

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)
THEMATIC AREAS



Universität Hamburg

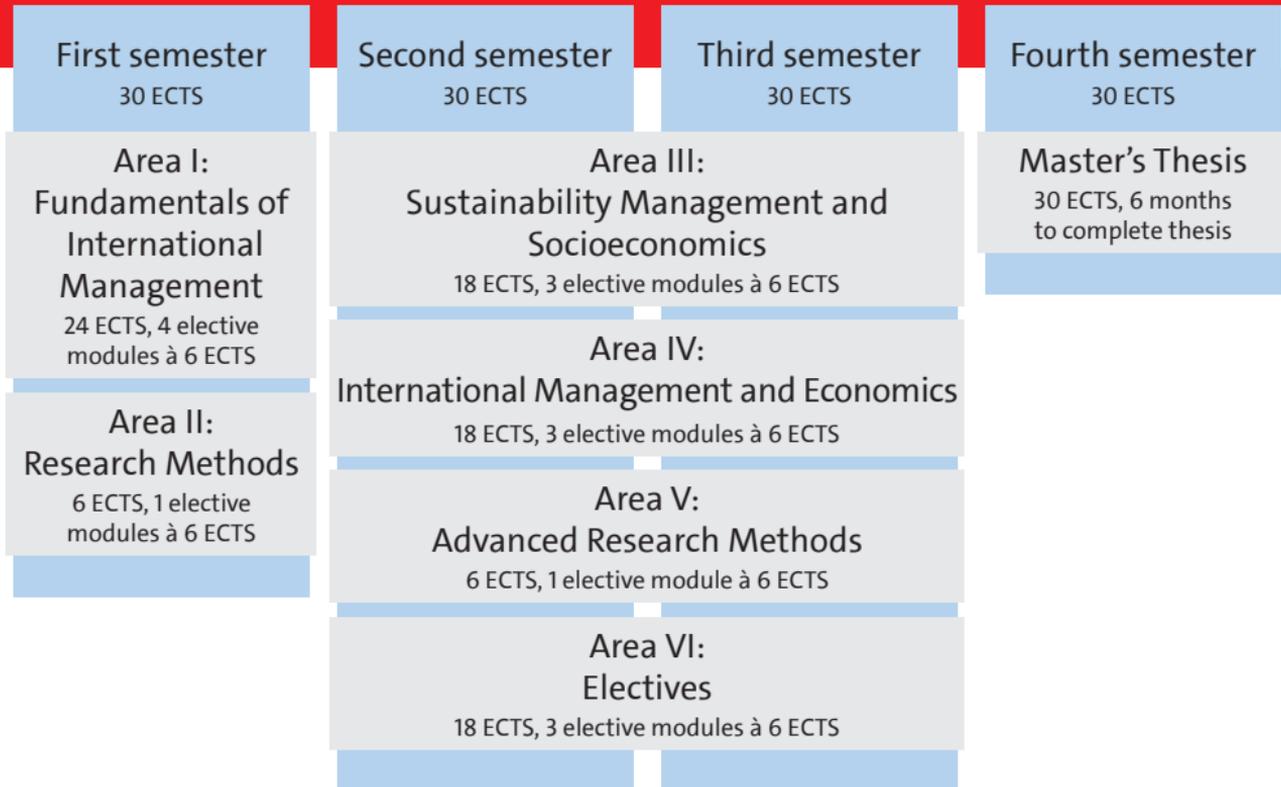
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

Fakultät für
Wirtschafts- und
Sozialwissenschaften

WHAT OUR PROGRAM OFFERS

The **Master of Arts in International Business and Sustainability (MIBAS)** is an english-taught master's program, designed to equip students with the extensive theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to master the challenges of sustainable and responsible management in business and society. The profound theoretical and methodological knowledge acquired in MIBAS prepares students for challenging positions in multinational companies and international organizations. It also opens the door to an academic career for outstanding students wishing to pursue doctoral studies.

In MIBAS, students from different cultural backgrounds come together to develop a common understanding of the complex interrelations of global business. The program focuses specifically on the ethical, environmental, social and political implications for today's business world. The MIBAS program offers a variety of subject options spread across six thematic areas and the final master's thesis.



