

Announcement

Academic year 2023/2024 – issued on 3 May 2024 – number 141

Any designations of functions are neutral in gender.

Curricula

141 Curriculum for the master's programme in Sinophone Societies and Cultures

At its meeting on 25 April 2024, the Senate approved the Curriculum for the master's programme in Sinophone Societies and Cultures specified below, which was resolved on 15 April 2024 by the Curriculum Committee, a body holding decision-making power, and established in accordance with section 25, para. 8, no. 3 and para. 1, no. 10a of the 2002 Universities Act.

The legal basis is the 2002 Universities Act and the section of the Statutes of the University of Vienna governing university studies as amended from time to time.

§ 1 Objectives and qualification profile

(1) The objective of the master's programme in Sinophone Societies and Cultures at the University of Vienna is to enable students to conduct independent studies on the Sinophone world from the perspective of social sciences and cultural studies. Sinophone societies and cultures can be found in the Chinese-speaking regions and communities in East Asia, South-East Asia, North America, Europe and other parts of the world.

In the courses offered by the programme, students learn content and methods that reflect the current state of research on Sinophone societies and cultures. The focus is on academically sound reflection, guided by the current state of research. The master's programme consolidates the knowledge and skills acquired in the bachelor's programme in Chinese Studies.

(2) The master's programme in Sinophone Societies and Cultures at the University of Vienna consolidates and expands students' command of modern Chinese. Students should reach a level that enables them to understand complex texts and to communicate on intellectually demanding topics.

(3) Graduates of the master's programme in Sinophone Societies and Cultures at the University of Vienna are able to analyse complex questions concerning the development of Sinophone societies and cultures on the basis of Chinese-language materials. They specialise in approaches from either from the social sciences or cultural studies, are familiar with fundamental schools of thought within their specialisation and know the most important theories and methods of the field they have selected for their master's thesis.

(4) Graduates possess competences that enable them to pursue different careers that require specialised knowledge of Sinophone societies and cultures, their interactions and their role in global processes. This includes activities in the following fields:

- Research and/or teaching at universities as well as public and private non-university research institutions
- Media
- International companies
- International organisations and diplomacy
- Counselling in politics, culture and companies
- Foundations
- Publishing
- Culture management
- Tourism
- University administration

(5) Students acquire competences that qualify them for further studies in Sinophone Societies and Cultures.

(6) The language of instruction is English.

§ 2 Duration and scope

(1) The workload for the master's programme in Sinophone Societies and Cultures comprises 120 ECTS credits. This is equivalent to a degree programme duration of four semesters.

(2) The programme is deemed completed if 94 ECTS credits, as defined in the provisions on compulsory modules, 22 ECTS credits, as defined in the provisions on the master's thesis, and 4 ECTS credits, as defined in the provisions on the master's examination, have been obtained.

§ 3 Entry requirements

(1) To be admitted to the master's programme in Sinophone Societies and Cultures students must have completed an eligible bachelor's programme or an eligible degree programme at the same level of university education at a recognised Austrian or foreign post-secondary educational institution.

(2) The bachelor's programme in Chinese Studies at the University of Vienna is certainly eligible. This degree programme meets the criteria mentioned in para. 5 and para. 7.

(3) To compensate for significant disciplinary differences, supplementary examinations can be stipulated, which must be completed by the end of the second semester of the master's programme. The Rectorate may specify which supplementary examinations are a prerequisite for taking examinations specified in the Curriculum of the master's programme.

(4) If the significant disciplinary differences according to para. 3 exceed the extent of 30 ECTS credits, the programme is not considered eligible and the student is not admitted to the master's programme.

(5) As qualitative admission requirements, students must provide evidence of the following competences:

(a) Competences in academic research in social sciences or cultural studies (including the development of a question, review of the state of research, methodological analysis of materials as a central assessment criterion, with explicit relation to at least one Sinophone society or culture) comprising at least 14 ECTS credits.

(b) Competences in academic research in social sciences or cultural studies (including the development of a question, review of the state of research, methodological analysis of materials as a central assessment criterion) comprising at least 16 ECTS credits.

(c) Basic knowledge of at least one Sinophone society or culture comprising at least 16 ECTS credits. Applicants may also provide proof of this competence as part of the competences specified in item b), if these have an explicit relation to at least one Sinophone society or culture.

(d) Language proficiency of modern Chinese corresponding to CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) level B2. The regulations of the University of Vienna specify the type of evidence to be provided.

