

# M.Sc. International Economics and Business

A degree programme of the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems

The information in this infosheet is pertinent for the degree programme starting in winter semester 2025–26 (StuPO version WS 2023).

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[Programme web page](#)  
Information for prospective  
students

Download the infosheet  
in PDF format

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## How to apply

Language of instruction: English

### Entry requirements

For your application to succeed, you need:

1. A first degree (bachelor's degree, *Magister*, *Diplom*, state examination or equivalent) in a related subject, earned in a programme of study with a minimum standard length of three years' full-time study. If you do not have your final certificate and transcript at the time of application, you may apply using a preliminary transcript or Transcript of Records which shows your grades/marks achieved to date.
2. An **English language** certificate at level **B2 CEFR**, unless English is your native language or the language of instruction for your prior university or secondary education.
3. International applicants whose native language or language of instruction of their prior secondary or tertiary studies is not German additionally require basic knowledge of the **German** language at level A1 CEFR. If you do not present proof of language proficiency when you start your studies, you can prove the required knowledge of German to the Student Registration Office by the end of the first academic year.

For this master's programme, the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems carries out a selection procedure based on an aptitude test.

#### Starting your studies before completing your prior undergraduate degree

You can begin your studies before obtaining your first university degree if you have earned at least 140 ECTS credits in your first degree programme by the start of the first semester on your master's degree programme in Passau. Please submit a transcript of records showing the number of semesters studied, the coursework and examinations completed to date and the ECTS credits earned, as well as the provisional final grade.

You must provide an English language certificate at level B2 CEFR by the application deadline.

You must submit the degree certificate for your prior undergraduate degree to the Student Registration Office by the end of your first year at the University of Passau (no later than 30 September). This deadline stands, even if you take official leave of absence during your studies.

### Aptitude test

If you meet the above conditions, you will take part in the aptitude test. Your application will be checked to ascertain your aptitude for the programme based on your proven qualifications. Your application will be assessed on the following **criteria**<sup>1</sup>:

Your application will be rated on a scale of 0 to 210 points, with 0 being the worst result and 210 the best.

- Up to 90 points are awarded for the **final grade** of your prior undergraduate degree. The maximum score of 90 is awarded for a final grade of 1.0 (or the foreign equivalent grade). Three points are deducted for each tenth that the actual grade is above the maximum attainable 1.0 grade. [NB: In the German grading system, a lower numerical mark/grade is better than a higher one, with 1.0 being the best grade/mark.]
- Up to 40 points are awarded for methodological competences (**mathematics and statistics**) if they amount to a workload of **at least 15 ECTS credits**. The maximum score of 40 is awarded for an average mark of 1.0 (or the foreign equivalent grade). One point is deducted for each tenth that the actual average mark is above the maximum attainable 1.0 mark. Missing ECTS credits are counted as a mark of 5.0 (a fail mark).
- Up to 80 points are awarded for **economics** assessments if these amount to a workload of **at least 35 ECTS credits**. The maximum score of 80 is awarded for a grade average of 1.0. Two points are deducted for each tenth that the actual average mark is above the maximum attainable 1.0 mark. Missing ECTS credits are counted as a mark of 5.0 (a fail mark).

Applicants who can prove in any other way that their final grade or the grade of their examination achievements in the areas of methodological competence or economics are above average will receive half of the attainable points.

Applicants who have not yet obtained their final certificate and transcript will be deemed to have passed outstanding assessments in the interest of equal treatment. These will be counted with a mark of *ausreichend* (sufficient, a numerical mark of 4.0).

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<sup>1</sup> Please see the annex to the [Subject-specific Study and Examination Regulation](#) for the M.Sc. International Economics and Business degree programme.

The overall score is based on the sum of the individual assessments. If you have achieved **at least 120 points**, you are invited to the **aptitude test**. (If you have achieved a lower score, you will receive a rejection letter.)

### Aptitude test

The **aptitude test appointment** will be announced at least one week in advance and may take place before 30 June. If you are unable to attend this date for reasons outside your control, a catch-up date can be set by 15 September at the latest if you submit a request outlining the reasons.

The aptitude test is conducted individually for each applicant either in person or via video conferencing and takes approximately 25 minutes. It consists of:

- a **written multiple choice test** (max. 15 minutes) and
- a short **oral presentation** (5 minutes preparation time, 2 minutes presentation on a current economic policy problem).

