

Master's program „Sociology – European Societies“

- Rules for Transfer from Old (2013) into New Study and Examination Regulations (2024) -

- It is possible to **apply for transferring** from the old study regulations (valid since 2013) into the new regulations (valid since 2024, into effect as of 1.10.2025).
 - Modules that have been completed before the transfer into the new regulations will be transferred entirely.
 - Modules for which only partial credits have been obtained have to be completed according to the new regulations.
 - Modules that are started after the transfer into the new regulations have to be completed according to the new regulations.
- Graduating under the old study regulations from 2013 is only possible until the **end of the summer term 2028**. If you still have to complete courses of the program after this deadline, you will definitely have to transfer into the new regulations for a successful graduation.
- A transfer of regulations must be made **before** registering for the Master's thesis (at least three weeks before the planned registration date). Once the Master's thesis has been registered, a transfer is **no longer possible**.
- Once a transfer of regulations has been made, it **cannot be reversed**.

Most important changes in the new regulations:

- Module 1 “The Political Unification Process in Europe and the Development of European Societies since 1945” will be graded **undifferentiated** in future, i.e. only as “pass/fail”
- The specialization module (module 8) will consist of the following **two compulsory elective modules, one of which** must be chosen:
 - Specialization - Advanced Methods of Empirical Social Research
 - Specialization - Special Fields of Sociological Research

- The **following rules** apply to students who have already completed the entire specialization module (module 8) and request to transfer into the new regulations:
- If two methods seminars had been taken, the compulsory elective module “Advanced Methods of Empirical Social Research” is recognized by default;
 - If two content-specific seminars had been taken, the compulsory elective module “Special Fields of Sociological Research” is recognized by default;
 - If one methods seminar and one content-specific seminar had been taken, the compulsory elective module “Special Fields of Sociological Research” is credited by default. The compulsory elective module “Advanced Methods of Empirical Social Research” can only be recognized **upon justified request**.
- **Term papers** (as a module examination in module 2 and modules 4-6) will in future have a length of **5,000 words**.
- The **research report** in Module 7 “Research Placement” will comprise **7,000 words**.
- The **Master's thesis** must comprise at least **15,000 words** and a preceding abstract (approx. 500 words).
- The Master's thesis must be written **in English**. Upon request, it can be written in German or another language.

Further **purely formal** changes:

- The **colloquium**, which was previously not awarded ECTS, will constitute a **separate module with 5 ECTS** and belong to the specialization area. It will be entitled “Sociological Research”. The requirements will not change.
- The official and sole **language of the degree program will be English**; the degree program will therefore only be entitled “**Sociology - European Societies**”.
- As of winter 2025-26, only **courses in English** may be offered by the Institute's lecturers. Participation in and crediting of external courses in German is still possible upon request.
- As the language of the degree program will be English, all modules will now only have the **English title**.