(e) Submission of a cover letter in English. Applicants should write this letter independently according to the questions prepared by the competent body responsible for study matters. The purpose of the cover letter is to demonstrate applicants' ability to formulate their own research interests and to relate their own previous experience to the central topics of the master's programme in Sinophone Societies and Cultures in the form of clear and linguistically comprehensible arguments.

(f) As evidence of items a), b) and c), applicants shall provide a qualification description which specifies the achievements obtained before the application for admission, and which will serve as the basis for the assessment by the competent body for study matters as to whether or not the applicant fulfils the qualitative admission requirements. Detailed regulations on the qualification description are provided by the competent body for study matters.

(6) If the submitted documents are insufficient for reaching a positive or negative decision on the fulfilment of the qualitative admission requirements, the competent body responsible for study matters or a suitable person may also conduct a subject-specific interview with the applicant. The use of video conferencing systems and similar communication media is permissible subject to the verification of the applicant's identity. The procedure and results of the interview have to be recorded in summary minutes.

(7) The language of instruction is primarily English. Students must have an English language proficiency corresponding to CEFR level B2. The regulations of the University of Vienna specify the type of evidence to be provided.

§ 4 Academic degree

Graduates of the master's programme in Sinophone Societies and Cultures are awarded the degree "*Master of Arts*", abbreviated as MA. If the academic degree is used, it must be placed after the name.

§ 5 Structure – Modules with allocated ECTS credits

(1) Overview

Students must obtain 94 ECTS credits through compulsory modules and complete a master's thesis as well as a master's examination comprising 26 ECTS credits. Every module must be fully completed.

| Module code | Module title | Hours per week per semester (SSt.) | ECTS credits |
|--------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------|
| M1 | Language Awareness | 2 | 4 |
| M2 | Situational Use of Language | 6 | 13 |
| M3 | Academic Language Proficiency | 4 | 10 |
| M4 | Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Social Transformations in the Sinophone World | 4 | 16 |
| M5 | Theories and Methods in Sinophone Studies | 2 | 10 |
| M6 | Researching Sinophone Societies and Cultures | 4 | 21 |
| M7 | Master's Colloquium | 2 | 10 |
| M8 | Individual Specialisation | | 10 |
| | Master's Thesis | | 22 |
| | Master's Examination | | 4 |
| Total | | 24 | 120 |

(2) Module descriptions

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|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| M1 | (compulsory module) Language Awareness | 4 ECTS credits |
| Prerequisites | None | |
| Module outcomes | This module aims to extend students' linguistic knowledge and to raise awareness of the grammatical, lexical and phonetic properties of modern Chinese, including reflection on the differences between written and spoken Chinese. The contents are taught with special consideration of contrastive language analysis based on the students' individual multilingualism. The detailed analysis of modern Chinese mainly includes exercises, such as the learning through teaching approach. Upon completion of this module, students will have acquired advanced, declarative and procedural language proficiency. | |
| Module structure | VU on Structures of Modern Chinese in Theory and Practice, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi) | |

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| Proof of performance | Passing of the continuous assessment course (pi) specified in the module (4 ECTS credits) |
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| Language | Classes are held in English and Chinese. |
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| M2 | (compulsory module) Situational Use of Language | 13 ECTS credits |
| Prerequisites | None | |
| Module outcomes | This module is designed to develop, practise and analyse the appropriate use of modern Chinese in different contexts. It encompasses selected subject-specific language knowledge as well as situation-specific written (e.g. inquiries, job applications, dossiers) and oral (e.g. negotiations, casual and professional conversations, conducting interviews, official receptions) transcultural language competences. These include competences in dealing with different linguistic and cultural varieties within the Sinophone area. Upon completion of this module, students will have the necessary linguistic and cultural sensitivity to be able to build bridges and work as language mediators. Upon completion of this module, students will have acquired CEFR level C1 in specific areas of language competence. | |
| Module structure | UE on Chinese Specialist Language, 5 ECTS credits each, 2 SSt. (pi) UE on Written Linguistic and Cultural Mediation, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi) UE on Oral Linguistic and Cultural Mediation, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi) | |
| Proof of performance | Passing of the continuous assessment courses (pi) specified in the module (13 ECTS credits) | |
| Language | Classes are held in English and Chinese. | |