The required basic knowledge includes, in particular, knowledge of microeconomics (budget theory, perfect and imperfect market equilibrium, Game Theory), macroeconomics (Keynesian theory, multiplier analysis, monetary policy, fiscal policy, general equilibrium, comparative cost advantage, Heckscher-Ohlin model, theories of international trade) as well as mathematics and empirical economics (algebra, differential and integral calculus, descriptive statistics, inductive statistics, econometrics). Applicants will not be tested on academic knowledge that is taught in the M.Sc. International Economics and Business programme.

The following three **main areas** are assessed:

- The suitability of your prior knowledge for the degree programme.
- Your ability to apply the knowledge learnt thus far to current economic issues.
- Your methodological competences in dealing with economic problems.

A total of up to 30 points can be attained in the aptitude test; a maximum of 10 points can be attained in each of the above areas. The overall score for the aptitude test is the sum of the points gained.

You will pass the aptitude test if you gain **at least 20 points**. You will be admitted to the master's degree programme when you pass the aptitude test.

## Application process

**Programme start:** October (winter semester)

**Deadline for applications:** 30 June

[Please apply online.](#)

If you have any questions on the application process or the aptitude test, please contact the [Student Registration Office](#), Innstrasse 41, 94032 Passau, Germany; phone +49 851 509 1127; e-mail [registry@uni-passau.de](mailto:registry@uni-passau.de).

## Information for new students

Please visit our website to find out everything you need to know as you're [starting out on your studies](#) and for information on the [Orientation Weeks](#). Please also watch our **videos** on the following topics:

- [At the start of the degree programme](#)
- [Semester cycle](#)
- [Important documents for your studies](#)
- [European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System \(ECTS\) and standard period of study](#)
- [Course types](#)
- [Language courses and placement tests](#)
- [Examinations](#)
- [Online portals for your studies](#)
- [Scientific methods](#)
- [Leisure activities](#)
- [Advice centres](#)

## Modules, module catalogue, overall grade calculation, courses

The curriculum is modularised, and each module carries a specific ECTS credit load. When you pass a module exam, you acquire the associated number of ECTS credits. You will also get a mark on your exam; however, this does not affect the number of ECTS credits awarded. As this master's degree programme comprises a total of 120 ECTS credits, you should aim to accumulate **approx. 30 ECTS credits each semester** to complete the programme within the standard period of study.

In the [module catalogue](#) you will find detailed descriptions of the content of all modules and courses, as well as any Module prerequisites and information on the examination format. There is no fixed sequence in which you should complete your module examinations; however, you should generally pass the introductory modules before attempting the more advanced ones.

As a rule, you will receive marks for all modules. The final grade for your degree is calculated based on the ECTS-weighted module marks and the mark you attain on your master's thesis. You may put a written request to the Board of Examiners to have the marks of two passed module examinations deleted. These marks are then omitted from the calculation of your final grade.

The individual courses for the modules can be found in **Stud.IP**, the University's learning management system: [M.Sc. International Economics and Business \(version WS 2023\)](#).

## OVERVIEW OF MODULES

The degree programme consists of seven module areas and the master's thesis (20 ECTS credits). In total you will acquire 120 ECTS credits throughout the programme. When planning out your degree programme, please use the [module catalogue](#) and check that the modules are applicable to the specific version of the [study and examination regulation](#) under which you are studying the programme.

### Module group A: Core Courses

The core econometrics, macroeconomics and microeconomics courses impart the central techniques required for the subsequent stages of your degree programme. You will complete modules totalling at least **25 ECTS credits**.

Course format	Module name	Type of assessment	WCH	ECTS
(L) and (E)	Econometric Methods	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Natural and Field Experiments	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Fundamentals of International Trade	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Micro Development Economics	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Advanced Macroeconomics	Written exam	2+2	5
(L)	Advanced Microeconomics (Game Theory)	Written exam	2	5
<b>In total: At least five modules.</b>				<b>At least 25</b>

### Module group B: Advanced Methods

In this module group, you will be acquainted with advanced quantitative methods in in-depth econometrics and behaviour-oriented courses. You will complete modules totalling at least **10 ECTS credits**.

