

The Study India Certificate at the University of Muenster

In Germany and throughout the EU, India and the entire Indian subcontinent have continued to attract growing attention as a partner in economics, research and education, as a source of cultural inspiration and exchange and as a destination for tourism and trade in general. This development is taken up by the University of Muenster in the institution of a Study India Certificate as presented in the following.

The Study India Certificate at the University of Muenster offers the opportunity to specialize in the study of Indian culture, history, language, literature and society. Students do so within their respective degree courses by a) selecting courses and modules in their regular course programme which are flagged as relevant and eligible for the Certificate in the course announcements, and by b) gathering additional experience in the field including a minimum work load of further course work in a discipline other than their own course of studies as well as undertaking relevant practical activities. As a well-balanced package, the study and training offered through the Certificate will enhance students' overall qualifications profile and can thus help them to position themselves in the various job markets they may wish to compete in after finishing their studies.

The Certificate is brought together by a shared input from the following faculties at the University of Muenster: FB 01 Protestant Theology, FB 02 Catholic Theology, FB 08 History and FB 09 Philology.

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Prof. Dr. Klaus Stierstorfer (Coordinator)

Contact: Marlena Tronicke, MA
English Department
University of Muenster
Johannisstr.12-20
D-48143 Muenster
Germany
marlena.tronicke@wwu.de
+49 251 83-24651

Module 1: “Study India: Transdisciplinary Perspectives”

Contents and objectives:

This module provides an interdisciplinary perspective on the historical, theoretical and socio-cultural foundations of South Asian and specifically Indian culture. Relevant subject areas include questions of literature, culture, ethnicity, religion, gender and caste. By approaching these concepts from various disciplines, such as literary studies, linguistics, religious studies and social anthropology, participants will be able to study the Indian subcontinent in its unique and complex cultural diversity.

Depending on the courses on offer at any given time, this module will provide experience in the following skills and fields of knowledge:

- Development of an understanding of India’s diverse social structures of family, kinship, gender and marriage;
- Insight into the history and cultural practices of South Asian religions, such as Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Islam;
- Development of a critical awareness of theories of imperialism, postcolonialism and models of hybridisation;
- Introduction to the variety of South Asian literature and its reflection of cultural issues;
- Knowledge about linguistic variation in South Asia and the linguistic effects of cultural contact.

LP: 15

Workload (h): 450

Course type	Participation	LP	SWS	Assignments	Of which relevant for grade	Self-study
Seminar / Lecture	Regular attendance & active participation	7	2	Research paper	100%	30h
Seminar / Tutorial	Regular attendance & active participation	4	2	-	-	30h
Seminar / Tutorial	Regular attendance & active participation	4	2	-	-	30h

Duration:
no limitation

Status:
compulsory

Offered:
every semester

Alternative course choices within the module:

Participants can choose from different courses (marked with an asterisk in HISLSF) that are open to the Study India Certificate. In total, three courses are mandatory, at least one of which has to be taught by a department or discipline outside the participant's regular subject area.

Entry requirements:

BA students can as a rule only participate in BA courses (exceptions can be granted on application by a Module coordinator), while MA students can participate in all Certificate courses.

Weighting of module grade in calculation of final Certificate grade:

100%

Module coordinators:

Prof. Dr. Helene Basu, Prof. Dr. Perry Schmidt-Leukel, Prof. Dr. Klaus Stierstorfer, Prof. Dr. Annette Wilke

Module 2: “Study India: Cultures in Contact”

Contents and objectives:

This module aims at bringing participants into contact with South Asian and specifically Indian culture and thereby providing a ‘practical’ perspective on the historical, theoretical and socio-cultural foundations as developed in Module 1, “Transdisciplinary Perspectives.” Participants may choose from a wide range of cultural activities, either in India or at home in Germany, and thus gain some substantial experience of the richness of South Asian culture.

LP: 10 (100 Practice Points)

Workload (h): 300

List of activities (non-exclusive)	PP	Assignments	Of which relevant for module grade
Stay in India (internship or study)	100	Documentation and reflection in a module portfolio	100%
Pass a language course (in a South Asian language)	100		
Attend a conference related to South Asian culture or society	50		
Read an Indian online newspaper for three months with reading log / blog	25		
Watch ten South Asian films	25		
Document reading of five novels by South Asian authors and/or concerned with South Asian culture with reading log/blog	25		
Attend a talk	5		
Visit an exhibition	5		
Attend a cultural event	5		
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Duration:
no limitation

Status:
compulsory

Offered:
every semester

Alternative choices within the module:

Students choose from a non-exclusive list of various cultural activities which are weighted differently according to their respective workload. Overall, 100 practice points (PP), an

equivalent of 10 LP, need to be acquired. All activities are to be documented in a module portfolio. Further additions to the above list are possible on the advice of one of the module coordinators.

Entry requirements:

none

Weighting of module grade in calculation of final Certificate grade:

0%

Module coordinators:

Prof. Dr. Helene Basu, Prof. Dr. Perry Schmidt-Leukel, Prof. Dr. Mark Stein, Prof. Dr. Klaus Stierstorfer, Prof. Dr. Annette Wilke