



Frequently Asked Questions

Master's program "International Economics and Public Policy" (MA IEPP)

Website: maiepp.uni-trier.de

Please read the following document carefully before completing your application and/or sending further enquiries via e-mail. This document was last updated in April 2017.

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Q1: What is the GPA requirement? How does the German grading scale work and how do I convert my foreign grades?

A: In German universities a 1 to 5 grading scale is used, with 1,0 representing an outstanding achievement and 4,0 being the minimal passing grade.

The MA IEPP program requires an average grade of 2,7 or better according to the German system in case you have a BA degree in either Political Science or Economics. Otherwise, if the number of credits in both disciplines is below 60 ECTS credits (see Q2 below), but above 30 for each discipline, the program requires an average grade of 2,3.

Foreign grades can be converted to German grades using the “Bavarian formula”:

$$[(G \text{ max} - \text{GPA}) / (G \text{ max} - G \text{ min})] \times 3 + 1$$

G max – maximal grade according to the national grade system or to the official grade system of the home university

G min – minimal passing grade according to the national grade system or to the official grade system of the home university

GPA – grade point average of the Bachelor’s or Master’s degree

Example of grade translation:

The applicant comes from Belarus, his GPA of the Bachelor’s degree is 8,49.

The maximal grade in Belarus is 10, the minimal passing grade is 1.

$$[(10-8,49) / (10-1)] \times 3 + 1 = (1,51 / 9) \times 3 + 1 = 0,1677 \times 3 + 1 = 0,5031 + 1 = 1,5$$

The grade of the Bachelor’s degree according to the German grade system is 1,5.

Q2: What are ECTS credits?

A: The “European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System” (ECTS) is a standard for comparing the study attainment and performance of students of higher education across the European Union and other collaborating European countries. For successfully completed studies, ECTS credits are awarded.

1 ECTS credit point represents a workload of 30 hours (including preparation and homework).

One full academic year corresponds to 60 ECTS credits.

In order to obtain a Bachelor’s Degree in Europe, 180 ECTS credits (3 years of studies) are required.

Q3: How do I know if I have enough ECTS credits to apply for the MA IEPP?

A: As explained on our [website](#), applicants for the MA IEPP must have at least 30 ECTS credits or equivalent in Political Science AND 30 ECTS credits or equivalent in Economics.

There is no general formula for converting foreign credits into ECTS in an exact way, because very different systems are in use throughout the world.

However, a rough approximation is possible. As explained above, 30 ECTS credits represent one semester or half a year of studies. So ask yourself: Did you dedicate, in sum, a full semester (or 1/6 of all your courses) to Economics AND another full semester (or 1/6 of all your courses) to Political Science? If the answer is “no”, then please refrain from application!

Applicants who don't have the necessary Political Science credits but who hold a degree in Economics with a grade of 2,5 or better (according to the German System) may consider applying for the [M.Sc. Economics](#) instead.

Q4: What exactly do you mean by “Political Science”? Which courses qualify?

A: Here are some examples for courses recognised by us: Comparative Politics, Comparative Policy Analysis, Political Systems, Political Theory, Political Economy, Foreign Policy, International Relations, Research Methods in Political and Social Science.

But not every course dealing with Government and Society is “Political Science”. Courses in General History, Law, Philosophy, Public Administration or Social Psychology etc. are not an adequate substitute for the study of Political Science.

Q5: What exactly do you mean by “Economics”? Which courses qualify?

A: Examples for fitting courses would be: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Public Finance, World (International) Economy, Labour Economics, Environmental Economics, Political Economics, Industrial Economics, and Econometrics. Courses in Mathematics, Linear Algebra, Discrete Mathematics, Statistics, Probability Theory and Mathematical Statistics are also recognised.

Courses in Management and Business Administration are not an adequate substitute.

Q6: I don't quite have the necessary credits in Political Science/in Economics, but I am a strong and motivated student. Is there any chance that I will be admitted if I promise to take additional classes?

A: No. We are bound by legal frameworks which do not allow for such arrangements.

Q7: I fulfil the scientific requirements, but I am not sure if my first degree will be accepted at all in Germany?

A: Please check with the admission office (see [Q14](#)).

Q8: How do I provide proof of English language proficiency? What certificates can be submitted?

A: See [here](#). Please note that no exceptions whatsoever can be made from these standards.

All remaining questions related to language certificates should be directed at the Admissions Office of Trier University (see Q14).

Q9: Do I need a German language certificate? Do I need to attend preparatory German language courses?

A: No. MA IEPP is entirely taught in English. Proof of German language skills is not necessary. But of course international students have the opportunity to learn German on a voluntary basis during their stay. Please contact [the International Office](#) at Trier University if you want to know more.

Q10: Does the university offer scholarships for international students?

No: Trier University itself does not offer any scholarships to fund an entire degree.

The main provider for scholarships for international students is the [DAAD](#) (German Academic Exchange Service). All questions pertaining to DAAD scholarships should be directed at the DAAD itself. The DAAD has [local offices](#) in most countries around the world.

See [here](#) for some additional information on funding and cost of living in Trier. Please contact the [International Office](#) if you need further information.

Q11: Is the number of international students allowed into the program restricted?

No.

Q12: Can I apply for the summer semester?

We strongly recommend to start in the winter term as the course schedule is designed for a start in October of each year. If you join during summer, you might need to deviate from the [recommended course scheme](#).

Q13: When is the application deadline?

Please check <http://calendar.uni-trier.de>

Q14: What are the steps of the application process? What forms do I need to complete? Where should I send my documents?

A: A brief overview of the application and admission process for international students can be found on the [website of the International office](#) of Trier University (all steps pertaining to the proof of German language skills are not required with regard to the MA IEPP program, see Q9!).

Click here to proceed to the [online application portal](#). You might need to switch to the English User Interface (click the icon in the bottom right corner). There you will find more information on the necessary steps and forms.

All remaining questions regarding the application procedure and application documents should be directed at the admission office:

Ms. Anja Schumacher schumacher@uni-trier.de	Ms. Monika Genannt genannt@uni-trier.de
International applicants whose family name starts with: A-Gr	International applicants whose family name starts with: O-Z
Ms. Patrycja Chudzinska chudzinska@uni-trier.de	
International applicants whose family name starts with: Gs-O	
Office hours: Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. By phone: Monday to Friday 09:00 - 10:00 a.m Phone: + 49 (0)651 201-2715 (Ms. Schumacher, Ms. Chudzinska) and + 49 (0)651 201-2814 (Ms. Genannt)	

Postal address:

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