

African Languages and Cultures/

Afrikanische Sprachen und Kulturen

Application information

Application period: 15 February - 31 March (winter semester) and 1 December - 15 January (summer semester)

Semester start: 1 October (winter semester) und 1 April (summer semester)

Language(s) of instruction: German and English

Introduction

The Master African Languages and Cultures is a research-oriented program with a strong connection to applied issues focusing on theories and methods in linguistics of African languages, language in African cultures and Ethiopian Studies. Graduates with an M.A. in African Languages and Cultures are well prepared for a position in research, education and consulting. By extending language skills in Swahili, Hausa or Amharic, or learning a further African language, you will extend as well your comprehension from local 'doing things with words' to traditional knowledge and philological methods in order to develop your own capacity of working autonomously with primary sources of language data, oral and written history, literatures, cultures, and religions in their relevant context.

The study programme envisages an obligatory thematic concentration on the following study profiles:

- (1) Applied African Linguistics: Language Education and Language Planning
- (2) Linguistic Analysis and Language Documentation
- (3) Ethiopian Studies
- (4) Language in Culture

Course themes and goals

The study profile *Applied African Linguistics: Language Education and Language Planning* offers advanced courses in all areas of language management, status and corpus planning and related field of language in education. A strong focus is laid on the aspect of societal multilingualism in Africa and its relevance to the educational sector but as well the informal

educational background of people coming from African countries. Graduates get the right qualifications for Africa related responsible jobs in education, governmental or non-governmental cooperation and international organizations. The languages of instruction are both English and German.

The study profile *Linguistic Analysis and Language Documentation* offers advanced courses in all areas of formal grammar and linguistic field methods. Topics include elicitation, transcription, annotation and analysis of linguistic data from un(der)described African languages. It also covers aspects of documentary linguistics, the production of linguistic-ethnographic records through annotated audio and video data. The languages of instruction are both English and German.

The study profile *Ethiopian Studies* develops and deepens the graduates' knowledge of Ethiopian languages, literatures, cultures and religions. It gives the opportunity to learn the philological method and to apply it to the texts transmitted in manuscripts. The students will be able to analyze texts in Ethiopian languages, both linguistically and philologically, and thus gain insight into such areas of knowledge as history with focus on ancient and premodern history, historical linguistics, religious history of Ethiopia and Eritrea, literature, and manuscript studies. *Ethiopian Studies* is primarily oriented to the study of linguistics, philology, history, and literature. It considers the oral as well as the manuscript traditions of Ethiopia and Eritrea. The language of instruction is English.

The study profile *Language in Culture* allows students with a B.A. in African Languages & Cultures or a degree in a similar program to improve their methodological skills and theoretical knowledge in the field of mono- and multilingual communication, language use and knowledge transfer in Africa. Language in culture and communication in African societies are treated from a broad perspective based on the insight that social interaction and collective transmission of knowledge in African cultures can only be comprehended by a deep understanding of language and codifications of verbal interaction. A focus of this study programme is laid on communication in multilingual settings and the construction of social meaning in culturally diverse societies. Graduates get the right qualifications for Africa related responsible jobs in the media, education, and in the field of documenting or communicating African cultures. The languages of instruction are both English and German.

Admission requirements

University degree

A bachelor's degree from a German or recognized foreign university in a major subject from African or Semitic studies or related fields.

If you have not received your degree certificate yet, you can submit this by the end of the first semester of your master's program. Please see the "Documents to submit" section below for details.

Additional special admission requirements

Certificate of linguistic knowledge in English at Level B2 (GERS)

Depending on the selected profile, the following admission requirements must be fulfilled:

Profile Language in Culture:

Proof of competences in African linguistics or African Studies with a minimum of 45 ECTS as well as competences in an african language with a minimum of 16 ECTS (language proficiency equivalent to 16 ECTS can be submitted on request until the end of the second semester). The proof of these competences is usually provided by a Transcript of Records.

