

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 of the degree programme, students address contents and methods meeting 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 serves the further consolidation of the competences and content acquired in the bachelor's programme in Chinese Studies.

(2) The master's programme in Sinophone Societies and Cultures at the University of Vienna serves to consolidate and expand the students' command of modern Chinese. Students should reach a level allowing them to understand complex texts and to communicate about 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 about the development of Sinophone societies and cultures by means of Chinese-language materials. They are specialised in approaches 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 selected for their master's thesis.

(4) The graduates have competences that allow them to pursue different professions requiring specialised knowledge of Sinophone societies and cultures, their interactions and their roles 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 qualifying 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 have to be completed until 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, this is not considered an eligible degree programme and the student is not admitted to the master's programme.
- (5) As qualitative admission requirements, students have to provide evidence of the following competences:
- (a) Competences for 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 central assessment criterion with explicit relation to at least one Sinophone society or culture) comprising at least 14 ECTS credits.
 - (b) Competences for 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 competency 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 level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). The regulations of the University of Vienna specify the type of evidence to be provided.
 - (e) Presentation of a cover letter in English language. The applicant has to independently write this letter following the questions prepared by the competent body responsible for study matters. The cover letter serves to demonstrate the applicant's ability to formulate own research interests and to relate their own previous experience with central topics of the master's programme in Sinophone Societies and Cultures in the form of clear and linguistically comprehensible arguments.
 - (f) For evidence of items a), b) and c), applicants have to present a qualification description which specifies the achievements obtained before the application for admission and which serves as the basis for the assessment by the competent body for study matters whether the applicant fulfils the qualitative admission requirements or not. Detailed regulations on the qualification description are provided by the competent body for study matters.
- (6) If the presented 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 English language proficiency corresponding to level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages). 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. Where the academic degree is stated this must be 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 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

M1	(compulsory module) Language Awareness	4 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	None	
Module outcomes	This module aims to extend the student's 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 have advanced, declarative and procedural language proficiency.	
Module structure	VU on Structures of Modern Chinese in Theory and Practice, 4 ECTS credits, 2 SSt. (pi)	

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 serves to develop, practice 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 have the necessary linguistic and cultural sensitivity to be able to build bridges and work as language mediators. Upon completion of this module, students have acquired level CEFR 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.	

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 are 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	

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 have addressed the Sinophone world from the perspective of social sciences and cultural studies. They are able to develop an academic research question through 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.	

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

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 are 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.

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 are able to critically assess similarities and differences within the Sinophone world. In addition, students have independently developed and implemented a research project making use of Chinese-language materials.</p>	

Module structure	SE Comparative Seminar, 10 ECTS credits (Social Sciences or Cultural Studies), 2 SSt. (pi) SE Advanced Seminar, 11 ECTS credits (Social Sciences or Cultural Studies), 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.

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	<p>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.</p> <p>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 are able to present feasible research projects in a clear and convincing way. In addition, students are familiarised with the characteristics and formal requirements of an English-language academic thesis.</p>	
Module structure	(pi) 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.	

M8	(compulsory module) Individual Specialisation	10 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	In this module, students acquire knowledge and competences which serve as a meaningful completion to the learning outcomes specified in this curriculum.	
Module structure	<p>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 or 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.</p> <p>The competent body responsible for study matters must approve the student's choice of courses in advance.</p>	
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 assignment for the master's thesis must be so chosen 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 culture(s). It should build on the knowledge of regions and the discipline as well as the theoretical and methodological knowledge and Chinese competences that students acquired in the previous modules. Students demonstrate their skills in independently working on an academically relevant topic, in working with academic literature and analysing 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 a 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 defence and an examination on the academic disciplines related to the master's thesis as well as a language proficiency test on 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 stay abroad in Chinese-speaking regions for one semester if not already completed.

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 Stassinopoulou