Course format	Module name	Type of assessment	WCH	ECTS
(L) and (E)	Topics in Applied Econometrics	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Multivariate Verfahren/Paneldatenanalyse (This course is taught in German)	Written exam	2+2	5
(L)	Fundamentals of Business Analytics	Written exam	2	5
(S)	Applied Statistics Seminar	Written assignment	2	5
(L)	Advanced Data Analytics	Written exam	2+2	5
(L)	Computational Statistics – Regression in R	Written exam	1	3
(L)	Computational Statistics – Statistical Learning in R	Written exam	1	3
(L)	Behavioural Game Theory	Portfolio	3	5
(S)	Experimental Economics (Own Experiment)	Written assignment	4	10
(S)	Experimental Economics (Group Experiment)	Written assignment	4	7

(L)	Lectures in Advances Methods 1	Written exam or portfolio	2+2	5
(L)	Lectures in Advances Methods 2	Written exam or portfolio	2	3
<b>In total: At least two modules.</b>				<b>At least 10</b>

## Module group C: Global Economy, International Trade and Finance

This module group comprises courses on globalisation, trade and finance. You will learn about theories and apply empirical methods to understand human decision-making processes related to investments, location, trade and finance as well as their respective systemic interactions and ways of influencing economic policy. You will complete modules totalling at least **10 ECTS credits**.

Course format	Module name	Type of assessment <sup>2</sup>	WCH	ECTS
(L) and (E)	Advanced International Trade	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	The Empirics of International Trade	Written exam	2+2	5
(S)	Recent Topics in International Trade	Written assignment	2	7
(L) and (E)	International Monetary Economics	Written exam	2+2	5
(S)	Advanced Macroeconomics Seminar	Portfolio	2	7
(L) and (E)	Neue Standorttheorien – Regional- und Stadtökonomik in Theorie und Praxis	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Advanced Corporate Finance 1	Written exam or portfolio	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Advanced Corporate Finance 2	Written exam or portfolio	2+2	5
(S)	Advanced Corporate Finance Seminar	Written assignment	2	7
(L)	Lectures in Advanced International Economics 1	Written exam or portfolio	2+2	5
(L)	Lectures in Advanced International Economics 2	Written exam or portfolio	2	3
<b>In total: At least two modules.</b>				<b>At least 10</b>

## Module group D: Governance, Institutions and Development

This module group comprises courses on development, institutions and governance systems. You will learn about theories and apply empirical methods to understand development theory and policy; institutional design; the fight against corruption; ethics; fiscal policy and health economics. You will complete modules totalling at least **10 ECTS credits**.

Course format	Module name	Type of assessment	WCH	ECTS
(L) and (E)	Evaluation of Development Policies	Written assignment	2+2	5
(S) and (E)	Economics of Corruption	Portfolio	2+2	7
(L) and (E)	Population Economics	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Behavioural Public Economics	Written exam	2+2	5
(S)	Public Economics Seminar	Portfolio	2	7
(L) and (E)	Economics of Education	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Economics of Crime	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Health, Development and Public Policy	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Growth, Inequality and Poverty	Written exam	2+2	5

<sup>2</sup> The lecturer decides on the type of assessment used if the module catalogue provides for several types of examination for a module.

(S)	Development Economics seminar	Written assignment	2	7
(L)	Lectures in Governance, Institutions and Development 1	Written exam or portfolio	2+2	5
(L)	Lectures in Governance, Institutions and Development 2	Written exam or portfolio	2	3
<b>In total: At least two modules.</b>				<b>At least 10</b>

## Module group E: Business Administration

This module group includes suitable business administration courses that can be completed to complement the knowledge acquired in module groups A to D. Completion of this module group is voluntary. You can earn a maximum of **20 ECTS credits** in this minor module group.

Course format	Module name	Type of assessment	WCH	ECTS
(L) and (E)	Organisation Theory and Sustainable Leadership	Portfolio	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Organisational and Competitive Strategy	Written exam	2+2	5
(L)	Managing and Leading Strategic Innovation and Change	Written exam	2	5
(L) and (E)	International Accounting	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Reporting of Digital Business Models	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Advanced International Accounting	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Telecommunications Management	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Electronic Markets	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Organisational Behaviour	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Financial Statement Analysis	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	International Cooperation and Networks	Written exam	2+2	5
(L) and (E)	Lectures in Advanced Business Administration	Written exam or portfolio	2+2	5
<b>In total: A maximum of four modules.</b>				<b>Max. 20</b>

