Study Guide

MA Modern Sinology

Winter term 2026/27

GEORG-AUGUST-UNIVERSITÄT
GÖTTINGEN IN PUBLICA COMMODA SEIT 1737

Ostasiatisches Seminar I Heinrich-Düker-Weg 14 I D 37073 Göttingen

Welcome

Dear Students,

We welcome you very warmly to the Department of East Asian Studies at the University of Göttingen! You have chosen to pursue our Modern Sinology Master's programs and are probably very excited about your studies and university life here. To help make your start here as smooth as possible, we have gathered information in this study guide about our department, the Master's program, and the various ***organizational*** *aspects of your studies. Please read all of this information very carefully. Should anything remain unclear to you, or if you have any concerns, don't hesitate to contact the academic advisor.*

Although your studies will center around required coursework, our program also allows you to develop your individual research interests. This study guide outlines such opportunities. You will also find information about the particulars of the Master's program and your options in your chosen program. This information will be invaluable as you plan your individual course of study in the coming weeks. Please know that we are always happy to have your feedback about our program; your suggestions will be received positively and incorporated into future iterations of our programs to the extent possible.

You will certainly be kept very busy during your study with us. Alongside the subject-specific coursework, you will also find the intensive language learning very demanding and time-consuming. But it will also be immensely rewarding. By committing yourself to learning about Chinese culture and developing your language skills to a high level, you will open up exciting new horizons in the process. You will also gather invaluable international experience and open new career options for yourselves.

On behalf of all of us working in the department, I wish you a lot of fun during your studies, and I hope you will feel happy with us.

Prof. Dr. Axel Schneider
Deputy Head of the East Asian Studies Department

Contents

The Department of East Asian Studies in Göttingen **4**
How to find us 4
Teaching and research focus of the department 5
Contact persons at the Department of East Asian Studies 6
The department online 8
Library 9
Activities organized by students of the department 10
Student union 10
Activities organized by the department 10
Collection of movies and regular movie screening: 10
Academic talks 10
Student advisory and information services **11**
Student counselling at the Department of East Asian Studies 11
General student counselling at the Faculty of Humanities 11
Consulting centers at the University of Göttingen 12
Psychosocial counselling 12
Compensation for disadvantages 13
Studying modern sinology **14**
Challenges of the degree 14
Professional qualifications 14
Structure of the degree program 15
Specialist courses in Modern Sinology 18
Special provisions for native speakers of modern Chinese / Mandarin 18
Module package 18
Area of professionalization 19
Master thesis 20
Language 20
Additional classes 21
Formal recognition of previous external classes and Chinese language skills 21
Learning contracts 21
Study abroad 22
Preparing for your stay abroad 22
Funding opportunities for studying abroad 23
How to organize your studies: courses, assignments, exams 25
Modules and courses 25
Searching for courses for semester planning 26
Searching for courses in Stud.IP 26
Course Catalogue: EXA and course search 26
Registration for courses: Stud.lP 29
Compulsory attendance 30
Academic computation of time 30
Academic calendar 31
Exams 32
Special forms of exams 32
Dates 33

Registration for examinations: FlexNow 33
If you miss an exam because of illness: 33
Repeating classes and exams 36
Letters of recommendation and evaluations 37
Some useful terms 38
Appendix 1: Structure of the MA program "East Asian Studies / Modern Sinology" 40
Appendix 2: Study and exam regulations MA East Asian Studies / Modern Sinology 41
Appendix 3: Special provisions for native speakers of modern Mandarin 42

The Department of East Asian Studies in Göttingen

How to find us

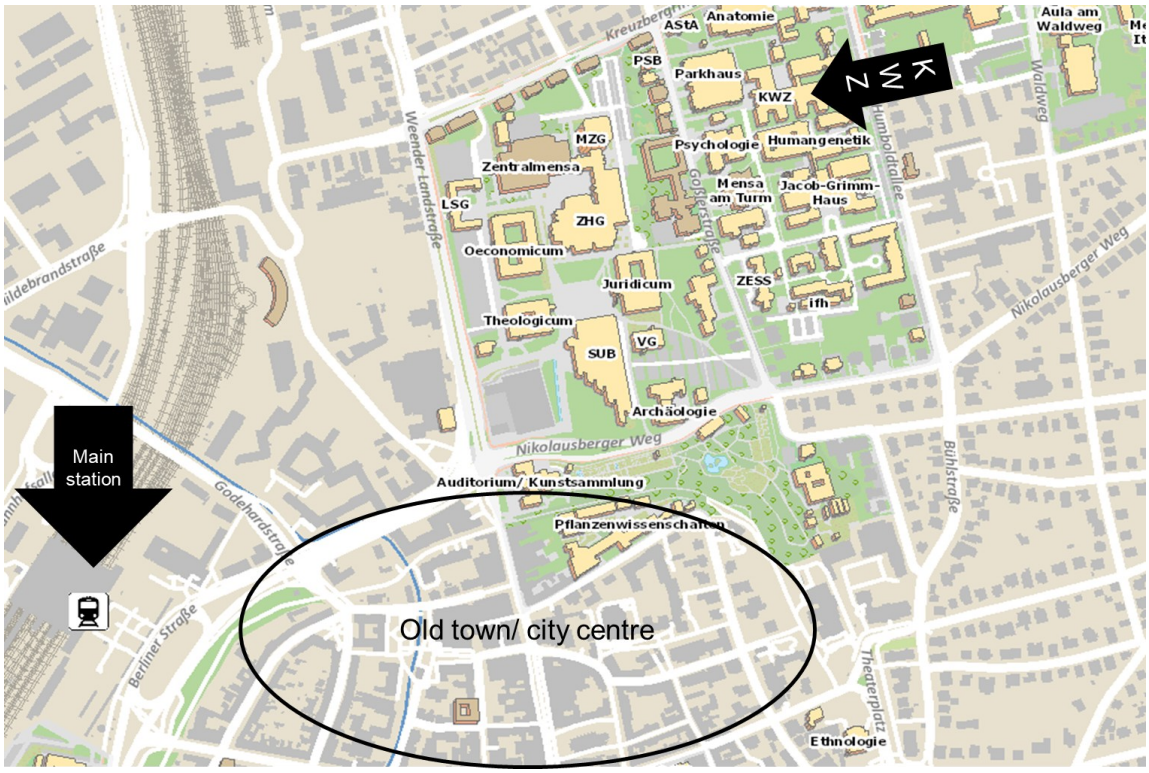
All rooms belonging to the Department of East Asian Studies are to be found in the Centre for Cultural Studies (*Kulturwissenschaftliches Zentrum* or *KWZ*).

Address

Department of East Asian Studies
(*Ostasiatisches Seminar)*
Heinrich-Düker-Weg 14
D - 37073 Göttingen
General Office:

Room: KWZ 0.709
Tel 0551-39 21278
E-Mail: oas@gwdg.de

Where to find the KWZ on the main campus:



Teaching and research focus of the department

The discipline of sinology in Göttingen can be considered to be **modern** with regard to three different aspects: it is modern and contemporary when looking at the ***period*** that research is focused on (China from the 17th until the 21st century), modern with its ***inter-regional and comparative approach*** (e.g., comparisons with India) and modern in its approach to ***cooperate with other disciplines*** of cultural and area studies as well as humanities and social sciences. But what does this mean exactly?

- In order to understand China both with regard to concrete events as well as its self-perception, it is essential to consider its deep historical roots. It is barely possible to cover all aspects in the context of a department and a degree focused on modern sinology, but we nevertheless strive to look into these aspects and discuss and analyze them in different classes dealing with developments in modern China.
- China might be particular and, in some aspects, even unique. However, a lot of developments and aspects can only be understood when adopting an interregional approach and making comparisons for example with Europe, India and other regions. In part, we adopt these comparative approaches ourselves and in part, we encourage our students to embark on this path by choosing respective additional classes helpful for these comparisons.
- Sinology as a discipline does not have its own theories or methods but makes use of theoretical and methodological approaches of relevant scientific disciplines, e.g., political science, history, law etc. Methods and theories of these scientific disciplines can be applied to "China" as an object of study. However, they sometimes have to be reconsidered and revised or even judged to be inappropriate or unhelpful. In order to acquire these skills and knowledge and the methodological and theoretical toolkit, it is possible to take classes in a scientific discipline if you choose a module package as part of your degree.

  Our research staff represents this approach to Chinese studies. There is for example a chair for modern history and politics, one for modern economy and politics, another professor focusing on Chinese as a foreign language as well as one with a focus on global history. Further research staff members focus on politics, history, religion and intellectual history. In addition, visiting professors and guest lectures extend the range of our course program.