AREA I

Fundamentals of International Management

Fundamentals of International Management is an essential part of the program right from the beginning. It is a substantial part of the first semester and includes the basic classes in international management and sustainability. Thus the focal point of our program is clear from the outset. To ensure our students, comprehension of this complex subject, four elective modules are required from this area, each focusing on a different topic essential to understanding international management. These include, for example, the introduction to CSR, international organizations, international market strategies, and sustainable management. This fundamental area of study amounts a total of 24 ECTS.



AREA II

Research Methods



In addition to imparting skills for management and corporate social responsibility (CSR), the first semester includes courses designed to equip students with basic methodological skills. These include the fundamentals of quantitative as well as quali-

tative empirical social research and the proper handling of academic articles. The students will have the opportunity to actively engage in projects to apply their newly gained theoretical knowledge in each of these courses. This module aims to impart key methods used in the critical analysis of data from the very outset of the program. A total of 6 ECTS is required in this area.

AREA III

Sustainability Management and Socioeconomics

In the second and third semesters, courses in **Sustainability Management and Socioeconomics** prepare students to confront the main problems associated with ethically responsible management of international companies. This area also provides crucial insights into the complex way in which business is embedded in society and examines the environmental consequences of corporate actions. Courses enable students to develop the skills required to generate sustainable values regarding business, society and ecology. One particular focus of this area is to enable students to recognize and manage ethical dilemmas in the context of sustainable corporate management. Three elective modules with a total of 18 ECTS are required.



AREA IV

International Management and Economics

The courses in **International Management and Economics** are also part of the second and third semesters. They are intended to help students develop specific skills in these fields, as well as to equip students with specific methods and instruments for managing international organizations. This area seeks to both

impart knowledge about significant institutional frameworks and enable students to comprehend the complex interactions that take place in an increasingly global world economy. Students must select three required elective modules to earn a total of 18 ECTS in this area.



AREA V

Advanced Research Methods

In order to provide students with sufficient knowledge of methods in accordance with the objectives of the program, additional courses in **Advanced Research Methods** are offered in the second and third semesters. These courses are developed and offered in collaboration with other master's degree programs. This module in particular prepares students for researching and writing their master's thesis in their fourth semester. Students must select one required elective module, worth 6 ECTS, from this area.



AREA VI Electives

In addition to the five modules of the core curriculum, students can also select elective courses that correspond to their personal and professional goals. This might include, for example, pursuing a particular area of interest or learning a foreign language. These courses may be chosen from either the MIBAS program or other master's degree programs. **Electives** are thus a very good opportunity to explore the rich course selection offered by the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences or to engage in one of the many exchange programs. The students must select three required elective modules and earn a total of 18 ECTS through these courses.



MASTER'S THESIS

The fourth semester is devoted to the master's thesis. Through this thesis the students are expected to demonstrate the scientific skills they gained throughout the master's program. The proper composition of a scientific paper is not only a substantial part of every university degree, but also the chance for students to deepen and broaden their methodological competence in a unique way. The students should find a field of interest, design a research question and execute their project independently. To accomplish this task properly each student will receive personal guidance from a member of the MIBAS faculty. For many students the thesis is also the beginning of an academic or professional career. The thesis is worth 30 ECTS, which reflects the level of time and intensity of supervision required. Students have six months in which to complete the thesis.

In order to successfully complete the program, students must pass the module examinations in the relevant areas and the master's thesis.

MIBAS WORLDWIDE

In order to emphasize the international focus of the MIBAS program, we encourage all our students to earn 30 ECTS in a semester abroad. The students will find a wide and growing choice of partner universities to choose from worldwide. To enable as many students as possible to engage in an exchange, the university offers a range of assistance for organizing and financing this experience.

The students usually spend the third semester at one of our partner universities. Many use this opportunity to examine their personal focus of studies from an even more diverse perspective. We also explicitly encourage internships in international companies. We consider this an essential experience to deepen the understanding of the potentially global consequences of local actions, and the obstacles encountered in everyday business. Through an ever-shifting frame of reference, the students have the chance to broaden their perspectives on management and sustainability in manifold ways.

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