Admissions

Who should apply

- Graduates in the humanities and social sciences wishing to pursue an academic career or a profession that demands a sophisticated grasp of literary and cultural theory.

Prerequisites

- Bachelor’s degree or comparable diploma from an institution of higher learning
- Enthusiasm for theoretical inquiry and methodological rigor
- Dedication and ability to work independently
- Proficiency in the German language (DSH)

For further information see:

www.theoriemaster.de

Contact

For further information on the master’s program in Literary and Cultural Theory at the University of Tübingen, please contact:

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Master's Program in Literary and Cultural Theory

In the winter term 2007–2008, the University of Tübingen has successfully launched a master's program in Literary and Cultural Theory. The two-year program is directed at exceptionally talented postgraduates in literature and related disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. With its research-oriented approach, it offers ideal preparation for beginning a dissertation or pursuing other academic interests. At the same time, the M.A. serves as an impressive credential for those aspiring to text-centered professions outside the university, whether in industry, the public sector, media, or the arts.

Compact and closely supervised, the master's program in Literary and Cultural Theory offers an interdisciplinary and international environment that allows students to address ideas in cultural and literary studies spanning the entire spectrum of current theoretical discussion in only four semesters. The program is part of the university's Faculty of Humanities, one of its largest faculties, with an outstanding reputation both in Germany and abroad. With its large number of schools and institutes, the university provides access to a diverse array of course offerings across disciplines. Comprehensive departmental libraries and a well-equipped central library offer optimum conditions for intensive study within the master's program framework.

The Eberhard Karls University, founded in 1477, is located in and around the picturesque medieval town of Tübingen, with exceptional shopping and nightlife. Surrounded by forest and idyllic farms and orchards, the city boasts hundreds of kilometers of biking, hiking, and jogging trails and is only three hours by car from the Alps.

Areas of Specialization

The field of research addressed by the master's program is divided into four modules, with students required to take courses from each. In accordance with previous experience and research interests, each student then selects a module to serve as an area of specialization:

- **Textual theory, aesthetics, interpretation:** History and systems of aesthetics, ethics and aesthetics, theories of genre, literary theories, hermeneutics
- **Cultures of knowledge and the history of knowledge:** Histories of literature and science, textualization of knowledge, history of ideas and disciplines, gender studies, ecocriticism
- **Media aesthetics and history of media:** Orality and textuality, history of the book, literature and film, literature in the media, media history including new and digital media, hypertext and hyperfiction
- **Literature and interculturality:** Comparative studies of literature and culture, alterity studies, intercultural gender studies, cultural hybridity, postcolonial studies, literature of migration

An additional project module encourages students to acquire hands-on research experience — for example, by mounting an exhibition, placing an article in a scholarly journal, or organizing a symposium.

Advantages

- Individual mentoring by two faculty members who advise and support students throughout the two-year program
- Close faculty supervision of student research
- Rapid integration into research projects as students quickly gain theoretical knowledge and learn its practical implementation through project modules
- Accelerated training for academic careers — the master's program anticipates Ph.D. course requirements
- Effective preparation for writing a master's thesis that can lay the groundwork for a dissertation
- Instructors and lecturers drawn from Europe and overseas provide a far-reaching professional network
- An opportunity to gain outstanding competence in textual analysis, along with extensive theoretical training applicable in non-academic professions