

Key data of the Master's program in Comparative European Ethnology



Degree: Master of Arts



Place of study: Face-to-face study program at the University of Regensburg



Study program type: Full-time or part-time



Standard period of study: 4 semesters or 2 years (full-time), 8 semesters or 4 years (part-time)



ECTS points: 120



Type of admission: Aptitude assessment process



Start of studies: each winter semester



Application period:

Mid/late April to July 1 for the winter semester

Mid/late October to January 15 for the summer semester



Application: electronically via the [Campus Portal](#) of the University of Regensburg



Language of instruction: usually German, partly English



Tuition fees: None (only [semester fee](#))

Study outcomes

The **Master's program in Comparative European Ethnology** at the University of Regensburg is aimed at those who wish to deepen their ability to understand, critically examine, and actively shape **cultural processes** at an advanced level. The program offers an in-depth academic engagement with **cultural practices, everyday cultures, and societal transformations**. Students analyze how people create meaning, shape social dynamics, and respond to global developments. In doing so, they acquire both advanced **theoretical knowledge and methodological competencies in qualitative research**—from ethnographic approaches and interview techniques to the analysis of visual and digital cultures.

The program fosters the ability to grasp complex cultural interrelations with precision and to communicate them clearly. Through **project-based work**, independent research projects, and numerous opportunities for practical application, students develop a profile that combines scientific reflection with professional skills.

With these qualifications, the M.A. in Comparative European Ethnology opens up a wide range of career opportunities. Graduates work in cultural management, museums and archives, media and public relations, educational and outreach contexts, research institutions, and in projects run by NGOs, foundations, or international organizations. They are also well prepared for roles in market and social research, trend and future analysis, and various consulting fields.

Examination regulations & module catalog

The Comparative European Ethnology program is based on the following examination and study regulations and the associated module catalog (these documents are the only binding source regarding the information published here):

- Examination and study regulations (provisional version valid from winter semester 2026/27)
- Module catalog (provisional version valid from winter semester 2026/27)

Application & Admission

1. What academic qualification is required?

The required academic qualification for admission to the M.A. program in Comparative European Ethnology includes knowledge and competencies in the following areas:

- Foundations of Comparative European Ethnology: theories, concepts, and methods | **30 ECTS**
- Cultural analysis and cultural research practice | **25 ECTS**
- Additional coursework in the field of Comparative European Ethnology | **5 ECTS**

As part of the aptitude assessment procedure, we first examine whether you meet these academic requirements. This evaluation is based on the documents you submit as well as the module catalog of the [B.A. program in Comparative European Ethnology](#) at the University of Regensburg.

The following applies:

- A maximum of 60 ECTS can be credited.

- **Admission is possible starting at 30 ECTS.** In this case, admission requires that aptitude is demonstrated in the second stage (essay) and, if applicable, the third stage (interview) of the assessment procedure.

2. What other qualification requirements do I need to fulfill?

In addition to the required professional qualification, you also need

- A **university degree** with a standard period of study of at least six semesters (180 credit points) or equivalent in European ethnology, cultural anthropology, or another qualifying degree program, with an average grade of at least 2.5. (A degree program is considered qualified if, at the time of application, competencies in modules covering the fundamentals of comparative European ethnology amounting to at least 30 ECTS credits can be demonstrated. For foreign degrees, the grade is converted according to the modified Bavarian formula.)
If you do not yet have your degree certificate at the time of application, you can still apply if you have already completed at least **140 ECTS** in your studies. Important: Your transcript must then show a preliminary overall grade of at least 2.5.
- **German language skills at DSH-2 level.** If you completed your bachelor's degree at a non-German-speaking institution and German is not your native language (verifiable by providing a copy of your passport), you must demonstrate your German language skills by passing the German Language Test for University Admission (DSH) with an overall score of at least DSH-2 or by providing [equivalent proof](#).
- If you did or do not complete your university degree (e.g., Bachelor's degree) in Germany, you will need a **preliminary documentation (VPD)** from [uni-assist](#) in addition to your application to the University of Regensburg.

3. What documents do I need to submit with my application?

You must submit the following documents for your application (the documents required may vary depending on the applicant):

- Your CV (in German or English)
- Your **Bachelor's certificate** including an overview of the courses taken and grades OR an official transcript of records. Documents that are not issued in German or English must be translated by a sworn translator and notarized.

- **Curriculum** of the underlying degree program (**module descriptions, course catalogs or curriculum**) (this information is very important for checking your academic qualifications)
- An essay written in German of no more than 1,500 words on the specified topic (see below). The essay is decisive for admission if you have completed less than 60 ECTS credits in Comparative European Ethnology in your previous studies; in this case, it must be submitted.
- A **declaration of authorship** for the research draft (insert link)
- **Proof of sufficient German language skills** in the form of the German Language Examination for University Admission (DSH) with an overall result of at least **DSH-2** or [equivalent proof](#) (if you do or did complete your bachelor's degree at a non-German-speaking institution and if German is not your native language)
- **Preliminary documentation (VPD) from [uni-assist](#)** for all applicants with a Bachelor's degree from outside Germany
- **APS certificate** (if you have a bachelor's degree from China, India, or Vietnam)
- Proof of (professional) training or further education relevant to the master's program (e.g., participation in film weeks, internships, etc.) (voluntary)
- A copy of your passport, if applicable

4. How do I apply?

You must apply for the Master's degree program in Comparative European Ethnology via the [Campus Portal](#) of the University of Regensburg (UR). Once you have created an account, you enter your contact details and information about your education and upload the required documents. The application is completely electronic.

Prospective students with a first degree (Bachelor) from outside Germany must apply for a [preliminary examination documentation \(VPD\) from uni-assist](#) in advance.

