

# MA Political Science

(major or minor)



# Why should I study Political Science at the University of Basel?



**eucor**  
The European Campus

5 Universities  
1 Campus

A map of Europe with a blue line connecting five universities: Paris, London, Berlin, Basel, and Zurich. The French flag is next to Paris, the German flag next to Berlin, and the Swiss flag next to Zurich. The University of Basel logo is also present.

A screenshot of a Facebook post with several event announcements. The events include: 'Weihnachts-Pastaplausch' on 21.12.2023 at 18:30; 'Autorenlesung „Wider die Tyrannei“' on 06.10.23; 'KOMM ZU UNSEREM ERSTEMESTERPERO!' on 20. September; 'Introduction and Aperitif for Political Science first semester students (BA and MA)'; and 'Wann? 20 Uhr. Wo? Verso. Karaoke Time to celebrate'.

# Why should I study Political Science at the University of Basel?

- **Combination with a second subject:** Political Science + Sociology, Gender Studies, Near Middle Eastern Studies, Media Science (etc...)
- Young and **dynamic department** (since 2017) with highly motivated teachers
- **Empirical** and analytical driven program
- Cooperation with **Swisspeace, Basel Institute on Governance & EUCOR**
- **Specialty: Regional Expertise** (North-South, Europe etc.)
- New teaching focus: ***“Inequality, Power and Conflict”***





# Fokus auf *Inequality, Power, and Conflict*



## Title Update:

- **New Name:** "*Master Political Science – Inequality, Power, Conflict*"
- **Focus:** Integrates Political Sociology, Comparative Politics, and International Relations/Peace Research.
- **Language:** All courses offered in English.

## Thematic Focus Enhancement:

- **Consolidated Modules:** 20 ECTS specialization on "*Inequality, Power, Conflict*".
- **Flexible Study:** Targeted studies within this theme or alongside other Political Science courses.

## Methodological Reforms:

- **Applied Methods Seminar:** Replaces working groups to enhance practical methodological skills relevant for the job market.

## Goal: Preparing Graduates for Advanced Roles in a Changing World

# Brief facts about the MA in Political Science:

- 4 semesters (120 ECTS)
- Two subjects, each 35 ECTS
- Master thesis in one of the subjects (major), 30 ECTS
- Free electives, 20 ECTS
- Almost all political science MA classes held in **English**
- Possibility to **recognize internships**
- EUCOR cooperation with 5 universities in 3 countries
- Cooperation with **Swisspeace** (e.g. **Summer School** e.g. Colombia, South Sudan, Syria) and **Basel Institute on Governance** (seminars, internships)



# International Cooperation

## EUCOR

- Cooperation of **5 universities in 3 countries** along the Rhine
- **Joint course offerings:**  
e.g., Seminar: "**Escaping Europe**" (Seminar designed as Escape Room Game)

## EPIKUR

- Joint course "**European Values**" with a university in Poland + visit to Poznań



# Potential course of program (1/2): Master

## 1st Semester

- Empirical research methods (quant./qual., 5 ECTS)
- Research seminar 1 incl. study groups (3+3)

## 2nd Semester

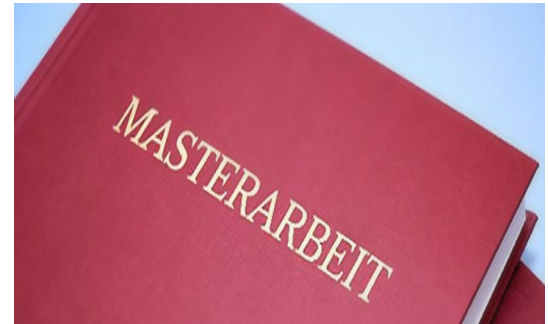
- Research seminar 2 incl. seminar paper (3+5)
- Courses of your choice in political science, social science or internship (3 ECTS)
- Planning of MA Thesis



# Potential course of program (2/2): Master

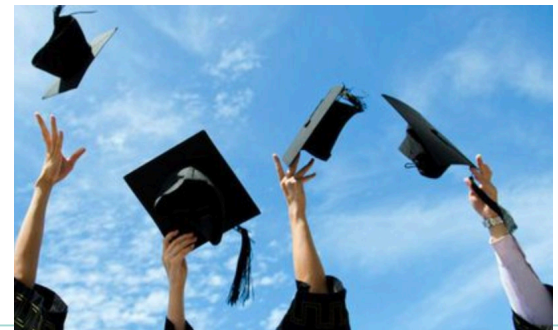
3rd Semester

- Research colloquium (3)
- Writing MA thesis



4th Semester

- Submission MA thesis (30)
- MA exam (5)





# Seminars in the MA program

Examples from Autumn 2024 & Spring 2025:

- Peacebuilding and Gender
- Class, Voting and Representation
- Migration
- European Values in Times of Crisis
- Introduction to Quantitative Text Analysis
- Research Methods in Political Science
- Politics of Military Occupation
- Quantitative Approaches and Methods to Peace
- States and Violence in Africa
- Power of Ignorance
- Corruption and Development
- Chinese Politics



# Masterarbeit: Mögliche Themen

## Swiss Politicians and Their Social Media Behavior

- Quantitative Content Analysis of Tweets by Politicians on Twitter/X
- Possible Data: Social Media Data (e.g., Twitter, X)

## Campaign Effects and Voting Behavior in EU Referendums

- Quantitative and/or Qualitative Analysis of Treaty Referendums
- Possible Data: Survey Data and/or Semi-Structured Interviews

## Determinants of Political Ideology and/or Attitudes

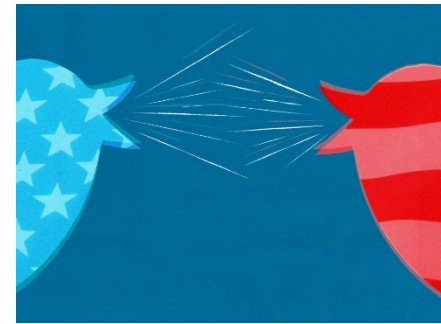
- Quantitative Analysis of Existing Data
- Possible Data: World Value Surveys

## Lobbyist for Hire: Why Interest Groups Retain Consultants During the EU's Policy Formulation Stage

- Quantitative and/or Qualitative Analysis
- Possible Data: Survey Data and/or Semi-Structured Interviews

## Peace-building and State-building in Post-conflict Countries

- Qualitative Analysis, Process Tracing in Selected Countries
- Possible Data: Expert Interviews



# Questions?

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