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| M3 | (compulsory module) Academic Language Proficiency | 10 ECTS credits |
| Prerequisites | M1, M4 | |
| Module outcomes | In this module, students are familiarised with the characteristics and specific requirements of Chinese academic language. They acquire skills to search for and work with Chinese-language academic texts from different Sinophone regions and acquire receptive and expressive language skills in academic Chinese. In two courses, they complete tasks such as analytical reading, presentation, argumentation and translation. Upon completion of this module, students will be able to discuss academic questions in modern Chinese and to work with Chinese-language academic texts when studying the topic of their master's thesis. | |
| Module structure | UE on Academic Language Proficiency 1, 5 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi) UE on Academic Language Proficiency 2, 5 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi) | |
| Proof of performance | Passing of the continuous assessment courses (pi) (10 ECTS credits) specified in the module | |
| Language | Classes are held in English and Chinese. | |

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| M4 | (compulsory module) Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Social Transformations in the Sinophone World | 16 ECTS credits |
| Prerequisites | None | |

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| Module outcomes | <p>In this module, students learn to analyse processes and drivers of social change within the Sinophone world. This may include topics such as globalisation, democracy and authoritarian regimes, digitalisation, social stratification, protest, demographic change, environmental change and sustainability or identity. The module consists of two seminars: one focusing on a social science approach and the other adopting a cultural studies perspective. Ideally, the topics and contexts of both seminars are related.</p> <p>The seminars assist students in selecting their disciplinary focus in subsequent studies, familiarising themselves with the current academic discourse on societal transformations in the Sinophone world and developing academic research questions. For this purpose, students analyse a variety of primary and secondary sources such as academic articles, theatre plays, literary texts, government documents, social media or films. Students are encouraged to recognise and integrate approaches from social science and cultural studies as well as sources and perspectives from within and outside the Sinophone region.</p> <p>Upon completion of this module, students will have addressed the Sinophone world from the perspective of social sciences and cultural studies. They will be able to develop an academic research question by engaging with the dynamics of societal change in Sinophone societies.</p> | |
| Module structure | SE on Introductory Social Science Seminar, 8 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi) SE on Introductory Cultural Studies Seminar, 8 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi) | |
| Proof of performance | Passing of the continuous assessment courses (pi) (16 ECTS credits) specified in the module | |
| Language | The language of instruction is primarily English (recommended language proficiency: C1) and secondarily Chinese. | |

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| M5 | (compulsory module) Theories and Methods in Sinophone Studies | 10 ECTS credits |
| Prerequisites | M4 | |

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| Module outcomes | <p>In this module, students acquire knowledge of state-of-the-art theories and methods for research on Sinophone societies and cultures. Students must choose one seminar either in social sciences or cultural studies.</p> <p>The social science seminar focuses on cutting-edge methods used in social sciences addressing Sinophone societies. Students are introduced to and apply a specific form of quantitative, computational or qualitative analysis.</p> <p>In addition to the introduction of different methods, the cultural studies seminar places a strong emphasis on theory by reviewing debates about issues and definitions of Chinese cultures and identities, and by tracing the development of the field of Sinophone studies.</p> <p>Both seminars also address issues of digitalisation and access to sources and support students in developing digital competences and/or knowledge of remote methods (e.g. content analysis, remote ethnography, media ethnography) in their research.</p> <p>Upon completion of this module, students will be able to apply one state-of-the-art social science method or a theoretical-methodological approach in cultural studies to a seminar paper.</p> |
| Module structure | SE on Theories and Methods (Social Sciences or Cultural Studies), 10 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi) |
| Proof of performance | Passing of the continuous assessment course (pi) specified in the module (10 ECTS credits) |
| Language | The language of instruction is primarily English (recommended language proficiency: C1) and secondarily Chinese. |

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| M6 | (compulsory module) Researching Sinophone Societies and Cultures | 21 ECTS credits |
| Prerequisites | M1, M4 | |
| Module outcomes | <p>In this module, students acquire skills required to implement their master's thesis project. It offers them a comparative perspective on the Sinophone world and guides them in deeply engaging with the scholarly literature and Chinese-language research materials. Students must successfully complete two seminars in either social sciences or cultural studies.</p> <p>In the comparative seminar, students are introduced to the academic discourse on a social or cultural phenomenon in at least two Sinophone societies. In the advanced seminar, students are guided in developing an academically relevant research question on Sinophone societies and cultures and answering it with the help of Chinese-language materials.</p> <p>Upon completion of this module, students will be able to critically assess similarities and differences within the Sinophone world. In addition, students will have independently developed and implemented a research project making use of Chinese-language materials.</p> | |