Contact persons at the Department of East Asian Studies

Name and role	Room/ office hours (winter term 26/27, *during lecture period*)	Phone/mail
Dr. Dickhardt, Michael Study coordinator	KWZ 0.707 by appointment	mdickha@gwdg.de 0551-39 28949
Haßfeld, Silvia General Office	KWZ 0.709 by appointment via email	silvia.hassfeld@phil.uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 21278
Hoch, Yvonne General Office	KWZ 0.709 by appointment	yvonne.hoch@uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 24345
Lee, Mao-hwa Language Instructor	KWZ 0.719 by appointment	Lee.maohwa@gmail.com
Prof. Dr. Li, Lei Professor of Economy and Politics of China	KWZ 0.705 by appointment via email	lei.li@uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 21281
Dr. Ni, Lingling Lecturer of Chinese Language Head of the language programme	KWZ 0.704 Mo, 2-3pm	lingling.ni@phil.uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 24548
Dr. Peng, Qinqin Assistant Professor Study Advisor BA Moderne Sinologie and BA Modernes China	KWZ 0.729 Tue, 9am-12pm, registration via StudIP	qinqin.peng@uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 29206
Pessl, Katja, M.A., M.A. Lecturer Coordinator CeMEAS	KWZ 0.718 by appointment	katja.pessl@phil.uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 21280
Dr. Rudolph, Henrike Assistant Professor Study Advisor MA Modern Sinology	KWZ 0.726 Tue, 2-3pm, registration via StudIP	henrike.rudolph@uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 21292
Prof. Dr. Sachsenmaier, Dominic Professor of Sinology, Modern China with a Special Emphasis on Global Historical Acting Head of the Department of East Asian Studies	KWZ 0.725 by appointment	dominic.sachsenmaier@phil.uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 21255
Prof. Dr. Schneider, Axel Professor of Modern Sinology with Focus on Politics, Philosophy, and History and Board Director of the Centre for Modern East Asian Studies	KWZ 0.706 Wed, 12-1pm and by appointment	axel.schneider@phil.uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 27033
Dr. Spiegelberg, Mei-Chen Assistant Professor	KWZ 0.719 Tue, 3-4pm by appointment via StudIP	mei-chen.spiegelberg@uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 21723

Name and capacity	Room/ office hours (winter term 26/27, during lecture period)	Phone/mail
Storch, Arvid, MA Lecturer Study Advisor BA u. MEd Chinesisch als Fremdsprache	KWZ 0.730 Hybrid consultation hours (without appointment) Tue, 1:30-2:30pm in person or via Zoom (**access here**)	arvid.storch@uni-goettingen.de studienberatung.chaf@uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 21264
Wang, Wei Chieh Lecturer of Chinese Language	KWZ 0.703 Tue, 2-3pm	wei.wang@uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 21225
Prof. Dr. Zhang, Tao Professor of Didactics in Chinese	KWZ 0.702 by appointment via email	tao.zhang@uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 21260
Zhu, Ziyi, MA Lecturer	KWZ 0.727 by appointment via email	ziyi.zhu@uni-goettingen.de 0551-39 21253

The department online

You can find out about all kinds of news and events of the department online and via our mailing list:

Official homepage of the department

https://www.sinologie-goettingen.de/en/

SinoStudium: our mailing list for students of the department (also for news about classes etc.)

To avoid misuse, we have not listed the email address here, but you will receive further information on how to subscribe during the orientation week and your seminars.

Please sign in! Important information and news regarding the department, the study program, the courses and upcoming events are circulated via this mailing list!

Library

Göttingen State and University Library (*Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek (SUB)*) ranks among the largest libraries in Germany. Since 2009, the Department of East Asian Studies collects books on our new areas of research in addition to the books already collected by the former Department of Sinology.

All books relevant to the study of sinology that are owned by the Department can be found in the **Cultural Studies Divisional Library** (*Bereichsbibliothek Kulturwissenschaften BBK*) in the Centre for Cultural Studies (*Kulturwissenschaftliches Zentrum KWZ*) located in Heinrich-Düker-Weg14.

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 8am to 7pm,
Saturday 10am to 4pm.

During exam phases and shortly before term papers are due, the library also opens on Sundays. Further information can be found on the website of the library:

Welcome to SUB Göttingen
and
Cultural Studies Divisional Library

When using the computers in the library you have access to all **online resources** of the ***SUB*** as well as the ***Bibliography of Asian Studies***. If you would like to use the data bank ***CrossAsia*** that contains a large number of Chinese language sources you need to register with CrossAsia directly. Please download the appropriate form from the CrossAsia website, fill it in, and send it by mail to the General Office of the Department (oas@gwdg.de). The office will officially stamp the form and return it to you for submitting it to CrossAsia.

An **overview of some online resources** relevant for students of Chinese studies can be found here:

Internet Resources

On the ground floor of the library in the Centre for Cultural Studies (*KWZ*) you can also find collections of books assembled by your lecturers that are relevant for your respective classes (**"Course reserves"** or "*Semesterapparate*"). These books can only be used within the library and cannot be borrowed. This regulation is meant to ensure that all participants in a class have the chance to access the books and work with them.
If you would like to do group work with some of your fellow students, there are designated group work rooms in the library where you can talk without disturbing other users of the library.

Activities organized by students of the department

Student union

- The student union of the Department of East Asian Studies is the official representative board elected by and responsible for all students of the department.
- Members of the student union can be consulted with regard to all problems, questions, wishes, opinions, suggestions for improvement etc. related to your studies. The student union represents all students vis-à-vis lecturers and university administration.
- The student union is active for the improvement of studies, for example by organizing language partnerships, excursions and parties and the weekly meetings at the pub as well as by providing information on scholarships and internships.

Please keep in mind that you should first refer to the study advisor (Dr. Henrike Rudolph, Henrike.rudolph@uni-goettingen.de) of the Department of East Asian Studies whenever problems arise!

Further information on the student union of the department can be found here:
Student Union

Activities organized by the department

Collection of movies and regular movie screening:

The Department of East Asian Studies owns a growing collection of fictional movies and documentaries from and about China. This collection of movies can also be used by the students. Upon request, single copies can be borrowed and watched within the rooms of the department using laptop and projector. If you are interested, please contact Katja Pessl (katja.pessl@phil.uni-goettingen.de)

Every semester, the department is organizing regular movie screenings that students are invited to attend. The topic of the movie screening series is changing from semester to semester.

Academic talks

- Each semester the Department of East Asian Studies organizes a number of talks given by visiting scholars. These scholars can be both from Germany and from abroad and talk on a broad spectrum of topics with regard to modern China.
- Posters announcing the talks around the offices belonging to the department. Additionally, the talks are announced with the mailing list SinoStudium (see above).

Student advisory and information services

Student counselling at the Department of East Asian Studies

If you have questions relating to your degree of Modern Sinology, please refer to the study consultation of the Department of East Asian Studies. Dr. Henrike Rudolph is responsible for questions relating to the MA Modern Sinology as well as for the approval and recognition of classes and exams from other universities.

Dr. Henrike Rudolph
Phone: 0551-39 21292
Room: KWZ 0.726
henrike.rudolph@uni-goettingen.de

Office hours (winter term 2026/27):
Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00pm (registration via StudIP)

General student counselling at the Faculty of Humanities

If you have general questions regarding your studies at Göttingen University, please refer to the Study Office of the Faculty of Humanities.

Tina Seufer, M.A & Eva Wolff, M.A.
Office of Study of the Faculty of Humanities
(*Studiendekanat der Philosophischen Fakultät)*
Humboldtallee 17
Ground floor
37073 Göttingen
studienberatung@phil.uni-goettingen.de

Tina Seufer M.A.:
Tel. 0551-39 21888
tina.seufer@zvw.uni-goettingen.de

Eva Wolff, M.A.:
Tel. 0551-39 26713
eva.wolff@zvw.uni-goettingen.de

For contact details and office hours see: Study and Examination Advisory

For further information see: Advisory at the Faculty of Humanities h

Counseling servicesat the University of Göttingen

Here you will find links to the various counseling services:

Welcome to Göttingen! (Göttingen International)

Advisory and Information Services for Students

Central Student Advisory Service

Internationales Schreiblabor
International Writing Lab

Academic Degree Network

Student Counselling with the Emphasis on Diversity (Studienberatung mit Schwerpunkt Diversity)

Psychosocial counselling

When you have several important exams coming up and the demands seem very high, you can sometimes suffer from learning difficulties and psychological problems during your studies. If you feel that this applies to you, if you feel overwhelmed and alone, or if you are otherwise struggling with psychological problems, e.g., also in your family or partnership, we would strongly encourage you to seek help as soon as possible. The Student Advisory Service can be a contact for this, but you can also find counselling services at the University Medical Centre Göttingen (*Universitätsmedizin Göttingen)* as well as at the *Studentenwerk* Göttingen (Assocation of Student Services).

