Modern China Studies in Freiburg

International M.A. Programme

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
Our Institute

Modern China Studies in Freiburg...

...has a clear focus on history and social sciences.
...combines language training and research into all aspects of modern China: history, politics, economics and culture.
...engages in public discourse about China in order to provide differentiated information and evaluations of developments in China.
...is actively involved in international academia.

Professors
Jun.Prof. Dr. Lena Henningsen
(Modern Literature, Culture, Society)
Prof. Dr. Daniel Leese
(Modern History, Politics, Law, Environment)
Prof. Dr. Nicola Spakowski
(Modern History, Society)

Academic Staff Members
Dr. Elisabeth Forster
(History, Culture)
Dr. René Trappel
(Comparative Politics, Political Economy)
Elisabeth Schleep, M.A.
(Modern Society and Culture)
Jennifer Stapornwongkul, M.A.
(Economic Development, Political Economy)

Language Teachers
Dr. Lanfen Guo
Dr. Li Huang
Lan Zou

For information about ongoing research projects, please visit our website and go to our staff members’ individual pages.
Why an M.A. in Modern China Studies in Freiburg?

1. A young and dedicated team with an international reputation for research and experience abroad.

2. An international program in which you improve your knowledge of Chinese and English as you interact with a world-wide community of academics and fellow students.

3. An integrated semester abroad – either at one of our partner universities or elsewhere. Tuition fees at partner universities are waived.

4. A focus on phenomena and processes shaping China in the 20th and 21st centuries.

5. Research-oriented classes, including the possibility to contribute to ongoing research projects (for example: “The Maoist Legacy: Party Dictatorship, Transitional Justice and the Politics of Truth”, or “Worlds of Reading in China’s long 1970s”).

6. A broad range of extracurricular activities: public lectures, grants, possibilities to work as a research or teaching assistant, language classes and language exchange, Chinese festivals, a large community of people interested in China, etc.

8. A lively and charming university town in the sunniest region of Germany.
What to Expect from the Programme

You...

...have a completed B.A. in social sciences and humanities
...have an English level of at least C1 and a Chinese level of HSK 4 or above?
...are interested in the positions of China with regards to contemporary politics, economics and culture?
...are interested in research on modern China?

Then the M.A. programme Modern China Studies at the University of Freiburg is just right for you! The focus of the programme lies on the modern history of China and contemporary China. It combines language training with research into all aspects of modern China: history, society, politics, economy and culture. The Institute of Chinese Studies at Freiburg University actively engages in public discourses about China in order to provide differentiated information and evaluations of developments in China. Freiburg’s various exchange programmes provide you with the opportunity to spend a semester abroad at one of our renowned partner universities worldwide, including Chinese universities in Beijing, Nanjing and Shanghai.

“During my studies of Sinology, I didn’t only get to learn about China and the Chinese language, but I was also able to acquire very useful, basic skills. I learned to question and analyse political and social structures and to apply scientific methods. Furthermore, through my stays abroad in Taiwan I can now adapt much faster and better to new situations.”

Raquel Lima Nobre,
Graduate
Improve your Chinese – and your English!

Both Chinese and English are among the most important languages of the world. While the programme’s language of instruction is English, reading and analysing Chinese language sources forms a key part of the seminars. During the first two semesters of our M.A. programme Modern China Studies, you will receive lessons in advanced Chinese reading and conversing from highly qualified and experienced native language teachers. Native Chinese speakers and students with a HSK level 6 can participate in special reading classes instead. Additionally, all students will have the opportunity to improve their ability to read and analyse Chinese historical and academic sources in reading classes accompanying the seminars. Furthermore, you will be able to improve your spoken English, and your academic writing by studying in an international environment and interacting with both fellow students from all over the world and highly trained academics.

“The Modern China Studies programme is a unique combination of courses on current issues regarding the PRC and advanced language classes. During our studies in English and Chinese we broadened the perspective through which we see China. The program not only improved my understanding of current happenings in the PRC, but also developed my Chinese reading and writing skills.”

Monika Lewandowska, Graduate
Your Way through the M.A. Programme

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In the seminars, students will explore aspects of Chinese society, culture, history, politics and economy in detail. Alternating each semester, there will be a master seminar on Chinese politics and economy or a master seminar on Chinese culture and society. During the first semester, there will also be a master seminar on theories and methods of China Studies, which will delve into academic methods and theories and apply them to a specific topic from contemporary China.

In order to gain a deeper understanding of the topics from the seminars, Chinese sources are studied and analysed in the Chinese language source reading classes accompanying the seminars. These classes will also help students to improve their ability to read and analyse Chinese original sources. Together with the language and reading exercises, they form the language training part of the programme.

Throughout the research and teaching design, students will learn how to structure research projects and organise lessons. In the course of their studies, students are supposed to either participate in a research project or teach a tutorial themselves. Alternatively, they can also do an internship, allowing them to gain practical experiences.

During their semester abroad, students can choose from a wide selection of classes related to China ranging from social sciences to the humanities at their host Universities.

