Master of Arts in American Studies

AMERICAN STUDIES
LEIPZIG
INTERNATIONAL SKILLS & GLOBAL REACH
American Studies Leipzig combines humanities and social science approaches to explore the society, culture, history, literature, and politics of the United States in their international and transcultural contexts.

At Leipzig, we take interdisciplinarity seriously: For your MA, you don’t merely add up classes in American history, literature, and linguistics. Instead, thematic modules integrate these different approaches to provide truly innovative learning and knowledge. The program allows you to focus on American Studies without requiring you to take an additional major or minor.

The Leipzig Model for American Studies combines classroom interaction, research-driven projects, practical learning, and professional training. It prepares students for personal and professional advancement by encouraging expertise about a critical region in the world, by practicing international and transcultural skills, and by building a well-founded confidence to engage professional learning and development beyond the university.

Two Professional Skills Modules help students to integrate research and classroom learning into project-driven applications of acquired knowledge and skills. Students prepare, for example, an international conference focusing on the United States in a global context. As part of their curriculum, MA students also edit one issue of aspeers, Europe’s first graduate-level peer-reviewed journal for American studies.

The Leipzig MA in American Studies is a fully accredited program per the EU Bologna Criteria.
THE PROGRAM

All the MA modules stress international knowledge, placing the United States in a transatlantic and global context. We work with colleagues in a wide variety of other fields, including sociology, literature, political science, history, religious studies, economics, journalism, cultural studies, as well as European and Latin American Studies.

Interdisciplinary teams integrate their expertise to offer graduate students modules that explore key themes in American Studies from different scholarly perspectives. Themes include:

- Difference and Literature
- Immigration, Ethnicity, and Citizenship
- Consumption, Culture, and Identity
- Comparative Religion and Culture
- Rethinking the Americas
- Political Cultures in a Transatlantic Context
- The Transatlantic Space

You can mix-and-match these modules to create your own tailor-made interdisciplinary specialization depending on your personal and professional interests and goals.
American Studies Leipzig is one of the most distinguished programs in Germany. The institute has been awarded several prestigious international professorships: the Fulbright-Leipzig Chair for American Studies (2003-2009), the DAAD-Chair for American and International Studies (2005-2007), and the Picador Chair for Literary Studies (since 2006).

The Institute for American Studies is also a leader in advanced research. It has received research grants from, among other institutions, the German National Science Foundation (DFG), the Thyssen Foundation, and the Bosch Foundation. We have a wide range of research projects that share common traits: They are interdisciplinary, international, and integrated into the classroom, thus allowing for many forms of individual participation by students. Themes include consumption culture, notions of Americanization, literature and society, ethnicity and identity, citizenship and immigration, and contemporary transatlantic relations.

DEDICATED SCHOLARS AND STAFF

With nine faculty members and an energetic staff, American Studies Leipzig provides a dedicated team to help guide you during the entire course of your studies. We like to say that scholars, staff, and students together are indispensable for each other. Together, they make up what we call the American Studies Leipzig Community.

americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de
Our MA program places you in the middle of a vibrant international community of scholars that pursues American Studies as a field of knowledge involving interdisciplinary innovation, transnational reach, and critical impetus.

The American Studies MA curriculum develops directly out of the research conducted by American Studies Leipzig faculty. MA modules thus tap directly into cutting-edge fields of American Studies research by being structured around core interdisciplinary issues at the heart of American Studies today.

The American Studies MA equips you with the critical skills you need to actively engage and contribute to this scholarship. Seminars and projects mentor you along your way of producing new knowledge. This type of advanced and analytical research positions you perfectly to continue on to a PhD Program, if you want. It also positions you perfectly to enter professional careers requiring sophisticated conceptual, analytical, and applied research skills.

To explore the Institute’s current research projects please visit www.americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/scholarship/research_projects
Leipzig is a vibrant, unique, and fascinating city of some 500,000 residents. Located at the heart of central Germany, the city is an important cultural and intellectual center where both the classical and the contemporary Germany meet.

Greatly contributing to Leipzig’s international and fresh atmosphere are more than 40,000 students enrolled at the city’s seven institutions of higher education, the biggest of which is the University of Leipzig with more than 30,000 students and a history of over 600 years.

Leipzig also offers countless possibilities for student activities, sports, culture, and nightlife. Many cities worth visiting, such as Weimar, Jena, Erfurt, Dresden, Berlin, and Prague, are in close proximity as well.

The city, dating back over 800 years, has developed a rich cultural scene making it a center of music and art as described in the New York Times on July 4, 2010. Thus names like Johann Sebastian Bach and Felix Mendelsohn are inseparably linked to Leipzig. In recent years, Leipzig has become known for the internationally renowned New Leipzig School of art connected with painter Neo Rauch.