At the *Studentenwerk*, the ***Psychosocial Counselling Centre (PSB)*** is available with counselling services and support. There is an open telephone consultation hour and you will also find numerous group offers and coaching options at the PSB to support you with mental difficulties in your studies. You can find the PSB website **here**.

In addition, the ***Psychotherapeutic Outpatient Clinic for Students***, which is affiliated with the University Medical Centre Göttingen (*Universitätsmedizin Göttingen)*, offers a contact point for students with acute psychological problems, study and life crises. The Psychotherapeutic Outpatient Clinic also offers an open telephone consultation hour and is open to all students at Göttingen University. You can find the services offered by the Psychotherapeutic Outpatient Clinic for students **here**.

Compensation for disadvantages

Students who have **mental or physical impairments** or suffer from a **chronic illness** may be entitled to compensation for disadvantages during examinations if the examination conditions or forms would put them at a disadvantage compared to their fellow students. If necessary, you can find information on this **here**.

Please note that it is ***essential to apply for a disadvantage compensation in good time before taking exams***.

Pregnant women and students with **child-rearing** or **care responsibilities** also have the option of compensating for certain disadvantages arising from this. Further information you may find **here**.

Studying modern sinology

Challenges of the degree

The degree “Modern Sinology“ is particularly suitable for students with a strong cultural and/ or social sciences focused interest in modern China. It further enhances language skills in modern Chinese and is characterized by a close cooperation with different scientific disciplines in cultural and social sciences as well as economic and legal studies.
It is our goal to enable students to profoundly and thoroughly analyze modern China, adopting a well informed and trained methodological and theoretical approach. The main challenges of the degree are language- as well as content and methodology-related.

Professional qualifications

Our graduates are qualified both for an academic career and for all areas of work demanding very good language skills and high cultural competence. They are outstandingly trained for working as analysts, consultants and mediators in transculturally and globally active institutions, organizations and companies.

Possible areas of work are:

- Research and teaching
- International organizations and foundations
- Cultural exchange
- Journalism
- Consulting
- International management of research and science
- Diplomatic service
- International companies

The Faculty of Humanities offers a special advisory service on “Application and career planning” that provides help and support with questions regarding your professional career:

- individual consultation for applications and your career plans (e.g., analysis of your skills, check of application documents and support when looking for internships)
- Large amounts of material informing on key competencies, application processes and areas of work

Further information can be found **here**.

Structure of the degree program

The Master's program Modern Sinology consists of so-called modules that have to be studied according to the respective official study and exam regulations. A module is a teaching unit that is limited both in time and in the topic covered and consists of one or a couple of different courses. A module usually runs over one or two semester and can for example consist of a lecture and a seminar or a lecture and a practical course. Thus, a module is not the same as a "course" or a "class". Some courses are so-called ***polyvalent courses***. This means that it depends on the topic of your term paper (i.e., exam) which module this particular class is part of. A module is successfully completed when you have passed the respective exam. Please note that **you can take a specific module only once**. So, if you choose a course, please make sure that the module the course is offered in is still available for you as part of your degree program!

You receive a certain number of **Credits** (C; or ECTS, Credits, Credit points (CP)) when you successfully complete a module (i.e., pass the exam). You can find out about the number of credits per module in the study and exam regulations of your degree. These credits give you a rough idea about the amount of work to be invested in a module. One C should roughly equate 30 hours of work.

The Master's program Modern Sinology regularly runs over four semesters and consists of units of study worth 120 C. Having passed the MA exam, you will receive the degree "Master of Arts" (M.A.). The degree program can be studied as specialist course for the **Single Honours MA in Modern Sinology** (78 C) and as specialist course for the **Joint Honours MA in Modern Sinology** (42 C) in combination with one of the subject-external Module Packages (Minor) (one package à 36 C or two packages à 18 C). See also Structure of the MA programmes (PDF in English).

Single Honors MA totaling 120 credits			
Language Training	You will receive an excellent, intensive training in advanced spoken and written modern Chinese in courses on modern Chinese language, modern written Chinese and Chinese technical and primary sources.	30 C	78 C
Modern China studies	In modern China studies, you will acquire in-depth knowledge about the history, philosophy, religions, politics, society, law and economics of modern China, using theories from the social and cultural sciences. In seminars on the current state of research you will deal intensively with the latest findings of China-related research on various topics, in seminars focused on case studies you will partly work with Chinese primary source texts.	36 C	
Master's research project	You will receive training in the concrete application of cultural and social science methods and theories in the context of an independent research project in preparation of your master's thesis	12 C	
Area of professionalization/ Key competencies	You can fill this section from a range of admissible modules. The University of Göttingen offers a wide range of qualification courses developing skills in various areas of competence outside your major degree. To learn more, visit Key competencies	12 C	12 C
Master's thesis (4th semester)	On the basis of your master's research project, you will write your master's thesis in the fourth semester which is the final step towards your degree	30 C	30 C
Total:		**120 C**	

Special provisions for native speakers of modern Mandarin

Students who are native speakers of modern Mandarin and hold a secondary school diploma from the PR China, SAR Hong Kong, SAR Macao or ROC on Taiwan have to replace the three compulsory modules M.OAW.MS.118: *Modern Written Language II*, M.OAW.MS.120: *Modern Chinese VI*, and M.OAW.MS.021: *Modern Chinese VII* with compulsory elective modules of 18 C. Please find a list of these modules in the appendix 3. If you have questions relating to these provisions, please refer to the study advisor at the Department of East Asian Studies. The details you may find in the study and exam regulations: East Asian Studies/Modern Sinology (M.A.) > Structure > Regulations and module directory / Current and older versions.

Joint Honors MA totaling 42 credits in combination with one module package (minor) totaling 36 credits			
Language Training	You will receive focused training in advanced spoken and written modern Chinese in courses on Chinese technical and primary sources	12 C	42 C
Modern China studies	In modern China studies, you will acquire focused knowledge about the history, philosophy, religions, politics, society, law and economics of modern China, using theories from the social and cultural sciences. In a seminar on the current state of research you will deal intensively with the latest findings of China-related research, in a seminar focused on case studies you will partly work with primary Chinese source texts.	18 C	
Master's research project	You will receive training in the concrete application of cultural and social science methods and theories in the context of an independent research project in preparation of your master's thesis	12	
Module package / Minor subject	You will be taking an interdisciplinary approach and selecting one module package from an external subject (see Study Options: Single and Joint Honours MA plus Minor subjects (PDF in English)).	36 C	48 C
Area of professionalization/ Key competencies	You can fill this section from a range of admissible modules. The University of Göttingen offers a wide range of qualification courses developing skills in various areas of competence outside your major degree. To learn more, visit Key competencies	12 C	
Master's thesis (4th semester)	On the basis of your master's research project, you will write your master's thesis in the fourth semester which is the final step towards your degree	30 C	30 C
Total:		**120 C**	

Joint Honors MA totaling 42 credits in combination with two module packages (minor) totaling 18 credits each			
Language Training	You will receive focused training in advanced spoken and written modern Chinese in courses on Chinese technical and primary sources	12 C	42 C
Modern China studies	In modern China studies, you will acquire focused knowledge about the history, philosophy, religions, politics, society, law and economics of modern China, using theories from the social and cultural sciences. In a seminar on the current state of research you will deal intensively with the latest findings of China-related research, in a seminar focused on case studies you will partly work with primary Chinese source texts.	18 C	
Master's research project	You will receive training in the concrete application of cultural and social science methods and theories in the context of an independent research project in preparation of your master's thesis	12	
Module package 1 / Minor subject	You will be taking an interdisciplinary approach and selecting one module package from an external subject (see Study Options: Single and Joint Honours MA plus Minor subjects (PDF in English)).	18 C	48 C
Module package 2 / Minor subject	You will be taking an interdisciplinary approach and selecting one module package from an external subject (see Study Options: Single and Joint Honours MA plus Minor subjects (PDF in English)).	18 C	
Area of professionalization/ Key competencies	You can fill this section from a range of admissible modules. The University of Göttingen offers a wide range of qualification courses developing skills in various areas of competence outside your major degree. To learn more, visit Key competencies	12 C	
Master's thesis (4th semester)	On the basis of your master's research project, you will write your master's thesis in the fourth semester which is the final step towards your degree	30 C	30 C
Total:		**120 C**	

Note:

This study guide is only a summary for your information. Everything you need to know about the structure of your degree and the modules you have to complete can be found in the legally binding version in the study and exam regulations. An overview of all modules of the degree can be found in the catalogue of modules. Both documents and further information can be accessed here:

https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/653309.html > Structure > Regulations and module directory / Current and older versions .