The colloquia offer a great opportunity for students to not only learn how to structure and write academic theses, but also to present their master theses and to discuss them with their peers and one of our professors.
Study in China – An Invaluable Experience

The highlight of the Modern China Studies M.A. program is the term abroad in Nanjing or at one of our other excellent partner universities.

A semester abroad is a golden opportunity to use and improve your Chinese language skills and to make contacts with both Chinese and other international students. You will also gain first-hand experience with China Studies in China and Chinese academia. The semester abroad is a mandatory part of the Modern China Studies M.A. program at Freiburg University. During your stay in China you will attend regular university classes, for example in social sciences and humanities, as well as language classes.

The scheduled time for the term abroad is during the third semester. All M.A. students have a place guaranteed at Nanjing University. However, you can also apply for a place at one of our other prestigious partner universities, for example in Shanghai, Beijing or Hong Kong. A stay abroad at one of our European partner universities, such as Lund University in Sweden, might be especially interesting for Chinese nationals.

Both the Institute of Chinese Studies and the International Office will help you with information regarding scholarships and accommodation.

“The semester I spent at Nanjing University was a great experience, both personally and academically. I got the chance to see how sociology is thought on a Chinese campus, but also to meet both Chinese and international scholars and students.”

Michael Anclam, Graduate
At Freiburg University, you will be instructed by young and committed teachers. The goal of our program is to provide our students with a thorough knowledge of modern China. Our professors’ research interests influence the curriculum so that students will gain an insight into the research process.

**Prof. Dr. Nicola Spakowski** is interested in Chinese history of the 20th and 21st century. Her research interests include concepts of time, past and future, and questions of gender.

**Prof. Dr. Daniel Leese** examines, among other things, the era of Maoism and its heritage. One of his ongoing research project is concerned with the legal treatment of the crimes committed during the Cultural Revolution.

By contrast, modern and contemporary Chinese literature forms the main research focus of **Jun.Prof Dr. Lena Henningsen**: Among her chief interests are the distribution of entertainment literature during the Cultural Revolution and fake Harry Potter stories on the contemporary Chinese book market.
Ready for the Future

With a degree in China Studies, you will have access to a variety of different possible career paths.

A rising power on the world stage of the 21st century, China is becoming increasingly important in global politics. As China comes into the focus of the media, global political and ecological problems can no longer be resolved without it. For this reason, a variety of employers are on the lookout for personnel who know the language and who are familiar with country and culture. Graduates with a degree in China Studies are qualified for a career in China, Germany or any other country. Possible fields of employment are, among others:

- Academia
- Business Enterprises
- Research institutes
- Museums
- Media/Journalism
- Tourism
- Intercultural exchange
- Translation

You can make sure you gain useful career qualifications by choosing to participate in a research project, internship or teaching tutorial according to your future goals.

„I am currently employed in the human resources department of a major Chinese mobile company in Dusseldorf, Germany. I could especially profit from the many intercultural connections I made during my studies. The work with Chinese co-workers and superiors is easier, since I could make similar experiences during my semester abroad.“

Sebastian Krauskopf, Graduate
Practical experiences facilitate your entrance into professional life.

The Modern China Studies M.A. program gives students the opportunity to either do an internship, teach a tutorial for B.A. students, or participate in a research project. This allows our students to gain first-hand experiences in different professional environments, especially in academia. Students can acquire further work experiences by doing additional internships during the semester breaks. The Institute regularly supplies calls for internships over its mailing list and also maintains an internship database. There is also the possibility to work as a student assistant in the Institute or in research projects. With a M.A. in Modern China Studies, the way into top positions in the economy or in academia, including the possibility of a PhD, is open to you!

“Before entering the Modern China Studies program, I lived in China for several years and gained practical knowledge of the country. The combination of studying in a stimulating learning environment, found at the University of Freiburg and the University of Lund, where I did my semester abroad, and with the guidance of the best of the field, my eyes were opened on many aspects about China and beyond, including theory, methods, history, politics and culture. The skills and knowledge I obtained here together with my experience in the business field has opened many opportunities for me with companies which closely deal with China.”

“Studying Modern China Studies in Freiburg provided excellent opportunities to gain practical skills. The program offers the chance to work as a research and teaching assistant. Those experiences prepared me for my future professional career and convinced the GIZ to offer me an internship after my graduation.”

Simon Liang, Graduate

Tatiana Satronova, Graduate
Questions? Don’t Hesitate to Contact Us!

Counselling Service

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You can find more information about the Institute for China Studies on our webpage:

www.sinologie.uni-freiburg.de

Visit us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Sinologie.Freiburg

Application Process

You can find information on both the electronic and the written application process on the M.A. page of our institute:

www.sinologie.uni-freiburg.de/studium/master

Central Student Counselling

The Service Center Studium – the university’s central student counselling service – informs and advices on all questions that might occur before or during the course of your studies.

Tel.: +49 761 203-4246

www.studium.uni-freiburg.de/

Gemeinsame Kommission (examination office)

You can find general information on the M.A. program and the examination regulations here:

www.geko.uni-freiburg.de/