## Module group F: Foreign Language with a business and economics focus

You can acquire **10 ECTS credits** in one foreign language (business/economics track). Completion of modules in module group F is voluntary. The following [languages](#) are offered:

- Chinese
- German as a foreign language
- English for Business/Economics
- French for Business/Economics
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Spanish for Business/Economics
- Thai
- Czech

If you wish to choose **English, French or Spanish** (foreign business languages) you must furnish proof of proficiency in the relevant language entitling you to attend at least **FFA Advanced 1** (level C1 CEFR). If your prior university degree shows that you have a higher proficiency level than that required for FFA Advanced 1, you should register for Advanced level 2 ("Hauptstufe 2", CEFR level C2).

In **all other languages**, you must furnish proof proficiency in the relevant languages entitling you to attend at least **FFA Intermediate** level. If more advanced prior knowledge is demonstrated, you should attend the level that builds on that prior knowledge.

In order to determine your existing language skills, please take either a [placement test](#) or have yourself categorised by means of a language certificate.

Level	Course title	WCH	ECTS
Level 3	FFA Intermediate 1	4	10
	FFA Intermediate 2	4	
Level 4 (English, French and Spanish)	FFA Advanced 1.1	4	10
	FFA Advanced 1.2	4	
Level 5	FFA Advanced 2.1	4	10
	FFA Advanced 2.2	4	
In total: A maximum of one module.		8	10

## Module group G: Interdisciplinary Modules

In this module group, you can complete courses from other faculties on advanced methods, globalisation, international trade, finance, development, institutions and governance amounting to a maximum of **10 ECTS credits**. You will find suitable courses listed in the [module catalogue](#) for each semester. Completion of this module group is voluntary.

Course format	Module name	Type of assessment	WCH	ECTS
(L)	Interdisciplinary specialisation 1	Written exam or portfolio	2	5
(L)	Interdisciplinary specialisation 2	Written exam or portfolio	2	5
(S)	Advanced interdisciplinary seminar	Written assignment	2	10
In total: One to two modules.				Max. 10

### Abbreviations used

ECTS credits: Credit points under the *European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System* (ECTS)

WCH: Contact teaching hours per week during the semester

(L): Lecture

(E): Exercise course

(S): Seminar

CEFR: Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: [www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/cadre1\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/cadre1_en.asp)

## During your studies

### Studying abroad

As part of your studies you can [study or complete an internship abroad](#).

### Master's thesis

You will write your master's thesis (18 weeks' working time, 12,000 to 18,000 words in length) in German or English on a topic chosen from module group A, B, C or D. To be permitted to commence writing your master's thesis, you need to have accumulated a minimum of 35 ECTS credits during the degree programme.

You are awarded **20 ECTS credits** when you pass your master's thesis.

### Completing your degree studies

You have passed the master's examination if you have successfully completed all required modules, passed the master's thesis and acquired at least 120 ECTS credits. Once you have done this, you will graduate and be awarded the degree of **Master of Science (M.Sc.)**. You may put a written request to the Board of Examiners to have the marks of two passed module examinations deleted. These marks are then omitted from the calculation of your final grade.



At that time, you should send a [written request for your final degree documents](#) (i.e. the final transcript, degree certificate etc.) to the Examinations Office.

## Key competencies and career planning

With the so-called ZKK courses (ZKK stands for the [Future: Career and Competencies Section](#)), the University of Passau offers you a comprehensive range of transferable skills seminars and computer courses for free. ZKK also offers a wide range of careers and internship advice services (such as the [careers portal](#)) that make it easier for you to start your career later on.

## Voluntary completion of additional modules

If you earn more than the required 120 ECTS credits in your degree programme, these additional credits will be listed separately in your final transcript. However, the marks attained in these additional modules do not count towards the final grade for your degree.

Moreover, you can acquire various [additional qualifications and certificates](#). And all students enrolled at Bavarian universities can take advantage of the virtual course offers of the [Bavarian Virtual University \(Virtuelle Hochschule Bayern\)](#).

