



## Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia M.A.

### Application Information

**Application period:** 1 May - 15 June (winter term) and 1 December - 15 January (summer term)

**Semester start:** October 1st (winter term) and April 1st (summer term)

**Language(s) of instruction:** English

### Introduction

#### The Program

The International Master Program "Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia" M.A. offers a 2-year program exploring the languages and cultures of three regions: Indonesian and Malay Studies (also including The Philippines), Thai Studies (also including Lao Studies), and Vietnamese Studies. Furthermore, Thai Studies can also be studied as a regional specialization in the M.A. Program in Buddhist Studies. The first year of the program comprises eight compulsory modules and a range of electives, while the second year contains a semester abroad and a semester to write the concluding thesis. The modules taught in the first year explore Southeast Asian Literatures and Media in the first semester and Southeast Asian History and Society in the second. The module Theories and Methods that spans both semesters is aimed at forging a connection between teaching and research of the Department and will provide students with insights into a number of disciplines and research methodologies.

Students may choose one of the three regional specializations (Indonesian/Malay, Thai, or Vietnamese Studies), all of which are related to the research profiles of the Asia Africa Institute and the Department of the Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia. Our research spectrum includes such diverse fields as manuscript cultures, modern literature, history, religion and society.

#### The Objectives

Our program targets German and international students, particularly B.A. graduates of Southeast Asian Studies programs from around the world. The program is taught in English and applicants must submit a certificate of English language proficiency equivalent to B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Besides imparting intercultural skills, the program focuses on the languages, cultures, histories and societies of an important, culturally diverse and dynamic Asian region. In accordance with the high academic standards of the University of Hamburg, students receive rigorous training in one of the program's three areas of concentration: Indonesian and Malay Studies, Thai Studies and Vietnamese Studies. The M.A. program prepares students for both academic and practical careers



as well as for doctoral programs in Southeast Asian Studies. The M.A. graduate of our program will have a profound knowledge of the cultures of the Southeast Asian region, of at least one of the languages taught, and will be trained in carrying out independent research and applying other critical academic skills.

### **Admission Requirements**

List of all admission requirements as per the current admission bylaws

### **University Degree**

- Indonesian and Malay Studies:  
A Bachelors's degree „Sprachen und Kulturen Südostasiens“ (focus on: Indonesian and Malay Studies) or a comparable Bachelor of a German or officially recognized international academic institution
- Thai Studies:  
A Bachelors's degree „Sprachen und Kulturen Südostasiens“ (focus on: Thai Studies) or a comparable Bachelor of a German or officially recognized international academic institution
- Vietnamese Studies:  
A Bachelors's degree „Sprachen und Kulturen Südostasiens“ (focus on: Vietnamese Studies) or a comparable Bachelor of a German or officially recognized international academic institution

or alternatively for all areas of concentration named above:

a first qualifying degree of a German or officially recognized international academic institution with a minimum of 15 credit points (ECTS) in the field of linguistics, literature, history, society or religion in Southeast Asia. 3

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**

All applicants must provide evidence for proficiency in English (equivalent to B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)). English native speakers do not need evidence B2.



### **In Addition for the Named Areas of Specialization:**

- Indonesian and Malay Studies:  
Proof of competence in Bahasa Indonesia or Bahasa Malaysia with a minimum of 25 credit points (ECTS). Native speakers do not need a proof of competence.
- Thai Studies:  
Proof of competence in Thai with a minimum of 25 credit points (ECTS). Native speakers do not need a proof of competence.
- Vietnamese Studies:  
Proof of competence in Vietnamese with a minimum of 25 credit points (ECTS). Native speakers do not need a proof of competence.

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](http://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 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.

### **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-application](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/online-application)

Please create a user account, enter your information online, and submit your application online. You will then need to print your online application as a PDF document and submit it together with the following documents to the email address or contact indicated below. You do not need to submit paper documents.

#### **Documents to Submit**

Please submit one PDF containing all documents by e-mail to: [master-sea.aai@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:master-sea.aai@uni-hamburg.de)

- A copy 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.
- For applicants who are at the concluding phase of their first University education: If the relevance for Southeast Asian Studies of the profile in which you are completing your first university degree is not evident from the certificate, please enclose further certification. In the case of Magister students: Applications will be considered even if the Magister thesis has not yet been submitted or a grade has not yet been given, provided the applicant has been admitted to the final examinations.
- Curriculum Vitae
- A brief statement of motivation indicating the profile Indonesian and Malay Studies, Thai Studies or Vietnamese Studies.
- A Transcript of Records: a minimum of 15 Credit points are required in the fields of Linguistics, Literature, History, Society or Religion of Southeast Asia.
- Language skills: a minimum of 25 Credit points (ECTS) in Bahasa Indonesia or Bahasa Malaysia (Indonesian and Malay Studies), in Thai (Thai Studies) or Vietnamese (Vietnamese Studies).
- All applicants must provide evidence for proficiency in English (equivalent to B2 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). This does not apply for English speaking native speakers.

### Application Address

[master-sea.aai@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:master-sea.aai@uni-hamburg.de)

Please note that your application can only be considered if your complete application documents reach the application address by the application deadline. This deadline is final; no extensions can be granted.

If you want to submit an additional special application (e.g., hardship application), you will need to send this special application directly via the online application form 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](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/sonderantrag) and [www.uni-hamburg.de/info-master](http://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. 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](http://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 at [www.uni-hamburg.de/online-application](http://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](http://www.uni-hamburg.de/masterenrollment)

## Contact

If you have questions or require further information, please contact

### Indonesian and Malay Studies:

Prof. Dr. Elsa Clavé

[elsa.clave@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:elsa.clave@uni-hamburg.de)

Tel.: +49-40-42838-2762

### Thai Studies:

Prof. Dr. Volker Grabowsky

[volker.grabowsky@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:volker.grabowsky@uni-hamburg.de)

Tel.: +49-40-42838-3675

### Vietnamese Studies:

Prof. Dr. Jörg Thomas Engelbert

[joerg.engelbert@uni-hamburg.de](mailto:joerg.engelbert@uni-hamburg.de)

Tel.: +49-40-42838-2377

Last updated: April 2026