

# Welcome Guide

## European Joint Master's Programme in English and American Studies 2020-2021



*Universities:* **GRAZ**, University of Graz, Austria/ **VENICE**, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy/ **BAMBERG**, University of Bamberg, Germany/ **PARIS**, University Paris Diderot, France/ **PECS**, University of Pecs, Hungary/ **NEW YORK**, The City College of New York, USA/ **KRAKOW**, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland/ **BARCELONA**, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.



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## Preface

### Welcome to the European Joint Master's Programme in English and American Studies

This Joint Master's Programme was developed by a consortium which consists of Graz University, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, University of Bamberg, University of Paris Diderot, University of Pecs, the City College of New York, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, and the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

The European Joint Master's Programme offers specialized academic training in English and American Studies focusing on the three core areas of **literature, linguistics and cultural studies**. The programme focuses on the language and culture of English-speaking countries, while promoting intercultural perspectives within a framework of general academic competence in the humanities. In the course of your studies, you will deepen your competence in the English language and also be given the opportunity to study other languages. Increasingly, a wide variety of professional fields look for candidates with highly developed language skills, a truly transnational cultural perspective and a high level of overall academic competence.

On behalf of faculty and staff we wish you an inspiring, pleasant and successful new academic year!

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### 3 Introduction

This chapter introduces you to the Joint Master's Programme. It explains what a joint programme is and defines consortium, partner and entrance universities.

#### 3.1 *The European Joint Master's Programme in English and American Studies*

The English-taught European Joint Master's Programme in English and American Studies is a full-time master's programme which is completed over 2 years with a total of 120 ECTS credits offered by 8 partner universities. Students have to earn at least 60 ECTS at the entrance university and at least 30 ECTS on mobility at one of the partner universities.

<b>Degree Awarded</b> MA	<b>Starting Date</b> September
<b>Programme Duration</b> Minimum 4 semesters	<b>ECTS</b> 120
<b>Language of instruction</b> English	<b>Mode of Attendance</b> Full-time

The universities in the consortium work together to provide a high-quality international curriculum.

The course content has been developed around three main topics: **linguistics**, **literary studies** and **cultural studies**. For students whose mother tongue is not English or who have not been educated in an English-speaking environment, language proficiency is an additional value in the programme.

<b>Compulsory Subjects</b> English Linguistics Literary Studies Cultural Studies English Language Proficiency	<b>Restricted Electives</b> To be chosen from one of the core areas (literature, linguistics, cultural studies) as specialisation.
<b>Free Electives</b> In order to complement the compulsory classes and the restricted electives at any accredited university.	<b>Master's Thesis (and Defence)</b> The thesis will be based on research related to a subject of the student's choice.



### 3.2 What is a Joint Master's Programme?

Here is everything you need to know about the nature and advantages of joint master's programmes. The following 6 key-points define a joint programme:

- the study programme is jointly developed and recognised by several international partner institutions
- students choose one partner institution as their entrance university
- students spend part of their studies at another partner institution
- the periods of study and examinations (credit points), which were completed at a partner institution, are automatically recognised in full at the students' entrance institution
- the teaching staff of the participating institutions works together on the curriculum, formulates regulations for admission, examination conditions, and participates in teacher exchange programmes
- upon completion of the study programme, students receive either a local diploma or a double degree certificate

### 3.3 Consortium and Partner Universities

The European Joint Master's Programme in English and American Studies combines the teaching specialisations and research foci of eight high profile partner institutions. The universities work together to guarantee a high-quality international curriculum.

You can choose any one of the following partner universities that form the consortium to be your entrance university: University of Graz, University of Bamberg, Ca' Foscari University Venice, University of Paris, or Jagiellonian University in Kraków. The University of Pecs, the City College of New York and the University Autònoma de Barcelona are mobility partners in the programme.

#### **Degree Awarding Partners**

Of the eight partners involved in developing and organising the programme the following universities constitute the "Degree Awarding Partners":

- University of Graz
- University of Bamberg
- Ca'Foscari University Venice
- University of Paris
- Jagiellonian University Kraków





### **Non-Degree Awarding Partners - Mobility Partners**

The following universities are partners in terms of mobility:

- The City College of the City University of New York
- University of Pécs
- Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

## **3.4 Entrance University**

The ‘entrance university’ is defined as the university where you are enrolled as a regular student, at which you start the programme and spend at least two semesters.