Specialist courses in Modern Sinology

The sinology-related part of your degree consists of both language classes aiming to further enhance your language skills in modern Chinese and of classes on culture, history, philosophy, society, law, politics, economy and religion with regard to China. By choosing your classes carefully you can form your own area of specialization according to your interests. For all classes we consider it very important to continuously refer to language-, area studies-, and scientific discipline-related skills and knowledge.

The degree of sinology consists of a number of language classes in advanced written and spoken Chinese that are spread out over the entire four semesters of your studies. Additionally, you have to successfully complete modules on the state of the art and on case studies with regard to different aspects of modern China. It is your own responsibility to organize your timetable accordingly so that you can complete all the modules that are part of your degree. Please note that not all modules are offered every semester! (Which courses are offered only in the winter or summer semester can be checked in the catalogue of modules, see link below.)
When planning your studies and your timetable, please also take into consideration that you have to write a master thesis that will take a lot of time and that is ideally written in the fourth semester of your degree.

Note:

Remember to look up in the *catalogue of modules* (see: MA Modern Sinology) which modules you have to compulsorily complete before being allowed to take other modules!

Special provisions for native speakers of modern Chinese / Mandarin

Students who are native speakers of modern Chinese / Mandarin and hold a secondary school diploma from the PR China, SAR Hong Kong, SAR Macao or ROC on Taiwan have to replace the three compulsory modules *M.OAW.MS.118: Modern Written Language II, M.OAW.MS.120: Modern Chinese VI*, and *M.OAW.MS.021: Modern Chinese VII* with compulsory elective modules of 18 C. Please find a list of these modules in the appendix 3. If you have questions relating to these provisions, please refer to the study advisor at the Department of East Asian Studies. The details you may find in the study and exam regulations: East Asian Studies/Modern Sinology (M.A.) > Structure > Regulations and module directory / Current and older versions.

Module package

In your degree, you can include a module package consisting of modules from a discipline in cultural studies or social sciences. These module packages usually consist of 36 C and it is necessary to **apply** for them. It is **not** possible to just take classes from another discipline as you wish. A module package is regulated in the study and exam regulations of the respective discipline. In the regulations, you can also find information as to which classes can be taken for a module package.

Area of professionalization

12 C of you study are reserved for the so-called “area of professionalization” (including subject specific professionalization modules and so called “key competencies”). You can thereby enhance your skills in areas that you find interesting or consider necessary for your professional career.

Classes in the area of professionalization can be freely chosen from the **directory of modules for key competencies** of the entire university, the classes offered by the **Central Institution for Languages and Key Competencies (ZESS)** as well as the respective **catalogue of the Faculty of Humanities**. Additionally, it is possible to take **classes of the Department of East Asian Studies** as a professionalization class. **It is not possible though to have a class considered both for your main degree and the area of professionalization.**

We strongly encourage (non-native) students in the Joint Honor degree program to take additional Chinese language classes offered by our department for their area of professionalization.

The following classes can be taken as professionalization classes as well:

B.OAW.MS.31	Languages relevant to Sinology I	(6 C, 4 SWS)
B.OAW.MS.32	Languages relevant to Sinology II	(6 C, 4 SWS)
M.OAW.MS.118	Modern written language II	(3 C / 2SWS)
M.OAW.MS.120	Modern Chinese VI	(9 C / 8 SWS)
M.OAW.MS.021	Modern Chinese VII	(6 C / 4 SWS)

Further information and office hours can be found here:

Professionalisation Area & Key Competencies

and

Berufsperspektiven und Schlüsselkompetenzen.

Master thesis

The MA thesis should be finished in the course of your fourth semester of studies. You will receive 30 C for it. Choosing your supervisor depends on the topic that you are interested in. Please visit our website to learn more about our academic staffs' individual research areas. Only staff members holding a PhD (Dr.) can supervise your MA thesis. Consulting with your supervisor, you choose the topic of your MA thesis.

The following requirements have to be met for you to be admitted to write your MA thesis:

- Successfully completed modules of your degree worth 48 C, among it at least 36 C of the area of studies "Modern Sinology"
- Proposal on the topic of your thesis and two supervisors

  In the course of preparing and writing your MA thesis you have to complete the module **Master Colloquium** (M.OAW.MS.019). As part of this module, you have to write an exposé of your MA thesis that should contain a draft of the structure of your thesis and a bibliography of relevant primary and secondary sources. The exposé should outline the main research question of your thesis (ca. 5000 words). During the seminar that is part of the MA colloquium all students have to present their research projects in an oral presentation of maximum 30 minutes.

  Please keep in mind the following aspects with regard to writing your MA thesis:

- The work time for writing the MA thesis is 6 months from the moment when officially registering with the examination office.
- The topic can only be changed once and only during the first four weeks of the work time.
- The thesis has to be submitted as per the deadline in a ***digital version*** to the examination office. To this effect the digital version has to be uploaded by the use of the menu item "theses" in FlexNow. The exact date of the upload is significant concerning the fulfilment of the deadline. Therefore, it will be placed on record. Following the successful uploading both the reviewers and the examination office will have access to the thesis.

Further information and forms that have to be filled out can be found here:
Applications, forms and information (B.A./M.A.) >> M.A. Thesis

Language

Chinese language classes to further enhance your language skills also in academic Chinese are an integral part of the degree of Modern Sinology. The language classes are compulsory for all students taking the degree consisting of modules in Modern Sinology worth 78 C (Single Honors MA in Modern Sinology) and partly compulsory for all students in the degree consisting of modules in Modern Sinology worth 42 C (Joint Honors MA in Modern Sinology). Please refer to the study and exam regulations to find out which modules are compulsory for you.

Additional classes

In addition to the compulsory and compulsory elective modules of your degree, the department offers further elective classes focussing, for example, on film studies, calligraphy and other East Asian languages. Furthermore, the department regularly invites guest lecturers from the PRC and the Republic of China (Taiwan) offering further classes on topics that the department cannot cover with its own staff.
You can find an overview of all modules of your degree in the directory of modules that can be accessed here: MA Modern Sinology.

Formal recognition of previous external classes and Chinese language skills

If you have started an MA degree in Chinese studies at another university before or if you are a native speaker of Chinese, it might be possible to formally recognize some modules previously completed as modules to be completed in this degree, or you might not have to attend the Chinese language classes, respectively. In any case, you should **contact the student advisor** at the department. Please do **not** simply skip classes because you believe that you do not have to do them. You need an official certificate from the department that officially accepts previous knowledge and classes as equivalent to the modules to be taken here.

Learning contracts

Some students might have a conditional admission to the MA degree program Modern Sinology. In this case, you have a so-called **learning contract** that allows you to complete a certain number of bachelor modules and thereby obtain credit points in the area of sinology that are required for a definite admission to the degree program.
These learning contracts usually run for one year and have to be completed within the first two terms of your MA studies by September 30th. However, some of the BA modules you can complete to fulfill your learning contract require you to write a term paper, and the deadline for term papers is September 30th (in the summer term). Therefore, it is not possible for your lecturer to grade your term paper in time when you hand it in on September 30th only. It is possible, however, to **extend** your learning contract for another term so that you can hand in term papers on September 30th and still be able to fulfill your learning contract. For extensions of learning contracts, please contact the study advisor, Dr. Henrike Rudolph (henrike.rudolph@uni-goettingen.de) at the Department of East Asian Studies and Snežana Weber at the faculty:

Snežana Weber M.A., Office of Study - Faculty of Humanities
Humboldtallee 17 (room 1.110)
37073 Göttingen
Phone: 0551 / 39 – 26717
E-mail: master.koordination@phil.uni-goettingen.de

Further information: Master of Arts Coordination & Application

Study abroad

It is possible to spend one or two semesters abroad to study or do research in a country where the official language is the modern standard Chinese at a university which has a cooperation agreement with the University of Göttingen. This period of studying abroad is optional and you have to take care for all organizational matters yourself. In order to get your attainments achieved abroad formally recognized and accredited for your MA program you have to conclude a learning agreement in advance, stating the courses and the exams you have to take at the university abroad. For further information please contact the student advisor Dr. Henrike Rudolph for the MA program Modern Sinology (henrike.rudolph@uni-goettingen.de) and the Göttingen International Office . For further information see also: Study and Internship Abroad and Global Exchange Programme .