Profile Linguistic Analysis and Language Documentation and Applied African Linguistics:

Proof of fundamental knowledge in phonetics/phonology, morphology and syntax of with a minimum of 45 ECTS as well as competences in an african language with a minimum of 16 ECTS (language proficiency equivalent to 16 ECTS can be submitted on request until the end of the second semester). The proof of these competences is usually provided by a Transcript of Records.

Profile Ethiopian Studies:

Proof of competence in Semitic, Philological, Christian Oriental or African studies with a minimum of 45 ECTS and basic knowledge of Geez (Ancient Ethiopic) with a minimum of 8 ECTS (language proficiency equivalent to 8 ECTS can be submitted on request until the end of the second semester). The proof of these competences is usually provided by a Transcript of Records.

For details of the legal basis for this regulation, please see the admission bylaws for your chosen degree program: www.uni-hamburg.de/zugang-master

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 Humanities.

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

German language proficiency

(Required for all master's programs taught in German or German and English. This section can be deleted if the master's program is entirely in English.)

If you did not complete your first degree at a German-speaking university, you will need to provide proof of sufficient German language proficiency when you enroll (not when you apply). This applies to all master's programs taught in German or German and English.

If you completed your degree abroad but obtained your higher education entrance eligibility (e.g., *Abitur*) at a German-speaking institution, you can submit this as proof (e.g., *Abitur* certificate).

You will need to submit your German language certificate by the start of the semester at the latest (1 October for the winter semester; 1 April for the summer semester). For an overview of all German language certificates recognized by Universität Hamburg, please see www.uni-hamburg.de/deutschkenntnisse.

Application

Online application

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

You will then need to print out your online application and submit it together with the following documents to the application address indicated below.

Documents to submit

Please submit uncertified copies of all documents. For documents not issued in German or English, a certified German translation is required.

- **Signed printout of your online application**

- **Degree certificate or provisional Transcript of Records**
If you are still studying when you apply and cannot yet provide a final certificate containing your grades, 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 your master's program.

- **Transcript of Records**
- **Curriculum vitae**
- short **statement of purpose**, in which you justify your choice of specialization.
- All applicants must provide evidence for **proficiency in English** (equivalent to B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)), which can as well be obtained at the language center of Hamburg University; English native speakers don't need B2 evidence.
- Where applicable required additional language certificates (paper copy)

Application address

Universität Hamburg
Asien-Afrika-Institut
Abteilung für Afrikanistik und Äthiopistik
M.A – Application
Edmund-Siemers Allee 1
20146 Hamburg, Germany

(At the same address—Department of African Linguistics and Ethiopian Studies—a publicly accessible mailbox is available.)

Please note that your application can only be considered if your complete application documents reach the **application address** by the application deadline. The date on which your application is received and not the postmark is decisive! This deadline is final; no extensions can be granted.

Please bind all supporting documents required for your application or ensure that loose pages are otherwise bound. The printout of your online application should be the top page. Do not use paper clips, folders, or transparent sleeves.

If you want to submit an **additional special application** (e.g., hardship application), you will need to send this directly to the Application and Admissions Team (Team Bewerbung und Zulassung) together with the required proof separately from the application documents indicated above by the application deadline. For more information on special applications, please see www.uni-hamburg.de/sonderantrag and www.uni-hamburg.de/info-master.

Selection criteria

If the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, a selection procedure will be necessary:

-not applicable-

For details of the legal basis for this regulation, please see the selection bylaws for your chosen master's program: www.uni-hamburg.de/auswahl-master

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 on applying online for a master's program for details of when this will become available: www.uni-hamburg.de/info-master. An enrollment deadline will be indicated in your acceptance letter—please submit the documents required for enrollment to the Application and Admissions Team (Team Bewerbung und Zulassung) by this date. Please submit certified copies of all documents—see www.uni-hamburg.de/beglaubigung for details.

Contact

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