture: "European Ethnologies"</li> <li>2 hours per week</li> </ul>
4th Semester	