

Structure Plan International Masters Program in Tibetan Studies

Semester	Compulsory courses			Courses of choice	Credit points per semester
1st sem.	Tibetan Philology and Textual Criticism [TIB 1] Reading practice A (2 semester periods per week, 6 cp)	Religious and Cultural History of Tibet [TIB 2] Seminar A (2 semester periods per week, 6 cp)	Approaches to Research within International South- and Central-Asian Studies [SKT] Lecture A (1 semester period per week, 2 cp) Colloquium A (1 semester period per week, 4 cp)	6 cp	30
	Term paper 6 cp				
2nd sem.	Tibetan Philology and Textual Criticism [TIB 1] Reading practice B (2 semester periods per week, 6 cp)	Religious and Cultural History of Tibet [TIB 2] Seminar B (2 semester periods per week, 6 cp)	Approaches to Research within the International South- and Central-Asian Studies [SKT] Lecture B (1 semester period per week, 2 cp) Colloquium B (1 semester period per week, 4 cp)	6 cp	30
	Term paper 6 cp				
3rd sem.	Semester abroad				30
4th sem.	Final module [TIB 3] MA thesis (25 cp), oral exam (5 cp)				30
Total cp's					120

Description of the Content of the Modules

Tibetan Philology

The readings within this module will introduce the students to selected areas of interest in Tibetan religious and cultural history by working with complex classical Tibetan textual material. The texts will be analysed both philologically and with regard to their contents, and will be examined in respect of the historical conditions of their origination and the history of their reception and the influence they have exerted over the centuries.

The core goal of this module is to enable the students to comprehend complex Tibetan texts independently with regard to their content, composition, and purposes and in giving them practice in handling historical sources of the Tibetan cultural sphere. This ability is to be demonstrated by a translation into English or German. In addition, the students' knowledge of classical Tibetan shall be deepened. Further integral constituents of this module's courses are the application of historical-philological methods and the critical usage of mono- and bilingual dictionaries and relevant secondary literature.

Tibetan Religious and Cultural History

The seminars of this module will introduce the students to selected areas of Tibetan cultural history, especially the history of literature, religion and ideas, by working with complex classical Tibetan textual material. The texts will be analysed both philologically and with regard to their contents and will be examined in respect of the historical conditions of their origination and the history of their reception and the influence they have exerted over the centuries.

The core goal of this module lies in acquiring knowledge of central issues related to Tibetan religious and cultural history as well as competence in independent exploration of new areas of research. At the same time students are also expected to deepen their existing knowledge in various areas of Tibetan Studies. In addition, the students will practice academic debate and the analysis and interpretation of texts. Furthermore, they are expected to improve their competence in the application of historical-philological methods and standard scholarly techniques as well as the critical usage of mono- and bilingual dictionaries and relevant secondary literature.

Approaches to Research within the International South- and Central Asian Studies

Within this module's courses current research approaches and topics in cultural methods will be presented in the form of introductory outline presentations. The participants will discuss paradigmatic papers and exemplary theoretical texts with regard to their context and applicability. Furthermore, the participants will present their own attempts at exemplary application of a research approach to a specific text (formulation of questions and execution of the analysis) and discuss it with the other participants.

This module will introduce students to current approaches to cultural research in South and Central Asian Studies on an international level as well as to differences between approaches and practices of different regional disciplines, so that they can acquire the skills necessary to work out precise questions, taking into consideration both overarching research topics and relevant approaches. The active participation in this module will thus enable students to critically evaluate theoretical and methodological approaches and to apply them to primary source materials.

Semester Abroad

The students are to spend one semester abroad, at either a European partner university or a university in a Tibetan speaking area. Obligatory modules to the extent of 30 credit points will be selected in coordination with the students and the mentoring professors at the University of Hamburg and the hosting university. The selection will take the students' specific fields of interest into consideration and ensure that the selected modules will be of relevance and aid for their MA thesis. Both the organization and funding of the semester abroad lie within the responsibilities of the students themselves.

Degree module of the International Masters Programme Tibetan Studies

The degree module consists of the preparation for and writing of the MA thesis as well as the preparation for and taking of the final oral exam. The students are expected to demonstrate their ability to explore and study specific Tibetological issues independently and to deal competently with both the textual and contextual problems that may arise in course of their research, as well as to present them systematically in an extended piece of academic writing as well as in oral discussion at an academic level.