The Joint Master’s Programme comprises 120 ECTS credits corresponding to a period of study of at least four semesters or two years. 60 ECTS credits have to be earned at your entrance university. You are required to complete at least 30 credits at one of the partner universities. “European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System” points are based on the total time investment a course or module requires in principle, including both classroom contact hours and individual study. You can find out more about the ECTS system at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/ects\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/ects_en.htm)

## **4 Joint Master’s Programme EAS: General Information**

This chapter provides some general information concerning the Joint Master’s Programme in English and American Studies. You will get to know the aim of the master’s programmes, the educational goals and professional fields. An overview of the academic calendar at the different universities is given as well as information regarding language conditions and optional language courses.

### **4.1 Aim of the Joint Master’s Programme**

This programme aims to make the language competences and cultures of English-speaking countries accessible and to promote intercultural perspectives within a framework of general academic competences in the humanities.

Participants in the programme will receive a specialized academic training in the field of Anglophone studies. In the course of their studies, students will also gain theoretical and practical competences in the English language and be given the opportunity to study other languages. Students will be given a wide range of employment opportunities upon completion of their studies. Despite the very different qualification profiles, many professional fields require a sophisticated



understanding of and competence in languages as well as highly developed cultural and academic competences.

## 4.2 Educational Goals and Professional Fields

According to the Dublin Descriptors the Master's degree will be awarded to students who

- have demonstrated knowledge and understanding that is founded upon and consolidates knowledge that is typically associated with bachelor's level, and that provides a basis or opportunity for originality in developing and/or applying ideas, often within a research context.
- can apply their knowledge and understanding, and problem solving abilities in new or unfamiliar environments within broader (or multidisciplinary) contexts related to their field of study.
- have the ability to integrate knowledge and handle complexity, and formulate judgements with incomplete or limited information, but that include reflecting on social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgements.
- can communicate their conclusions, and the knowledge and rationale underpinning these, to specialist and non-specialist audiences clearly and unambiguously, and have the learning skills to allow them to continue to study in a manner that may be largely self-directed or autonomous.

Further educational goals in the field of Anglophone studies are:

- The ability to engage in an open and critical examination of contemporary society and culture;
- Competence in understanding literary texts and media;
- Knowledge and understanding of the culture (in particular of the language, literature and intellectual history) of earlier periods (historical competence);
- Intercultural competence;
- The ability to produce oral and written texts within a range of media;
- The ability to express oneself orally and in writing in order to develop, complete and defend scientific papers and lectures;
- The ability to meet different professional demands in the fields of culture, education, media, business, etc.

An additional value of the programme is English language proficiency. The main objective of the practical language training is to increase the student's level of competence to C2 of the *Common European Framework of Reference*. Individual objectives are:

- Differentiated language use (i.e. the ability to use language confidently and correctly in a large number of situations and with regard to a large number of topics).



- Advanced language awareness (i.e. students should independently develop their language competence, and, at the same time, take current language transformation processes into account).
- Recognition of the demands of future job profiles (e.g. by means of specialised language courses for students focusing on business, media and other areas).

Professional fields for which competences are developed include: education; archive and library services; diplomatic service; publishing; cultural sector; international co-operation; translating, mass communication; advertising; tourism; public relations; language-oriented professions; and preparation for further graduate study.

### 4.3 Academic Calendar

The start of the semester can vary within the Joint Master's Programme depending on your chosen entrance and mobility universities.

	Winter Semester	Summer Semester
University of Graz	beginning of October – end of January	beginning of March – end of June
University of Bamberg	beginning of October – end of January	beginning of April – mid-July
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona	mid-September – beginning of February	mid-February – end of June
Ca'Foscari University of Venice	mid-September – beginning of February	beginning of February – mid-June
City College of New York	end of August – mid-December	end of January – end of May
Jagiellonian University in Kraków	beginning of October – end of January	end of February – mid-June
University of Paris Diderot	mid-September – mid-January	mid-January – mid-May
University of Pécs	beginning of September – mid-December	end of January – mid-May



## 4.4 Language

The Joint Master programme is entirely offered in English.

However, in the course of your studies you are encouraged to improve your language skills, particularly of the national languages of your mobility university. You can do so at various university language institutes. Please check with your entrance/mobility university or ask your student advisor for more details.

## 5 Duration and Structure of the Programme

Students are allocated ECTS credit points for the work done, which includes both self-study and contact hours.

The Master's Programme comprises 120 ECTS credits, which normally corresponds to a period of study of at least four semesters or two years, per the respective regulations governing the partner institutions.

60 ECTS credits have to be earned at the entrance university. Students are required to complete at least 30 ECTS credits at one of the partner universities.