Increasing numbers of tourists, among them especially Americans, visit Leipzig to explore its diverse history. Notably, Leipzig was the cradle of the 1989 Peaceful Revolution that led to the reunification of Germany and the conclusion of the Cold War.

On its “The 31 Places to Go in 2010“ list, the New York Times named Leipzig at number 10, ahead of Los Angeles and Shanghai.
... to earn a MA in American Studies at the University of Leipzig

There are actually a lot more reasons to earn a MA in American Studies in Leipzig, but those familiar with American culture appreciate how American society enjoys “Top Ten Lists”! And now for the list….

• **unique and fully-accredited-program** focusing on the society, history, and culture of a region critical for world affairs

• **advanced English** is used throughout the MA program for reading, writing, and speaking

• American Studies at Leipzig is placed in a *transatlantic and global context*, thus empowering students to acquire international knowledge and skills that are in high demand

• **fully integrated program** of advanced research, project-driven learning, and professional skills development

• Institute for American Studies at Leipzig enjoys an *international reputation* for scholarly excellence

• you are a key part of a *dynamic scholarly community*
TEN REASONS

- you are part of a **large international community** integrated within the University of Leipzig

- the University of Leipzig is **one of Europe’s most distinguished universities** (celebrating 600 years of existence in 2009)

- Leipzig is **one of central Europe’s most cosmopolitan cities**

- there is a **rich cultural, economic, and diplomatic American presence in Leipzig**, including festivals like Euro-Scene, Honky-Tonk, and Poetry Slams; companies like Amazon, DHL, and Price-Waterhouse-Cooper; and the Consulate for the United States representing all of central Germany.

To learn more about the uniqueness and advantages of the American Studies MA in Leipzig, we encourage you to **visit our website**, including the section entitled **Prospective Students** where we seek to address your concerns.

americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/prospectivestudents
Nadezhda Panchenko, Entering Class of 2010
If you are looking for a warm atmosphere and strong academics at the same time, ASL is a perfect place to apply to. One can learn a lot from friendly, yet challenging discussions during the seminars with committed professors. What I especially like is that the program offers a blend of sound theoretical knowledge and up-to-date practical skills taught at iCAN and iTASK.

Stefan Schubert, Entering Class of 2009
I’ve especially enjoyed editing the graduate journal *aspeers* and organizing the annual MA-level conference. Thanks to these hands-on, team-based experiences and ASL’s interdisciplinary approach to teaching American (popular) culture, literature, and politics, I feel that the MA program has prepared me very well for pursuing a PhD in the field.

Franziska Wenk, Entering Class of 2009
Next to the academic and practical courses taught during the MA at ASL, I appreciate the extra-curricula offers at the institute. With guest lectures, professional roundtables, readings, and film screenings, ASL offers chances to receive additional information in American studies as well as opportunities to network with a greater community.
WHAT CAN I DO WITH AMERICAN STUDIES?

The knowledge and skills that you acquire in American Studies prepare you for careers in media enterprises (newspapers, radio, tv, internet), diverse sectors of the service economy (e.g., consulting, public relations, tourism), companies large and small engaged internationally, education institutions, government offices, foundations, non-profit groups doing international work (e.g., environmental, cultural and education exchange, development work), high-tech companies, and cultural organizations (e.g., museums, theatres, libraries).

American Studies teaches and prepares you for ten of the top twelve skills sought by employers (ASL cannot help you with science and math). These skills are:

- applying knowledge to real world settings
- effective oral and written communication
- proficiency in a foreign language
- critical thinking and analytic reasoning
- ability to solve complex problems
- understanding cultural values and traditions
- understanding global issues and their impact
- civic knowledge and community engagement
- ability to be innovative and creative
- teamwork and collaboration

(List is summarized from the 2007 Report by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, “College Learning for the New Global Century”)
An essential part of what makes American Studies Leipzig such an interdisciplinary and international program stems from the sorts of students whom we encourage to apply for our program. Students come from around the world, and from wide-ranging disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, including literature, cultural studies, language studies, political science, history, sociology, and economics. We believe that diversity in background degrees enriches an interdisciplinary graduate program substantially, and contributes to sophisticated and complex learning.

Applying is very simple: Just go to americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de and click on the section for “prospective students”. There you will see a category called “applying and admissions”. All the information that you need is right there.

Please note that the deadline for international applications is generally mid-February; for students from Germany, the deadline is generally mid-May.

We strongly encourage you to contact the Institute with any questions that you might have. We will be very happy to help you. At American Studies Leipzig current and prospective students enjoy a comprehensive network of advising to assist them in all questions relating to the organization of their program of study. For help with your application or questions relating to our program, please feel free to reach any of our faculty members/academic advisors that can be found at:

americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/curriculum/student_advising/
PREPARING YOU FOR PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT