

Communication and Journalism Research for a Sustainable Society (ComSustain) M.A.

Application period: 15 February – 31 March (winter term)

Semester start: October 1st (winter term)

Language(s) of instruction: English

Introduction

Are you interested in digital media? Do you care about the environment and making our way of life more sustainable? Would you like to prepare for a job that connects both, in communication research, journalism, media organizations, NGOs or the public sector? Welcome to ComSustain: Communication and Journalism Research for a Sustainable Society.

Study digital media, journalism and their role in socio-ecological transformations

Our program offers you a rigorous introduction into communication research and how public communication shapes and is shaped by the twin transformations of society towards digitalization and sustainability. The program combines a focus on research with the idea that communication can contribute to help society become more sustainable.

If you're interested in things like:

- How journalism and digital media communicate climate change
- How political and economic actors try to shape this process
- How artificial intelligence and digitalization are changing journalism, political communication and organizational communication
- How audiences are impacted by both technological changes and how our digital media system works
- How changes in political communication shape our democracies
- How social change is related to media change

then you're in the right place. As a ComSustain student, you'll confront and debate these types of issues and many more - at the #1-ranked university for sustainability in Germany.

ComSustain: the perfect environment to study sustainability

Just as important as the subjects covered by the program are the people you'll learn alongside: leading professors and motivated classmates from around the world. Professors don't just lecture – all classes will call for your active engagement. Hamburg is also an ideal city for studying

sustainability and the media and launching your career, home to many media organizations and NGOs and close to further media outlets in Berlin.

For further information please visit our website:

<https://www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/studienbuero-sozialwissenschaften/studiengaenge/macom sustain.html>

Admission Requirements

a) University degree (BA or equivalent)

You can apply even if you have not yet received your degree certificate. Please then submit your Transcript of Records by the application deadline on 31 March.

If you are admitted to the program, you must submit your degree certificate by the end of the first semester of your Master's program.

b) Proof of knowledge (through a Transcript of Records)

- Communication and Journalism Science: 6 ECTS, or two seminars if ECTS are not specified on your transcript

- Empirical Social Research Methods: 6 ECTS, or two seminars if ECTS are not specified on your transcript

c) Own empirical research work

Submit an empirical research paper you completed during your Bachelor's degree program, including an abstract of no more than 400 words that relates to this research paper.

d) Proficiency in English

- TOEFL iBT (Test Date Scores): 92 points, with a minimum of 22 points in each skill area (Listening, Writing, Speaking, and Reading),

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – Academic: Overall Band Score of at least 6.5 (Good Competent User), with at least 6.0 in each skill,

- Cambridge English Qualification C1 Advanced (formerly CAE),

- Cambridge English Qualification C2 Proficiency [formerly CPE],

- Cambridge English Qualification C1 Business Higher [formerly BEC].

The following documents may also be accepted as proof:

- A university degree in an English-language program (confirmed by the university) or

- Six years of English instruction at a German school (confirmed by the Abitur certificate).

Degree certificates and transcripts of records must be submitted in German or English. Please submit your original documents plus certified translations if original documents are not issued in German or English.

Applicants who do not document that they meet all of the entry requirements are not considered for admission.

Applications and documents submitted after the deadline will not be considered!

The legal basis for this regulation can be found in the Bylaws Regarding the Special Conditions of Admission for Degree Programs in the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences:

<https://www.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter/studienorganisation/ordnungen-satzungen/zugangsvoraussetzungen/wiso/20250917-neuf-zugang-wiso-87.pdf> [in German]

Recognition of transcripts for degree programs completed at foreign higher education institutions

If you obtained your first degree abroad, your certificate will be reviewed during the application procedure in the faculty of your program.

If your degree certificate is not in English or German, please include a copy of a certified English or German translation of the certificate with your application documents.

If you obtained your higher education entrance eligibility abroad, you will need to apply for recognition of your higher education entrance eligibility in addition to your application for a degree program.

You can find all information on how to apply for recognition here: www.uni-hamburg.de/vpd

Application

Online Application

You will need to complete the online application available on University of Hamburg's application portal during the application period: www.uni-hamburg.de/online-application. Please create a user account, enter your information online, upload the required documents to your online application and submit your application online.

The application procedure for the master program is an online procedure. This means that you do not need to submit any documents in paper form or via email to Universität Hamburg. Instead, you have to upload the documents. Selection is based on the information you provide online and the documents you upload.

If you want to submit an additional special application (e.g. hardship application), you will need to send this special application separately via the online application portal together with the required proofs as an upload by the application deadline. For more information on special applications, please see www.uni-hamburg.de/sonderantrag and www.uni-hamburg.de/info-master.

Documents to submit

The following documents must or should be uploaded as part of the online application:

1. An English-language written statement of motivation (mandatory). Please address the following questions in your statement:

- a) Do you have knowledge of the German media system? Please list any relevant courses or internships (e.g., a journalism internship) through which you acquired this knowledge.
- b) Have you engaged with sustainability issues during your bachelor's studies, in your personal life, through volunteer work, or during an internship? Please list relevant course titles and experiences where you acquired this knowledge.
- c) In three sentences, tell us why you want to pursue this degree program.
(Please answer each question in a maximum of 50 words.)

2. Research project proposal (mandatory).

Outline a research project that you intend to carry out during the ComSustain master's program. Write a short academic abstract of 200 words (in English).

3. Certificate of your first university degree.

If you are still studying when you apply and cannot yet provide a final certificate containing your final grade, please submit your current Transcript of Records confirming your provisional grade point average. You will then need to submit your degree certificate by the end of the first semester of the master's program (31 March).

4. Transcript of Records showing your current grade point average (GPA) (mandatory).

The transcript must include the titles of the modules and courses you have completed, your examination results and credit points earned, and your current GPA.

If you have not yet completed your studies, your transcript must be issued during the current term or semester.

If your transcript does not show your current GPA, the examination office/administrative body of your degree program must calculate and confirm it. Please attach this confirmation to your transcript.

5. Official explanation of the grading system (mandatory).

Applicants with university degrees from outside Germany must submit proof of their GPA and an official explanation of the grading system. Check your degree certificate or current Transcript of Records to see if the grading scale of your first degree is available there. If the grading scale is unclear on these documents, please submit additional, official proof of the grading scale for your first degree. This explanation must show the minimum passing grade and the highest possible grade.

You may also submit a Vorprüfungsdocumentation for your degree (e.g., from Uni-assist) if you have obtained one for another application.

For applicants from China, India, or Vietnam, submitting a certificate from the Akademische Prüfstelle is highly recommended.

6. Proof of knowledge in Communication and Journalism Science: 6 ECTS, or two seminars if ECTS are not specified (mandatory).

The following documents can be accepted as proof: module descriptions, course catalogue descriptions, or syllabuses. Upload evidence that clearly demonstrates your knowledge. These documents must be created by your university and must not contain any wording of your own.

7. Proof of knowledge in Empirical Social Research Methods: 6 ECTS, or two seminars if ECTS are not specified (mandatory).

The following documents can be accepted as proof: module descriptions, course catalogue descriptions, or syllabuses. Upload evidence that clearly demonstrates your knowledge. These documents must be created by your university and must not contain any wording of your own.

8. Own empirical research work (mandatory).

Please submit an abstract of no more than 400 words (in English) that relates to an empirical research paper you completed during your Bachelor's degree program followed by the research paper itself in a single file.

9. Proof of English language skills (mandatory).

Please submit one of the following documents:

- TOEFL iBT (Test Date Scores): 92 points, with a minimum of 22 points in each skill area (Listening, Writing, Speaking, and Reading)
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – Academic: Overall Band Score of at least 6.5 (Good Competent User), with at least 6.0 in each skill
- Cambridge English Qualification C1 Advanced (formerly CAE)
- Cambridge English Qualification C2 Proficiency [formerly CPE]
- Cambridge English Qualification C1 Business Higher [formerly BEC]
- proof of a university degree in an English-language degree program (if the language of instruction is not indicated on the degree certificate or diploma supplement, please submit a written confirmation from the university)
- Abiturzeugnis proving six years of English instruction at a German school

Applicants who, at the time of their application, are not able to prove their English language skills as listed above, must provide a proof of their registration for the next possible test date (e.g. print out of the online registration). In this case, the test result must be submitted for enrollment (not later)!

10. Proof of your knowledge of the German media system.

You may submit documents proving your knowledge of the German media system, e.g. syllabuses or internship certificates.

11. Proof of your engagement with sustainability issues.

You may submit documents proving your engagement with sustainability issues, e.g. syllabuses, internship certificates or volunteer certificates.

All documents must be submitted in German or English. Please submit your original documents plus certified translations if original documents are not issued in German or English.

Selection criteria

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available places, applicants will be selected according to a ranking based on the following criteria:

- a) GPA of your first university degree (50 %)
- b) statement of motivation (25 %)
- c) Outline of the research project that you intend to carry out during the ComSustain master's program (25 %)

For details of the legal basis for this regulation, please see the Bylaws Regarding the Selection Procedure and Criteria for the Degree Programs in the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences: www.uni-hamburg.de/campuscenter/studienorganisation/ordnungen-satzungen/auswahlsatzungen/auswahlsatzungen/wiso.html [German]

Admission and enrollment

Once your application has been reviewed, an acceptance or rejection letter will be made available in your STiNE account under the Dokumente (Documents) tab. Please see the information at www.uni-hamburg.de/online-application. An enrollment deadline will be indicated in your acceptance letter - please submit the documents required for enrollment by this date. The enrollment process is an online process. Detailed information about the enrollment process is provided at www.uni-hamburg.de/masterenrollment.

FAQ

Further information is available on our website:

<https://www.wiso.de/studienbuero-sozialwissenschaften/stichwortverzeichnis/comsustain-faq>

Contact

Uzma Mushtaq
Universität Hamburg
Fakultät für Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften
Studienbüro Sozialwissenschaften
Von-Melle-Park 5, room 1063
20146 Hamburg
Tel.: +49 40 2395-23980
E-Mail: Uzma.Mushtaq@uni-hamburg.de

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