

## International Master Program in South Asian Studies M.A.

### Application information

**Application period:** 1 June - 15 July (winter semester) and 1 December - 15 January (summer semester)

**Semester start:** 1 October (winter semester) und 1 April (summer semester)

**Language(s) of instruction:** English

### Introduction

This Master's program runs for four semesters: two semesters of courses at the University of Hamburg, the third semester (as a rule outside of Germany, though exceptions are possible) at one of our partner universities; the fourth semester will be dedicated to writing a Master's thesis. The aim of the program is to acquire an in-depth knowledge of South Asian cultures, societies and languages, of theories and methods of scholarly analysis in this field as well as of skills applicable in academic, governmental and social sectors. Please find the course structure under <http://www.aai.uni-hamburg.de/MA.html>. You are encouraged to contact us in case there are questions about the requirements (see contact email addresses below).

### Description of content

Classical Indology (Ancient and Medieval South Asian Studies)

The emphasis is on advanced training in Sanskrit (and optionally Middle-Indic) and in philology. Courses include seminars on philology and codicology, and seminars in which a variety of religious (Buddhist, Hindu, and/or Jain), philosophical, and secular texts in Sanskrit are studied in depth. The main research areas of the department include Indian Buddhism, Tantric Studies, Indian philosophy, and classical Sanskrit literature (kāvyā); all of these are well represented in teaching.

A colloquium in which students, faculty and guest speakers present their research offers the opportunity to acquire presentation skills and to participate in scholarly discussion and exchange.

All courses are taught in English; texts in Sanskrit are used as data for information and analysis.

## **Admission requirements**

**(List of all admission requirements as per the current admission bylaws)**

### **University degree**

A Bachelor's degree „Sprachen und Kulturen des Indischen Subkontinents und Tibet“ from the Universität Hamburg or a comparable Bachelor of a German or officially recognized international academic institution in one of the following subjects: Language and Culture of the Indian Subcontinent and Tibet (with focus on: language, literature, religion, philosophy or language, literature, societies), South Asian Studies, Indology, South Asian Studies, Asian Studies or an equivalent subject.

If you have not received your degree certificate yet, you can submit this by the end of the first semester of your master's program. Please see the "Documents to submit" section below for details.

### **Additional special admission requirements**

Proof of competence in at least one modern language of the Indian subcontinent or Sanskrit with a minimum of 20 credit points or proof of an equivalent language training.

In case no sufficient evidence for competence in one modern language of the Indian subcontinent or Sanskrit can be provided within the application period the candidate will have the possibility to undergo a placement test conducted by the Universität Hamburg which has to be passed.

All applicants must provide evidence for proficiency in English (equivalent to B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)); English native speakers don't need evidence B2.

For details of the legal basis for this regulation, please see the admission bylaws for your chosen degree program: [www.uni-hamburg.de/zugang-master](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/zugang-master)

### **Recognition of transcripts for degree programs completed at foreign higher education institutions**

If you obtained your first degree abroad, your certificate will be reviewed during the application procedure in the Faculty of Humanities (Fakultät für Geisteswissenschaften).

If your degree certificate is not in German or English, please include a certified German or English translation of this together with your application documents.

## Application

### Online application

You will need to complete the online application available on Universität Hamburg's application portal during the application period: [www.uni-hamburg.de/online-bewerbung](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/online-bewerbung)  
Please create a user account, enter your information online, and submit your application electronically.

You will then need to print out your online application and submit it together with the following documents to the application address indicated below.

### Documents to submit

Please submit uncertified copies of all documents. For documents not issued in German or English, a certified German or English translation is required.

- **Signed printout of your online application**
- **Degree certificate or provisional Transcript of Records**  
If you are still studying when you apply and cannot yet provide a final certificate containing your grades, please submit your current Transcript of Records confirming your provisional grade point average. You will then need to submit your degree certificate by the end of the first semester of your master's program.
- **Transcript(s) of Records** (same as 'Academic Transcript' or 'Mark Sheet').  
The relevance for South Asian Studies of the area (or sub-area) in which you completed your first and/or second university degree should be evident from the certificate and/or Transcript of Records. A minimum of 30 credit points (ECTS) for language courses in Sanskrit (for specialization in Classical Indology), in one of the modern literary languages of the Indian Subcontinent (for specialization in Modern South Asian Studies), or equivalent language proficiency is required.
- **Higher school certificate.**
- **Curriculum Vitae**
- **Letter of motivation**
- All applicants who received their secondary education outside of U.K., Ireland, USA, Canada (except Quebec), New Zealand, Australia and South Africa must provide an internationally recognized **certificate of proficiency in English** (equivalent to B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), IELTS min. 6,5).

## Application address

Universität Hamburg  
Asien-Afrika-Institut  
Abteilung für Kultur und Geschichte Indiens und Tibets  
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Harunaga Isaacson  
Alsterterrasse 1  
  
D-20354 Hamburg

Please note that your application can only be considered if your complete application documents reach the **application address** by the application deadline. The date on which your application is received and not the postmark is decisive! This deadline is final; no extensions can be granted.

Please bind all supporting documents required for your application or ensure that loose pages are otherwise bound. The printout of your online application should be the top page. Do not use paper clips, folders, or transparent sleeves.

If you want to submit an **additional special application** (e.g., hardship application), you will need to send this directly to the Application and Admissions Team (Team Bewerbung und Zulassung) together with the required proof separately from the application documents indicated above by the application deadline. For more information on special applications, please see [www.uni-hamburg.de/sonderantrag](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/sonderantrag) and [www.uni-hamburg.de/info-master](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/info-master).

## Selection criteria

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, a selection procedure will be necessary:

For details of the legal basis for this regulation, please see the selection bylaws for your chosen master's program: [www.uni-hamburg.de/auswahl-master](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/auswahl-master)

## Admission and enrollment

Once your application has been reviewed, an acceptance or rejection letter will be made available in your STiNE account under the *Dokumente* (Documents) tab. Please see the information on applying online for a master's program for details of when this will become available: [www.uni-hamburg.de/international-master](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/international-master). An enrollment deadline will be indicated in your acceptance letter—please submit the documents required for enrollment to the Application and Admissions Team (Team Bewerbung und Zulassung) by this date. Please submit certified copies of all documents—see [www.uni-hamburg.de/beglaubigung](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/beglaubigung) for details.

## Contact

If you have questions or require further information, please contact

Prof. Dr. Harunaga Isaacson at [harunaga.isaacson@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:harunaga.isaacson@uni-hamburg.de)

Last updated: Mai 2017