ECTS credits are allocated as follows:

	ECTS
<b>Compulsory Subjects</b>	<b>38-48 ECTS</b>
Module Linguistics	10-12 ECTS
Module Literary Studies	10-12 ECTS
Module Cultural Studies	10-12 ECTS
Module English Language Proficiency	8-12 ECTS
<b>Restricted Electives</b> (can be chosen from the following focus area)	<b>30-40 ECTS</b>
Focus on Linguistics	24-40 ECTS
Focus on Literary Studies	24-40 ECTS
Focus on Cultural Studies	24-40 ECTS
English Language Proficiency	0-8 ECTS
<b>Free Electives</b>	<b>12 ECTS</b>
<b>Master's Thesis (&amp; Defense/Exam)</b>	<b>30 ECTS</b>
	<b>120 ECTS</b>



### **5.1 *Obligatory Mobility Semester***

The mobility semester can be spent at any of the degree awarding partners or at one of the mobility partner universities. You may also spend an additional study period or use any other mobility programmes available at your entrance university.

When applying students will list in order of preference the universities at which they wish to undertake the obligatory study abroad. Places are allocated according to available resources.

Given the international nature of the programme students will be required from the outset to draw up a detailed learning agreement with the programme coordinator at their entrance university. It is assumed that the general and specific university academic entrance requirements are satisfied upon nomination by the entrance university.

Note: Additional fees may be charged. You have to go through regular procedures.

### **5.2 *Additional Study Abroad***

Students may spend an additional study period at any of the partner universities, whether for a semester of registered coursework or for a short period of study for research reasons. Financial subsidies can be applied for through existing mobility programmes and grants.

### **5.3 *Grading Systems and Grade Conversion Table***

The grading system of the individual institutions is used for assessment. The grading of the achievements accomplished during the mobility period will be transferred to the degree awarding institution according to the grade conversion table as agreed by the consortium.

The curriculum of students in the International Tracks of the MA programs at CCNY who spend mobility semesters at partner institutions is governed by the Graduate Bulletin of the City College of New York.



**Conversion Table:**

Bamberg	5	4.0-3.7	3.3-3.0	2.7-2.0	1.7	1.3	1.0	
Barcelona	0-4.9	5-5.9		6-6.9	7-8.9		9-10 <sup>1</sup>	
Cracow	2	3	3.5	4	4.5		5	
City College	F	D		C	B	A-	A	A+
Graz	5	4		3	2	1	1	
Paris	9	10	11	12-13	14 - 15	16	17-20 <sup>2</sup>	
Pécs	1	2	2	3	4		5	
Venice	failed	18-20	21-25	26-28	29-30		30 L	

\*In the case of overlapping grades, the maximum comparable grade<sup>3</sup> of the overlapping ranges will be taken.

**5.4 Master's Thesis**

The Master's thesis and final exam consist of 30 ECTS credits. The thesis reflects the student's capacity for independent study and research, and should be 25,000 to 35,000 words in length and written in English. Theses of comparable quality that do not conform to these word limits must receive prior approval from the academic coordinator of the student's entrance university. The thesis must include a summary per the regulations of the respective entrance university.

Students must determine their Master's thesis topic in consultation with an advisor from the entrance university. Students have the right to suggest the topic or choose from a number of suggestions from the advisor. The thesis project must be designed in such a way that it can be executed within a period of six months.

The thesis will be assessed by two readers, one of whom is the advisor and the other a faculty member of one of the partner universities. The second reader will provide a short assessment (about half a page) to indicate whether the thesis merits a pass. It is advisable that students start looking for their second reader in the third semester, so they will have prepared a draft of the thesis after their mobility semester. When finalizing the thesis at the end of the fourth semester, students should also consider

<sup>1</sup> 10 is rarely awarded.

<sup>2</sup> 19 and 20 are rarely awarded.

<sup>3</sup> [http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ects-users-guide\\_en.pdf](http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ects-users-guide_en.pdf), p.41



their visa expiration dates, bearing in mind the time for the review and the presentation of their work.

Final examination (held in English):

The final examination is taken as per the regulations of the student's entrance university.

## **5.5 Academic Degree**

Students will receive either a local diploma or a double degree certificate according to the regulations of the cooperation agreement depending on the student's study path.

### **Degree options**

#### **a) Mobility between degree awarding partner universities**

If students complete the obligatory mobility at a partner university which is a degree awarding institution, they will receive a double degree certificate. This means the graduate will receive in addition to the local degree diploma the local degree diploma of the university where he or she spent the obligatory mobility.

#### **b) Mobility between a degree awarding and mobility partner university**

If students complete the obligatory mobility at a partner university which is a mobility partner, the degree awarding university will issue a local diploma. This means the graduate will receive a degree certificate issued by the respective degree awarding university only.

In addition, graduates of the Joint Master's Programme will receive a commonly issued diploma supplement, which will contain all information about the programme and its international structure and will be provided by the respective entrance university. They will also receive a jointly conferred certificate of completion.