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| Module structure | SE Comparative Seminar (Social Sciences or Cultural Studies), 10 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi) SE Advanced Seminar (Social Sciences or Cultural Studies), 11 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi) |
| Proof of performance | Passing of the continuous assessment courses (pi) specified in the module (21 ECTS credits) |
| Language | The language of instruction is primarily English (recommended language proficiency: C1) and secondarily Chinese. |

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| M7 | (compulsory module) Master's Colloquium | 10 ECTS credits |
| Prerequisites | M1, at least 4 ECTS credits from modules M2, M4, M5 (social sciences or cultural studies) | |
| Module outcomes | The Master's Colloquium supports students in planning and preparing their master's thesis. In the colloquium, students present and discuss their research ideas, approaches and progress. In particular, research questions, their significance, theoretical approaches, methods, research approaches and key arguments are presented and collectively discussed under the supervision of the lecturer. Upon completion of the Master's Colloquium, students will be able to present feasible research projects in a clear and convincing way. In addition, students will be familiar with the characteristics and formal requirements of an English-language academic thesis. | |
| Module structure | SE Master's Colloquium, 10 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi) | |
| Proof of performance | Passing of the continuous assessment course (pi) specified in the module (10 ECTS credits) | |
| Language | The language of instruction is primarily English (recommended language proficiency: C1) and secondarily Chinese. | |

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| M8 | (compulsory module) Individual Specialisation | 10 ECTS credits |
| Prerequisites | none | |
| Module outcomes | In this module, students acquire knowledge and competences that serve as a meaningful complement to the learning outcomes specified in this curriculum. | |
| Module structure | Students choose courses with continuous assessment (pi) and/or courses with non-continuous assessment (npi) on the master's level comprising 10 ECTS credits in total. These courses from the master's programme in Sinophone Societies and Cultures, other degree programmes at the University of Vienna, or a recognised Austrian or foreign post-secondary educational institution complement the master's programme in a meaningful way. The competent body responsible for study matters must approve the student's choice of courses in advance. | |
| Proof of performance | Passing of all course examinations (npi) and/or continuous assessment courses (pi) specified in the module (10 ECTS credits in total) | |

§ 6 Master's thesis

(1) The master's thesis serves to demonstrate the student's ability to independently address academic research questions. The topic of the master's thesis must be chosen in such a way that the participant can reasonably be expected to complete it within six months.

(2) The master's thesis should address an academically relevant topic related to one or several Sinophone societies and cultures. It should build on the knowledge of the regions and the discipline as well as the theoretical and methodological knowledge and Chinese language skills that students have acquired in the previous modules. Students demonstrate their ability to work independently on an academically relevant topic, to work with academic literature, and to analyse Chinese-language sources comprehensively.

If a different topic is selected, or if there is uncertainty regarding the allocation of the selected topic, the competent body responsible for study matters decides on whether or not it is admissible.

(3) The master's thesis comprises 22 ECTS credits.

§ 7 Master's examination

(1) To be admitted to the master's examination, the student must have successfully passed all required modules and examinations, and the master's thesis must have been positively assessed.

(2) The master's examination is a public defense including an examination in the academic disciplines related to the master's thesis and a language proficiency test in modern Chinese (2 ECTS credits each). Grading will be conducted as stipulated in the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

(3) The master's examination is conducted before an examination committee in accordance with the section of the Statutes of the University of Vienna governing university studies.

(4) The master's examination comprises 4 ECTS credits (2 ECTS credits each).

§ 8 Mobility during the master's programme

It is strongly recommended that students spend a semester abroad in a Chinese-speaking region, if they have not already done so.

The competent body responsible for study matters is responsible for the recognition of academic achievements completed abroad.

§ 9 Course classification

(1) All courses with non-continuous assessment (npi) have to be offered as one of the following types of courses:
Not applicable.

(2) All courses with continuous assessment (pi) have to be offered as one of the following types of courses:

a. Lecture with exercises (*Vorlesung mit integrierter Übung, VU*), pi: Lectures with exercises are based on lectures. Each course unit comprises elements of continuous assessment. The proof of performance is based on multiple, non-sequential partial achievements.

b. Exercise (*Übung, UE*), pi: Exercises are courses with continuous assessment and accompany the entire master's programme in the field of language acquisition. The assessment is based on results of oral and written exams.

c. Seminar (*Seminar, SE*), pi: Specialised seminars are courses with continuous assessment. In specialised seminars, students are familiarised with approaches from social sciences and cultural studies (M4) and subsequently specialise in one of these areas. The seminars in modules M5 and M6 familiarise students with the necessary methodological, theoretical and regional competences in a systematic way and instruct them on independent research by means of Chinese-language sources. In the seminar of module M7, students are supported in developing their research project. The assessment can be based on written assignments, oral presentations and participation.

§ 10 Courses with a limited number of participants and registration procedure

(1) The following general limits on the number of students apply in the following courses:

a. All courses have a limited number of participants and are subject to registration. The maximum number of participants is 25 students.

(2) Modalities concerning the registration for courses and examinations as well as the allocation of places in courses are governed by the stipulations of the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

§ 11 Examination regulations

(1) Proof of performance in courses

The lecturer of a course is responsible for making the necessary announcements according to the stipulations in the Statutes.

(2) Examination content

The examination content relevant to preparing and holding examinations must be in line with the required number of ECTS credits. This also applies to module examinations.

(3) Examination procedure

The examination procedure is subject to the stipulations of the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

(4) No double recognition and no dual use

Courses taken and examinations passed in the degree programme, which constitute entry requirements for the master's programme, can only be recognised in the master's programme if there is no significant difference between the learning outcomes of the master's programme and the learning outcomes of the bachelor's programme.

Courses taken and examinations passed that are used, in particular, for qualitative entry requirements and on which the master's programme is based, cannot be recognised due to significant differences in the acquired competences. Courses taken and examinations passed from another compulsory or elective module of the degree programme cannot be recognised within another module in the same degree programme. This also applies to recognition procedures.

(5) Examination results must be allocated to the relevant module by the stated ECTS figure and must not be allocated to different proofs of performance.

§ 12 Entry into force

This Curriculum will enter into force upon announcement in the University Gazette of the University of Vienna as of 1 October 2024.

§ 13 Transitional provisions

(1) This Curriculum applies to all students who commence their degree programme as of the winter semester of 2024.

(2) If, at a later stage of the degree programme, courses are no longer offered which were compulsory under the original curricula, the competent body responsible for study matters decides *ex officio* (equivalence regulation) or at the request of the participant which courses and examinations have to be completed instead.

(3) Students who have started the master's programme in Chinese Studies before this date may voluntarily accept the provisions of this Curriculum at any time by simple confirmation.

(4) Students who started the master's programme in Chinese Studies which entered into force prior to this Curriculum (University Gazette of 16 June 2007 as amended, 30th edition, no. 217) are entitled to complete their degree programme by 31 October 2026.

(5) The competent body responsible for study matters specified in the organisational regulations is entitled to determine in general or on a case-by-case basis which of the courses taken and examinations passed will be recognised for this Curriculum.

Appendix

Recommended path through the master's programme:

| Semester | Module | Course | ECTS | Total ECTS credits |
|----------|--------|--|------|--------------------|
| 1. | M1 | VU on Structures of Modern Chinese in Theory and Practice | 4 | |
| | M2 | UE on Chinese Specialist Language | 5 | |
| | M2 | UE on Written Linguistic and Cultural Mediation | 4 | |
| | M4 | SE on Introductory Social Science Seminar | 8 | |
| | M4 | SE on Introductory Cultural Studies Seminar | 8 | |
| | | | | 29 |
| 2nd | M2 | UE on Oral Linguistic and Cultural Mediation | 4 | |
| | M5 | SE on Theory and Methods (Social Sciences OR Cultural Studies) | 10 | |
| | M6 | SE on Comparative Seminar (Social Sciences OR Cultural Studies) | 10 | |
| | M8 | Individual Specialisation | 10 | |
| | | | | 34 |
| 3. | M3 | UE on Academic Language Proficiency 1 | 5 | |
| | M6 | SE on Advanced Seminar (Social Sciences OR Cultural Studies) | 11 | |
| | M7 | SE on Master's Colloquium | 10 | |
| | | | | 26 |
| 4. | M3 | UE on Academic Language Proficiency 2 | 5 | |
| | | Master's Thesis | 22 | |
| | | Oral Master's Examination | 4 | |
| | | | | 31 |

On behalf of the Senate:
The chairperson of the curriculum
committee Stassiopoulou