Preparing for your stay abroad

In order to prepare a stay in the PR China or the Republic of China (Taiwan) we advise you to

- get informed as early as possible on the universities qualified, the procedures for application and the visa regulations;
- contact Göttingen International;
- make sure that your e-mail address is working and check your mail account regularly in order to receive information in time;
- meet all the deadlines for submitting the necessary documents.

Visa application:

- Get informed on the correct procedure to apply for a visa. Please check: https://www.visaforchina.cn/globle for the PR China and https://www.roc-taiwan.org/de_de/cat/28.html for the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Necessary documents:

- ***Valid passport*** (please inquire about how long the passport has to be valid according to the latest regulations).
- ***Passport photos*** (ca. 6-10 photos) for the application and for documents at the host university.

Note:

In the process of applying to a university and for a visa, various documents have to be submitted. Please mind the correct form of the documents and, in particular, the deadlines for the submission!

- In accordance with the length of your stay and the regulations of the host university a ***medical certificate*** is needed. The regulations on this are complicated and are changed many times. Please keep informed on the latest regulations and forms and seek advice from the university's medical officer (*Betriebsarzt*). For more information see: Betriebsarzt der Universität Göttingen (> Leistungen > Beratung)

Further important issues:

- Get informed on the health and liability insurances you need for your stay abroad. Visit a medical doctor and make a health check and check your vaccinations! You can contact also the advice center for travel medicine for students at the University Medical Center Göttingen (UMG): Betriebsarzt der Universität Göttingen (> Leistungen > Beratung)

Funding opportunities for studying abroad

BAföG for studying abroad (Auslands-BAföG)

The BAföG is a government-sponsored funding program. Even if you are not eligible for BAföG for your studies in Germany you might be eligible for a funding of your studying abroad. Whether you are eligible for applying depends on your residence status and your financial situation. Please check this with the BAföG office responsible for funding studying abroad in East Asia:

Studentenwerk Tübingen- Hohenheim

Kontakt
Studierendenwerk Tübingen-Hohenheim
Anstalt des öffentlichen Rechts
Friedrichstraße 21
72072 Tübingen

E-Mail: info@sw-tuebingen-hohenheim.de
Internet: https://www.my-stuwe.de/auslandsbafoeg/ [There you may find also a **contact form**!]

Grants: DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)

Depending on the length of your stay abroad, you can apply for different grants. The DAAD offers various funding programs for many countries, including the PR China and the Republic of China (Taiwan). For details, see: DAAD.
Please note the deadlines! In some programs you have to apply one year before you will take up your studies at your host university!

Grants: PROMOS
For a stay of only one semester abroad, the "Program for the Enhancement of the Mobility of German Students" (PROMOS) offers funding opportunities. For the details, please see: PROMOS.

Please note the deadlines!

For questions, please contact the office of Göttingen International:

Patrick Lajoie
Von-Siebold-Str. 2
37073 Göttingen
Phone: 0551-39 21340
E-mail: patrick.lajoie@zvw.unigoettingen.de

For **Further funding opportunities** see **here.**

How to organize your studies: courses, assignments, exams

Modules and courses

The study program is structured into modules. A **module** is a teaching unit consisting of defined content to be studied in a given time frame, usually one or two terms. Each module comprises one or several **courses** and is completed by an exam. The courses within one module can be of different kind:

Lecture (*Vorlesung*)
Lectures are usually given by professors. Mostly, lectures aim at giving an encompassing overview of a broad field of studies. Students are expected to attend and follow up on the contents in their own studies.

Seminar (*Seminar*)
In terms of scope, the field of study of a seminar is much more restricted compared to a lecture. The topic of the seminar is dealt with intensively from different perspectives based on readings assigned and prepared for discussion on a weekly basis. You have to contribute by actively attending and / or giving a presentation. Usual forms of exams are papers and written exams.

Tutorial (*Tutorium*)
Tutorials supplement lectures and seminars. Usually given by senior students and doctoral students, tutorials provide additional knowledge and skills relevant to the topic of the lecture or seminar. Tutorials are also used to prepare you for the exams and the particular requirements of the course they are part of.

Practical course (*Übung*)
The field of studies dealt with in a practical course is similar to that of a seminar in terms of scope. In addition to the readings, practical assignments are part of the practical course (e.g., conducting interviews, modelling, projects, etc.). Usual forms of exams are presentations, essays or written evaluations of projects.

Colloquium (*Kolloquium*)
The contents of a colloquium are not defined by a given field of study of a specific topic. In contrast to seminars and practical courses, a colloquium is a forum for an intellectual exchange of ideas on ongoing research projects. Usually, it should be part of the final phase of a degree program a part of the process to conceptually develop and to write a BA or MA thesis. Leading questions, concepts, and methods are presented and discussed.

Searching for courses for semester planning

The easiest way to find courses is to consult the overview available on our website under 'News' > 'Announcements', which will be available shortly before the start of the semester. Before that, you can find courses in Stud.IP and HISinOne EXA from mid-February or mid-August onwards.

Searching for courses in Stud.IP

Log in to Stud.IP and click on the icon to access the search function. There you will find various options under the 'Veranstaltungs-/Modulverzeichnis' menu:

Veranstaltungs-/Modulverzeichnis:

- Here you can search for individual modules and the courses offered for them

Institute directory:

- > Philosophische Fakultät > Ostasiatisches Seminar (select the desired semester in the left-hand column!)
  Here you will find a list of all courses offered by the East Asian Studies department in a given semester. As this list is not sorted by module or degree programme, you must check each course to see whether you are eligible to enrol.

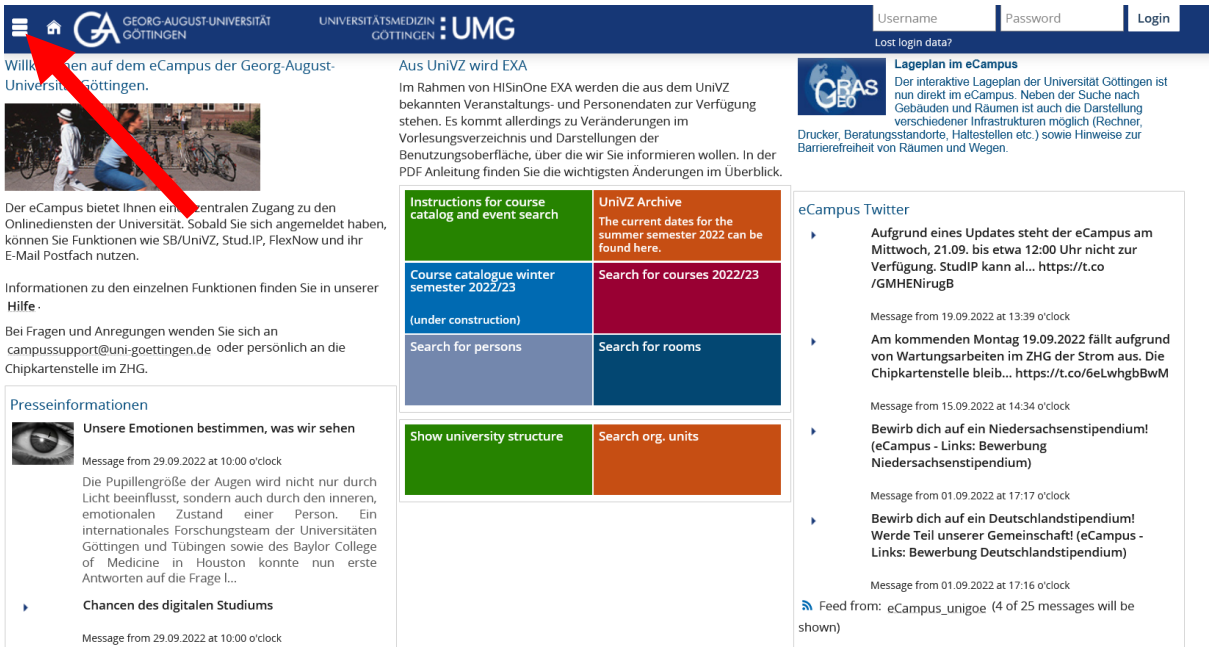
Course of study:

- Click through to your degree program. A list of all modules will then appear. The modules for which a course is offered are highlighted in light blue and have a link that takes you to the course.