5. What do I have to consider as an international applicant?

International applicants – regardless of their nationality – are all those who have obtained their higher education entrance qualification and/or their first university degree (Bachelor) outside Germany.

At the University of Regensburg, the [International Office](#) is the first point of contact for all international applicants. Above all, it will help you with all questions relating to your application that do not specifically concern the Master's degree program. The International Office is an expert on topics such as university entrance qualifications, visas, health insurance, language certificates, and everything to do with studying, e.g., housing and financing.

The following applies to international applicants für the MA Comparative European Ethnology program:

Preliminary examination documentation from uni-assist (VPD)

If you completed or complete your Bachelor's degree outside Germany, you must apply for a [preliminary examination documentation](#) from [uni-assist](#) **in addition to your application to UR.**

Important: The application for the Master's degree program is not made via uni-assist, but via the [Campus Portal of the University of Regensburg](#).

This means that **you first apply for the VPD at uni-assist, and then you also apply via the campus portal.**

As an external partner, uni-assist checks your international certificates and confirms whether they can be accepted in the application process.

You must then upload the VPD certificate to the campus portal as part of your online application.

Our tip: Apply to uni-assist for the VPD **as early as possible, as processing can take 4 to 6 weeks.**

Certificate from the Academic Evaluation Centre (APS)

If you have a Bachelor's degree from China, India or Vietnam, you must also submit an APS certificate. The Academic Test Centres (APS) are service facilities of the German embassies.

There are APS centres at the German embassies in [Beijing](#), [Shanghai](#), [New Delhi](#) and [Hanoi](#).

German language skills

To be admitted, you need German language skills in the form of the German Language Examination for University Admission (DSH) with an overall result of at least DSH-2 or [equivalent proof](#).

Support services

Our [International Office](#) offers all international students a special program that accompanies you from the start of your studies to everyday life in Regensburg: "[Startklar](#)".

As part of the [iSTEPS](#) (International Student Employment and Progress Support) project, the International Office and the Center for Language and Communication (ZSK) offer you various events and counseling services to help you start your career after graduation.

6. Aptitude assessment process

Once all formal requirements have been met (in particular, a final or provisional overall grade of at least 2.5), we will assess your academic qualifications in up to three stages as part of the aptitude assessment:

Stage 1 (curriculum analysis)

We use your transcript of records and the corresponding module catalog to assess the extent of your cultural studies skills:

- With 60 ECTS, you are eligible for the program.
- With 30 ECTS or more, you will proceed to stage 2 of the aptitude assessment.
- With less than 30 ECTS, you are unfortunately not eligible for the program. In this case, you can apply once more for the program in a subsequent semester.

Stage 2 (essay)

We review and evaluate your essay regarding your knowledge and competencies (max. 20 points) as well as your methods and problem-solving skills (max. 20 points) in the field of Comparative European Ethnology:

- With at least 36 points, you are eligible for the program.
- Between 30 and 35 points, you will proceed to stage 3 of the eligibility process.
- With less than 30 points, you are unfortunately not eligible for the program. In this case, you may reapply for the program once in a subsequent semester.

Stage 3 (interview)

During a 15- to 30-minute interview (in German), we will discuss your professional qualifications and your understanding of Comparative European Ethnology. We will evaluate the interview in the same way as the essay in terms of knowledge and competencies (max. 20 points) and your methods and problem-solving skills (max. 20 points) in the field of Comparative European Ethnology:

- With at least 36 points, you are eligible for the program.
- With less than 36 points, you are unfortunately not eligible for the program. In this case, you can apply once more for the degree program in a subsequent semester.

Once your academic aptitude has been determined, the university's Registrar's Office will check the submitted documents for completeness. You will then receive your admission or rejection letter via the Campus Portal.

7. Essay

If you have completed at least 30 ECTS credits in cultural studies in your previous studies, but not at least 60 ECTS credits, we will use an **essay** in the second stage of the aptitude assessment process to assess whether you can be admitted to the Master's program. The essay gives you the opportunity to present your specific academic interests and your ability to work in a scientific and method-oriented manner.

The essay must be written in German and should be no longer than 1,500 words. Please attach a [declaration of authorship](#) to the essay.

Address the following topic in your essay:

"In the Master's program in Comparative European Ethnology, you have a certain amount of freedom in choosing your courses. Please explain a research topic in Comparative European Ethnology that you would like to explore in your Master's program. Structure your essay as follows:

- 1) Description of the topic and objectives,
- 2) Relevance of the topic for comparative European ethnology,
- 3) What knowledge and skills do you already have from your first university degree that will enable you to successfully research this topic?
- 4) Name modules from the module descriptions of the master's program that are related to your topic and explain what additional knowledge and competencies you will acquire in these modules for your research topic."

Note on the use of AI tools when preparing your essay

Please ensure that you use **AI-based writing and research tools responsibly and transparently** when preparing your essay. AI tools can be helpful for brainstorming or structuring ideas, but they do not replace your own academic work. Your essay should clearly show that *you* developed and formulated the argument.

Fully AI-generated texts without personal engagement are generally easy to identify and do not meet the requirements of an academic application. You may use AI tools as support, but not as automated text generators. What matters most is that your essay reflects your own ideas, your understanding of the topic, and your ability to work scientifically.

Admission and enrollment

The Examination Board of the MA Comparative European Ethnology and the Registrar's Office of the University of Regensburg (UR) will review your application as soon as possible. You will then find the official decision as a PDF file in the [UR campus portal](#).

If you are admitted, you will find **all further steps explained in detail in the letter of admission** (acceptance of study place, semester fee, enrollment).

The International Office provides [additional information on enrollment and the required documents for international applicants.](#)