## Doctoral study

A doctorate is an important step if you are planning to embark on an academic career. Doctorates are particularly suitable for people who enjoy working in depth on a scientific question and treating it critically and reflectively. [Further information on studying for a doctorate at the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems](#)

# Important examination-related rules and regulations

## Study and examination regulations; module catalogue

- [General study and examination regulation for the master's degree programmes of the faculty](#)
- [Subject-specific study and examination regulation](#)
- [Module catalogue](#)

## Standard and maximum length of the programme

The standard period of study is **four semesters** (120 ECTS credits).

**The maximum duration of study is six semesters.** If you have not passed all required examinations after the sixth semester, you will fail the degree programme in the first instance; however, you will then be given an additional two semesters in which to complete the missing assessments. This period is not interrupted by a leave of absence or de-registration.

If you have not passed all required modules by the end of the eighth semester, you will fail the programme without the possibility of re-sitting the examinations. It is important to understand that this *endgültig nicht bestanden* status, which means “final fail”, also bars you from enrolling in the same degree programme at other German universities.

## Resits

You may resit failed module examinations (i.e. with a mark of *nicht ausreichend* or *nicht bestanden*) as often as you like. You may re-attempt a failed master's thesis *once*; however, you must do this with a new topic.

You may *not* voluntarily resit examinations for modules you have passed in an attempt to improve your mark/grade.

## Credit transfers

The Programme Coordination Office of the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems and the Examinations Office are responsible for the acceptance for credit of coursework and assessments (credit transfers). For the application form and other information, visit the [Examinations Office website](#).



## Cheating in examinations; plagiarism

If you attempt to influence the result of an assessment by cheating (e.g. plagiarism or use of unauthorised examination aids), the assessment in question is assigned a mark of 5.0 (*nicht ausreichend* [insufficient] or *nicht bestanden* [fail]).

When preparing written work such as seminar papers, master's theses, etc. you must do so in compliance with the [University of Passau's Rules for the Ascertainment of Good Research Practice](#). Such written work should usually be submitted in electronic form.

## Illness and inability to attend examinations

If you fall ill before an examination, you must decide before the examination whether you want to withdraw from the examination due to illness. You will need a medical certificate. If you become ill during an examination and have to abort the examination, you also have to provide a medical certificate.

In either case you must submit the completed [Inability to Attend Examinations Due to Illness Form](#) at the earliest opportunity. You should submit the form and medical certificate to the Examinations Office as described in the [information sheet on inability to attend examinations](#).

If you fall ill for a longer period of time during the semester, it may be expedient for you to take [leave of absence](#) for the whole semester. If that is the case, please seek advice from the Student Registration Office and the Advice Centre for Students with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses.

## Academic adjustments and exam access arrangements

If you have a disability or suffer from a chronic or psychological illness, you may be able to apply for [academic adjustments](#), including access arrangements (e.g. extra time for written exams). Please get in touch with the Student Disabilities Officer, who will be happy to advise and support you with your application.

## Service and advice centres

### Academic Advice Service

The [Academic Advice Service](#) staff provide general advice on all degree programmes and on questions that may arise during your studies. Please make an appointment if you wish to talk to us in person, by telephone or online.

Academic Advice Service, Innstrasse 41, 94032 Passau  
Drop-in hours: Wednesdays 9:00–12:00  
Phone: +49 851 509 1154  
E-mail: [advice@uni-passau.de](mailto:advice@uni-passau.de)

### Programme advisers and programme coordinators

If you have a more in-depth questions about your degree programme, please contact your [academic adviser](#) for the programme:

Dr Oliver Farhauer  
Room 219, Dr.-Hans-Kapfinger-Strasse 14b, 94032 Passau  
Phone: +49 851 509 2413  
E-mail: [oliver.farhauer@uni-passau.de](mailto:oliver.farhauer@uni-passau.de)

### Examinations Office

The [Examinations Office](#) has overall responsibility for all exam-related matters. Visit the Examinations Office website for important information and applications concerning your degree programme.

### Dean's Office of the School of Business, Economics and Information Systems

The [WiWi student committee \(Fachschaft WiWi\)](#) informs and advises students on all study-related questions. In addition, the WiWi student committee represents student interests in the University's governing bodies and organises the orientation week as well as extracurricular activities.

Innstrasse 27 (Business/Economics Building), Room 025  
Phone: +49 851 509 2404  
E-mail: [fs-wiwi@uni-passau.de](mailto:fs-wiwi@uni-passau.de)

All [advice services and student societies](#) can be found on our website.