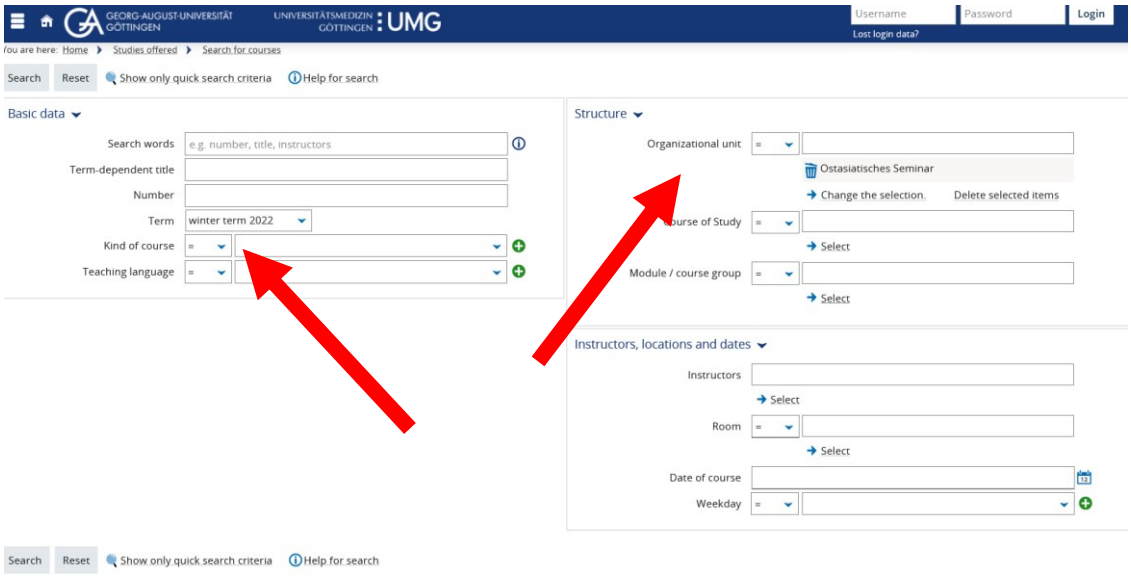
Course Catalogue: EXA and course search

EXA is the digital course catalogue of the Georg-August University of Göttingen. It is linked on the **eCampus homepage** . Here you will find the courses offered by the East Asian Department, divided into degree programs and study sections. EXA can provide you with an overview of the structure of your degree program and the associated modules and courses offered. In order to use EXA, it is important that you carefully read the study regulations that apply to you and look at which modules you have to take in the course of your studies.

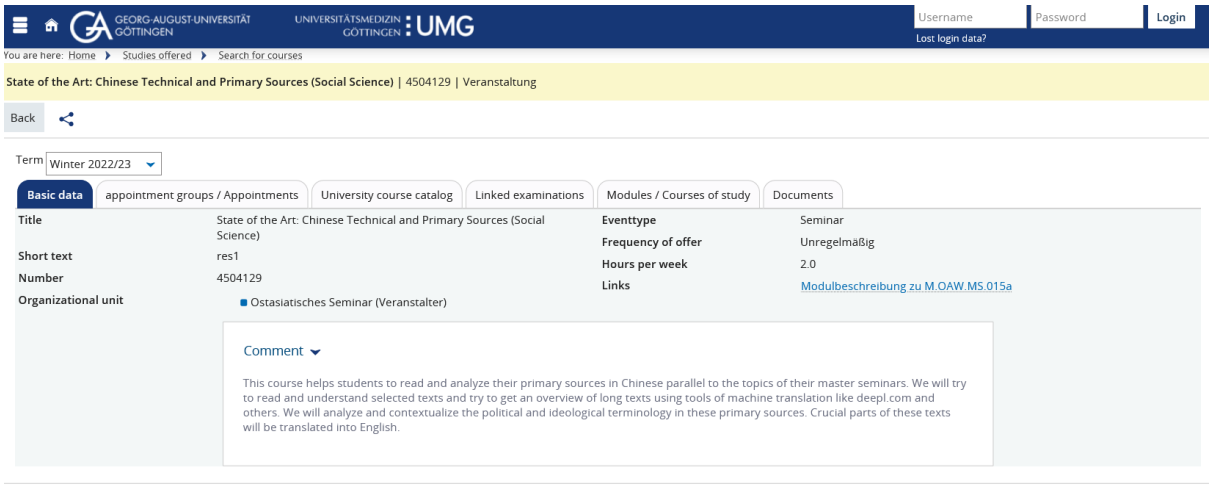
For an overview of all courses offered at the East Asian Department in a semester, you can use the eCampus course search. To do so, click on the three bars in the upper left corner (see screenshot) on the eCampus homepage.



In the window that opens, first click on "Studies offered" and then on "Search for courses". Under the search mask, select the option "Show all possible search criteria". In the window that opens, you can select the **term** (here: winter term 2023).



If you enter "Ostasiatisches Seminar" as the **organizational unit**, you will be shown an overview of all the courses offered at the OAS and you can click on all the courses individually. Here, it is important to note that you cannot take all courses as part of your degree program or already in the first semester. Click on the various tabs and on the link to the list of modules to find out which degree program the courses are assigned to or what the admission requirements are for a course. You can find an example of a course overview below



Additionally, we publish a list of all courses offered at the East Asian Studies Seminar on our webpage before the start of the semester.

Registration for courses: Stud.IP

Stud.IP is the e-learning platform at our university. On this platform the courses are organized and supervised. You can find all the courses of the course program on Stud.IP. Here you can download readings and other teaching material, communicate with other students and, most importantly, with the lecturer who will organize the course on this platform. Thus, you have to register for this course on Stud.IP. This registration is obligatory! Stud.IP makes many things easier. You can

- create your personal time schedule for your courses;
- search for courses, fields of study, facilities and for lectures, staff and other members of the university;
- retrieve time schedules, reading lists and readings for your courses.

For the login there is no registration necessary. You just use your student's user name (given name.surname) for your first login. You get this user name together with your e-mail address (given name.surname@stud.uni-goettingen.de) when you get enrolled. If you do not have these, please contact the chip card issuing point in the central lecture hall building (ZHG) between lecture halls 010 and 011 (see also **here**).
When you login on Stud.IP for the first time, your Stud.IP account will be created automatically. Please find StudIP **here**.If you have difficulties or problems please contact studip@uni-goettingen.de .

Note:

Stud.IP is using your student's e-mail address of the University of Göttingen by default. Please make sure that this e-mail address is working and check it regularly. The Department of East Asian Studies will always use this e-mail address for official communication!

Compulsory attendance

Whereas there is no compulsory attendance for lectures, you are allowed to miss class in language courses and seminars only two times per term without excuse note. In case you miss class for a third time without excuse note the lecturer will give you an additional assignment. In case you miss class for a fourth time without excuse note you won't be admitted to the module examination. In this case, the respective course has to be repeated.

Please note that in language courses, the missed classes are counted for the respective teaching unit (grammar, phonetics, characters, etc.) and not for the course as a whole. Additionally, in the language course there are often assignments given for homework. If you fail to hand in the assignments three times, you cannot be admitted to the module examination.

Absence is excusable in case of sickness (a doctor's certificate has to be submitted), delays because of traffic obstruction (e.g., if bus or train connections are cancelled due to extreme weather conditions) or situations of distress or emergency of family members.
For reasons of fairness, it is necessary to **inform the lecturer** about an absence as early as possible. **Medical certificates or similar attestations have to be submitted in the original to Ms. Haßfeld in the General Office of the Department of East Asian Studies (KWZ room 0.709; directly or by mail). She will inform all lecturers.** Please also note **the procedures to be followed when you miss an exam because of illness (see p. 33f).**

Academic computation of time

At university there is a particular computation of time. In addition to semester times and deadlines, you need to know two additional concepts.

WLH (weekly lecturing hours; *SWS*)
Weekly lecturing hours: number of hours that are taught per week for a particular class. Thus, the WHL refer to the time you actually have to attend class. They neither include the time you need for preparation and follow-up work for your classes nor the time for your self-study. The time you need for these parts of your studies varies considerably depending on the kinds of course.

Academic quarter
Class times that are announced with the abbreviation c.t. ("cum tempore", Latin "with time") start 15 later than indicated ("academic quarter"). The abbreviation s.t. indicates that a class starts exactly at the announced time ("sine tempore", Latin "without time").

Academic calendar

Winter semester 2026/2027:

Start of semester: 01.10.2026

End of semester: 31.03.2027

First day of lectures: 26.10.2026

Last day of lectures: 12.02.2027

No classes: 24.12.2026 – 08.01.2027

Summer semester 2027:

Start of semester: 01.04.2027

End of semester: 30.09.2027

First day of lectures: 12.04.2027

Last day of lectures: 16.07.2027

Lectures will take place as usual in the week following Whitsun.

Further information on semester times and deadlines can be found **here**:

Exams

Modules are completed with different kinds of exams. There are both written forms of exams (supervised written tests, term papers, essays) and oral forms of exams (presentations, moderations, oral exams).

Note:

The different kinds of exams are defined in the general exam regulations (APO) and the respective study and exam regulations for your degree (PStO Modern Sinology). The exam to be taken in order to complete a class depends on the module that class is attributed to. The exam for a respective module can be found in the catalogue of modules and among the course details in the online course catalogue UniVZ.

You will have to take a language proficiency test to complete the Chinese language classes of your M.A. degree. Further information on this particular form of exam is given below.
The other exams you have to take are combinations of oral presentations and term papers of different lengths. You can find out about the length of your oral presentations and the term papers you are supposed to write in the catalogue of modules when checking on the respective module you are completing.
The **presentation** is a *non-graded* prerequisite for the module exam, and the **term papers** will be *graded* and your final grade. Oral presentations are given in class during the semester at a time indicated to you by your lecturer. Term papers have to be handed in in winter terms by March 15 and in summer terms by September 15.
Term papers are accompanied by an **additional oral (approx. 10 minutes) or written (approx. 20 minutes) examination. *Please keep this in mind while planning your semester and the semester break!*** The professor or lecturer can decide on the examination form. A written examination will be held in person. The additional examination is *not graded* and focuses on the critical reflection of the writing process. The main aim is to elaborate on the author's good scientific practice in selecting and executing the term paper's theoretical, methodological, and content-related aspects. Both parts of the examination (the term paper and the oral or written examination) must be passed to receive a grade and pass the overall examination. Failed examination parts cannot be repeated independently of each other.

Special forms of exams

Language proficiency test

A language proficiency test refers to all five skills of mastering a language (listening, reading, writing, speaking, and translating). It consists of an oral part (listening comprehension and speaking; ca. 20 minutes) and a written part (reading comprehension, translation, text production; ca. 120 minutes). Overall, the language proficiency test takes about 150 minutes.

Dates

The dates for the exams are usually already set during the first weeks of the semester. Please get informed about the dates as early as possible online in UniVZ and make sure that you register for the exams in FlexNow (see following page) in good time.

Registration for examinations: FlexNow

All your exams and their results and grades are administered with the help of a software called FlexNow. In order to be allowed to participate in an exam, you **mandatorily have to register online in FlexNow**. This is **also the case for term papers** handed in at the end of the semester. If you have not registered for the exam online, your term paper cannot be accepted and you cannot receive Credits for the module or course.

FlexNow is the electronic system for administering exams. In **FlexNow**, you can register for exams, see which exams you have taken so far, and which marks you received for them. You can also print a certificate with all the exams you have taken so far.

The registration in FlexNow is a formal requirement for taking all kinds of exams. If you do not register on time for your exams, you will not be allowed to participate in the exam. If you have not registered for an exam, you do not have the right to request a repeat exam.

The time period for exam registration usually starts in June (summer term) or in December (winter term), respectively. In case of written exams taking place at the university as well as oral exams, the registration period ends seven days before the exam is scheduled. In case of take-home exams and term papers, the registration period ends on the day of the deadline for handing in the paper. This deadline is usually scheduled at the end of the semester. **Please check the deadlines and make sure to register by the due date!**

The website of the exam office can be found **here.**

If you miss an exam because of illness:

You have to hand in a **doctor's certificate** stating how long you will probably be unable to take any exam. According to the kind of exam, you have to follow different procedures (for detailed information see **here**).

1. In the event of withdrawal from or absence from a written or oral examination

If it is no longer possible to deregister from the examination in FlexNow due to the expiry of the deadline, a medical certificate stating the expected duration of the illness must be submitted to the examination office without delay, i.e., within three working days. For this purpose, have the "paper printout for your own records" given to you when you visit the doctor. This paper printout is still necessary because, as far as students are concerned, the university cannot retrieve electronic sickness notifications from the health insurance companies.

- Step 1: Log into **eCampus** and access the examination office forms under the "Other Services" tab. Then select "Erkrankung - Rücktritt von Prüfungsleistungen (Illness - Withdrawal from examination)".
- Step 2: Fill out the form, upload a scan of your certificate (the upper half, i.e., without diagnosis), and click on "Send". The original of the certificate must not be submitted until requested by the responsible examination office.

The application is now received by the advisor responsible for the subject in question at the examination office. If the requirements are met, your notice of illness will be filed with your exam registration so that the non-attendance does not count as a failed attempt. You will be informed of the decision by email.
For more information on using the form "Erkrankung - Rücktritt von Prüfungsleistungen (Illness - Withdrawal from examination)", see this **Wiki link**.

2. Extension of the deadline for submitting a written module examination due to illness or for an objective reason

- Contact the examiner directly for this purpose.
- Objective Reason: If approved by the examiner, he/she will grant you a reasonable extension.
- Illness: Submit the notice of illness to the examiner. He/she will grant you an extension of the submission deadline for the duration of the illness.
- Please ask your examiner to report the granted extension to the responsible subject advisor in the examination office (by e-mail), so that the new submission date is stored in FlexNow. If this does not happen, you will not be able to upload your paper in FlexNow.

3. In the case of notification of illness for the purpose of extending the deadline for submission of the bachelor's or master's thesis

For this purpose, have the "paper printout for your own records" given to you when you visit the doctor. This paper printout is still necessary because, as far as students are concerned, the university cannot retrieve electronic sickness notifications from the health insurance companies.

- Step 1: Log into **eCampus** and access the examination office forms under the "Other Services" tab. Then select "Fristverlängerung Abschlussarbeiten (Illness - Extension of Thesis Deadline".
- Step 2: Fill out the form, upload a scan of your certificate (the upper half, i.e., without diagnosis), and click on "Send". The original of the certificate must not be submitted until requested by the responsible examination office.

The application is now received by the advisor responsible for the study programme of your thesis in the examination office. If the requirements are met, you will be granted an extension for the duration of your illness. You will be informed of the decision by email.
For more information on using the form "Fristverlängerung Abschlussarbeiten (Illness - Extension of Thesis Deadline", see this **Wiki link**.

A general guide to finding and using eForms is available via this **link**.

If you have any kind of questions or issues with regard to exams, **please contact the examination office** of the Faculty of Humanities. The person responsible for the degrees of the Department of East Asian Studies is:

Alexander Fund, M.A.
Coordinator for examinations
Examination Office of the Faculty of Humanities #
(*Prüfungsamt der Philosophischen Fakultät*)
Humboldtallee 17
37073 Göttingen

Phone: 0551-39 26718
Room: 0.115
alexander.fund@zvw.unigoettingen.de

For further information and office hours of the examination office see **here.**

Repeating classes and exams

These are the general rules with regard to repeating classes and exams.

1. All exams that you did not pass (tests, oral exams, term papers, etc.) can be repeated. If you have to repeat an exam twice, you are only allowed to repeat an exam a third time after talking to the study advisor of the department who is responsible for your degree. It is necessary to obtain a written statement from the student advisor certifying that you consulted with him/ her.
2. All written tests can either be repeated shortly after the first attempt or later after repeating the respective class. If you decide to repeat the class, there is no right to request a repeat exam at short notice already before the beginning of the class in the following semester. It is also possible to repeat an exam at a later point in time during your studies, but you should keep in mind that some classes are mandatory prerequisites for others.
3. If you do not participate in an exam, although you registered for it in FlexNow and cannot provide a valid reason (e.g., a doctor's certificate), this exam will be counted as "failed for reason of non-attendance," and you do not have the right to request a repeat exam.
4. If you fail to pass an exam for a compulsory class, although you took the respective exam three times, you ultimately lose the right to be examined in this particular area of study. After ultimately failing a compulsory module, you will be deregistered from this particular area of study. This does not regard a potential second area of study, though. If you ultimately fail an elective module, this does not have any serious consequences – even if it is an elective compulsory module, if you are still able to pass the necessary number of modules within the elective compulsory part of your studies. This means that if you have to pass two out of three modules and you fail one of them, there are still two modules left that you can take to fulfil the requirements of your degree.
5. If you fail a term paper, it is not possible to simply rework and edit your paper in order to still pass the exam. It is required to either write a new paper on another topic within the context of the same class, or you have to take another class and write a term paper on a new topic in this other class. If a term paper has not been marked yet, it is possible for the lecturer, though, to read through the paper, provide feedback, and hand it back for editing if the paper was handed in before the official deadline.
6. Some oral presentations are exams or part of an exam, and the final grade you receive for a particular module. If this is the case, the above regulations for missing an exam are equally valid. You cannot miss an oral presentation without a good reason (e.g., a doctor's certificate). In this case, it is very important that you **inform your lecturer before the scheduled date for the presentation** that you cannot give your presentation on the assigned date.

Letters of recommendation and evaluations

It is possible that at some point in time during your studies, you need a letter of recommendation or an evaluation by the Department of East Asian Studies or one of the staff members. You might need this, for example, if you plan to spend a term abroad or if you want to apply for a scholarship. In order to be able to process these requests quickly and in an efficient way, we would like to ask you to adhere to the following procedures:

Please do NOT contact staff members directly on behalf of a letter of recommendation or evaluation, but always send an email to the General Office of the Department (oas@gwdg.de).

Please do this at least **four weeks before** you need the letter of recommendation/ evaluation. Only if you have a very good reason can we process these requests if they reach us at short notice.

When you send the e-mail to the General Office, please always include the following information:

1. Until when you need the letter of reference/ evaluation;
2. your full name, date of birth, area of studies, semester that you are currently enrolled in, and your student number;
3. a print-out from FlexNow listing all exam results of exams you have taken so far;
4. what you need the letter of reference/ evaluation for (institution, kind of application that you have to provide a letter of reference/ evaluation for);
5. whether it can be formless or whether a form needs to be filled in; in the second case, please attach the form to your e-mail or provide a URL from where it can be downloaded;
6. how the letter of recommendation/ evaluation is to be forwarded (post, e-mail directly to the recipient or in a sealed envelope to the student) to whom (possibly name of a person, but in any case institution and address) in what language.

If a particular area of study is of special importance for your application, please mention this as well, and also let us know which of our staff members trained you in this area. This is the only way to allow us to consult with the respective staff member when drafting your letter of recommendation/ evaluation.

During the regular staff meetings of the Department, we will discuss all these requests and work on the respective letters of recommendation/ evaluations.
At first sight, this procedure might seem very complex and formal, but it ensures that we receive all necessary information in time and can write the letters of reference/ evaluations that you need in an appropriate manner.

Some useful terms

Academic quarter (*akademisches Viertel)*

Class times that are announced with the abbreviation **c.t.** ("*cum tempore*", Latin "with time") start 15 minutes later than indicated ("academic quarter"). The abbreviation **s.t.** indicates that a class starts exactly at the announced time ("*sine tempore*", Latin "without time").

Colloquium (*Kolloquium*)

The contents of a colloquium are not defined by a given field of study of a specific topic. In contrast to seminars and practical courses, a colloquium is a forum for an intellectual exchange of ideas on ongoing research projects. Usually, it should be part of the final phase of a course of studies as part of the process to conceptually develop and to write a BA or MA thesis. Leading questions, concepts and methods are presented and discussed.

Credit ("C")

You receive a certain number of **Credits** (C; or ECTS, Credits, Credit points (CP)) when you successfully finish a module (i.e., pass the exam). You can find out about the number of credits to receive in the study and exam regulations of your degree. These credits give you a rough idea of the amount of work to be invested in a module. One C should roughly equate to 30 hours of work.

c.t.

See: Academic quarter.

Lecture (*Vorlesung*)

Lectures are usually given by professors. Mostly, lectures aim at giving an encompassing overview of a broad field of studies. Students are expected to attend and follow up on the contents in their own studies.

Module (*Modul*)

The study program is structured into modules. A module is a teaching unit consisting of defined content to be studied in a given time frame, usually one or two terms. Each module comprises one or several courses and is completed by an exam. The courses within one module can be of different kinds, e.g., lecture, seminar, or tutorial.

N.N.

This abbreviation stands for *nomen nominandum, i.e.,* name to be announced. It is used, for example, if the lecturer for a course has not yet been named.

Seminar (*Seminar*)

In terms of scope, the field of study of a seminar is much more restricted compared to a lecture. The topic of the seminar is dealt with intensively from different perspectives based on readings assigned and prepared for discussion on a weekly basis. You have to contribute in attending actively and / or by giving a presentation. Usual forms of exams are papers and written exams.

Reserved reading shelf (*Semesterapparat*)

Each semester, reserved reading shelves for particular courses are prepared in the library. There, you find books that are indispensable for the participants of the respective course. These books can be used only in the library. So, all participants of this course have the opportunity to use them.

s.t.

See: Academic quarter.

Tutorial (*Tutorium*)

Tutorials supplement lectures and seminars. Usually given by senior students and doctoral students, tutorials provide additional knowledge and skills relevant to the topic of the lecture or seminar. Tutorials are also used to prepare you for the exams and the particular requirements of the course they are part of.

Practical course (*Übung*)

The field of studies dealt with in a practical course is similar to that of a seminar in terms of scope. In addition to the readings, practical assignments are part of the practical course (e.g., conducting interviews, modelling, projects, etc.). Usual forms of exams are Presentations, Essays or written evaluations of projects.

WLH (weekly lecturing hours; *SWS*)

Weekly lecturing hours: number of hours that are taught per week for a particular class. Thus, the WHL refers to the time you actually have to attend class. They neither include the time you need for preparation and follow-up work for your classes nor the time for your self-study. The time you need for these parts of your studies varies considerably depending on the kind of course.

Appendix 1: Structure of the MA program “East Asian Studies / Modern Sinology”

MA East Asian Studies / Modern Sinology
120 credits (4 semester)

Specialist course for the Single Honours MA in Modern Sinology
78 C

6 compulsory modules (39 C):

- Modern Chinese language (2 modules)
- Modern written language (1 module)
- Premodern Written Chinese Language (1 module)
- Colloquium (1 module)

2 elective compulsory modules “Chinese Technical and Primary Source Materials” (12 C):

3 elective compulsory modules out of 14: history, philosophy, religion, politics, society, law, economy (27 C)

Please note: Native speakers in Mandarin holding a high school graduation certificate from the PR China, SAR Hongkong, SAR Macao or ROC on Taiwan have to replace the modules in modern Chinese language and in modern written language by 2 additional elective compulsory modules (18 C).

Area of Professionalisation
12 C

MA Thesis
30 C

Specialist course for the Joint Honours MA in Modern Sinology
42 C

1 compulsory module: Colloquium (12 C)

2 elective compulsory modules “Chinese technical and primary Source materials” (12 C):

2 elective compulsory modules out of 14: history, philosophy, religion, politics, society, law, economy (18 C)

Subject-external Module Package (Minor)
36 C / 2 x 18 C

1 subject-external module package (36 C)

or

2 subject-external module packages à 18 C

Area of Professionalisation
12 C

MA Thesis
30 C

Appendix 2: Study and exam regulations MA East Asian Studies / Modern Sinology

Use the following link to find the current study and exam regulations and the module directory

East Asian Studies/Modern Sinology (M.A.) **> Structure > Regulations and module directory /** Current and older versions.

Note:

This study guide is only meant to help you getting informed. However, it is not legally binding!
For legally binding information always refer to the study and exam regulations effective for you!

Appendix 3: Special provisions for native speakers of modern Mandarin

Students who are native speakers of modern Mandarin and hold a secondary school diploma from the PR China, Hong Kong, Macao or ROC Taiwan have to replace the three compulsory modules M.OAW.MS.118: Modern Written Language II, M.OAW.MS.120: Modern Chinese VI, and M.OAW.MS.021: Modern Chinese VII with 2 compulsory elective modules of 18 C listed below. Modules completed already in another section of the degree program cannot be completed a second time. If you have questions relating to these provisions, please refer to the study consultation of the Department of East Asian Studies.

M.OAW.MS.001 Forschungsstand: Geschichte des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.002 Forschungsstand: Philosophie des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.003 Forschungsstand: Religion des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.004 Forschungsstand: Politik des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.005 Forschungsstand: Gesellschaft des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.006 Forschungsstand: Recht des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.007 Forschungsstand: Wirtschaft des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.008 Fallstudien: Geschichte des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.009 Fallstudien: Philosophie des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.010 Fallstudien: Religion des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.011 Fallstudien: Politik des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.012 Fallstudien: Gesellschaft des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.013 Fallstudien: Recht des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.014 Fallstudien: Wirtschaft des modernen China (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.022 Translatorische Kompetenz I: Einführung und allgemeine Themen des Übersetzens ins Chinesische (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.023 Translatorische Kompetenz I: Einführung und allgemeine Themen des Übersetzens aus dem Chinesischen (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.026 Translatorische Kompetenz II: Fachübersetzen Geisteswissenschaften, Philosophie, Geschichte u. Literatur (9 C / 2 SWS)

M.OAW.MS.027 Translatorische Kompetenz II: Fachübersetzen Politik, Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft (9 C / 2 SWS)

It is also possible to choose alternative modules from other degree programs. Please refer to the study consultation of the Department of East Asian Studies.