



Studying MA Global East Asia (MAGEA)

MAGEA Team

Academic Advisors:

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Program Coordinator:

Susanne Ebermann: global-east-asia@geschkult.fu-berlin.de

Overview

The path to a master's degree.

It takes ...

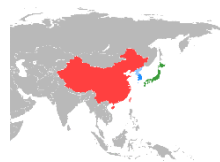
... 4 semesters (standard period of study)

... 10 successfully passed modules (1-2 courses each)

... 120 credit points (of which 30 credit points in the final phase)

... 1 master thesis (15,000-18,000 words)

Program Structure



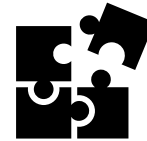
Integrative Area	Area of Specialization (with three regional specializations)	Complementary Area
35 Credit Points	30 Credit Points	30 Credit Points
	Master's thesis (25 Credit Points)	



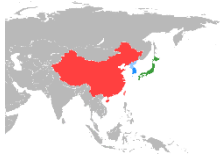
Integrative Area

Modules (35 Credit Points)	Modes of instruction
Introduction to Contemporary History and Discourses in East Asia	Lecture Methodology course
Introduction to Research Fields in Global East Asia	Seminar Methodology course
Interdisciplinary Methods	Seminar Methodology course
Research Project	Colloquium

Program Structure



Integrative Area	Area of Specialization (with three regional specializations)	Complementary Area
35 Credit Points	30 Credit Points	30 Credit Points
Master's thesis (25 Credit Points)		



Area of Specialization

Area of Specialization (30 Credit Points)

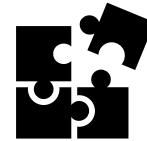
3 modules (2 courses each) from the course offerings in Japanese Studies, Chinese Studies and Korean Studies

In one field, it is possible to take 2 modules as specialization, e.g. 2 modules in Korean Studies and the third module in Japanese Studies.

Courses provide central topics and discourses of cultural or social science studies from each field



Program Structure



Integrative Area	Area of Specialization (with three regional specializations)	Complementary Area
35 Credit Points	30 Credit Points	30 Credit Points
Master's thesis (25 Credit Points)		



Complementary Area

Three Modules (10 Credit Points each):

Complete modules from other master's programs in our Department (e.g. Global History)

or/and

A language module from bachelor's or master's programs on East Asia (depending on your language level)

or/and

A module from courses offered by other departments or universities (also from abroad)

Program Language

Mandatory core seminars in the integrative area are held in English

In the specialization and complementary areas, students can choose from a variety of courses, both in English and German



Additional Services at Freie Universität Berlin

- **Graduate School of East Asian Studies (GEAS)**

- Joint activities, e.g.
 - Joint colloquium, seminars
 - “Stammtisch” lectures, organized by PhDs

Graduate School of
East Asian Studies



- **Campus Library**

- Extensive book collection
- Direct contact person in the library

- **Study Abroad**

- A recommended time for studying abroad is during the 3rd semester of study
- Transfer of credit points are possible
- Scholarships are available for Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan/Hong Kong, and globally

Application

Application period for a start in October 2026:

April 15, 2026 – May 31, 2026

Application period for higher semester applications and start in April 2026:

December 1, 2025 – January 15, 2026

How to apply: All applications have to be submitted via FU-Application Portal
HISinOne <https://fu-berlin.hispro.de/>

HISinOne 

Admission

Important Note

Students holding a **degree from a university outside of Germany** must first apply for a **preliminary review documentation (VPD)** through [uni-assist](#). Please note that this procedure may take **4–6 weeks**.

After receiving the VPD, applicants apply directly via the application platform of Freie Universität Berlin [HISinOne](#) during the general application period. The VPD and all other required application materials will be uploaded there. [More about the VPD](#)

Prerequisites

First university degree	English language skills	Proof of proficiency
Bachelor's degree comprising of at least 180 credit points (ECTS)	University degree in a program where English is the language of instruction	In one of the following languages: Chinese, Japanese, Korean
At least 30 ECTS in courses in East Asian Studies and/or Chinese, Japanese or Korean studies (excluding language training)	<i>or</i> At least level C1 CEFR	At least level B1 CEFR or equivalent
Applicants must prove all necessary language skills upon application – a preliminary admission is not possible.		

Prerequisites

Can I apply without my bachelor's certificate in hand?

Yes, if you provide official, provisional documentation from the examination office of your university or faculty that includes a **preliminary final grade** and certifies that you have already earned **at least two-thirds of the necessary credit points**. It is not sufficient to calculate the preliminary final grade yourself. The certification must be handed in by the application deadline or your application will not be considered.

Application documents

Is an application for the VPD at uni-assist equivalent to an application for admission?

No, the application for the [VPD](#) at uni-assist does not replace an application for admission to Freie Universität Berlin. The [VPD](#) is only an evaluation of your certificates and must be uploaded as a document to the Freie Universität Berlin application portal during the official application period.

Application documents

When can I apply for a VPD and how much processing time should I expect for the VPD?

You can apply for a VPD at any time, regardless of our application deadlines. It is valid for one year after issuance.

The procedure may take **4–6 weeks**, or even longer during peak periods. We therefore strongly recommend that you submit your VPD application to uni-assist as early as possible, and well before the application deadline of Freie Universität.

Application documents

Does my application have to include a personal statement, letter of motivation or a letter of recommendation?

Yes. We recommend that all applications include a self-written statement of motivation of no more than 600 words. Letters of recommendation are not required and will not be considered.

Letter of Admission

When can I expect to receive feedback or a letter of admission to the program after submitting my application?

Successful applicants can expect to receive their admission letter by mid/end-June.

Scholarships

Are scholarships available for the MAGEA program?

There are no specific scholarships for the program, but students can apply for funding independently. A variety of German organizations and foundations offer scholarships for international students in Germany. Each year, several international students of Freie Universität apply successfully for funding from such programs. The DAAD site can help you find a scholarship that fits your personal profile.

Tuition Fees

Do I have to pay tuition fees?

The MAGEA program is tuition-free. Fees for registering as a student of Freie Universität Berlin currently run at around €300-350 per semester (including free use of the Berlin public transportation system). For more information about the exact fees, see the website of the [student administration](#).

Program Start

When will the courses start in the Winter term 2026/27?

The winter term begins on **October 1**, with courses starting on **October 12**.

However, the on-site introduction session for the MAGEA program will likely take place in the **first week of October**. Additionally, the language placement tests for students interested in Chinese, Korean, or Japanese courses will also be held during the first week of October.

Contact

Coordinator: Susanne Ebermann

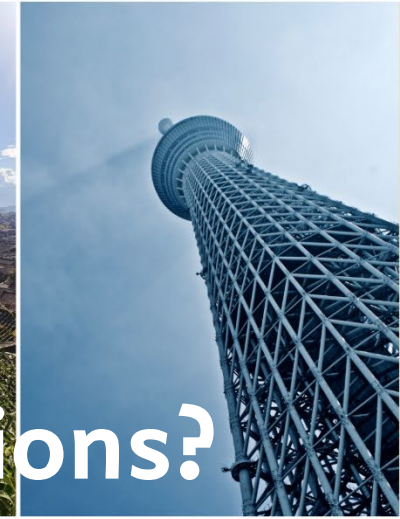
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Phone: +49 30 838 75034

Also visit our website: www.fu-berlin.de/magea

Further questions?

Ask us!



Questions?

Documenting your English language proficiency

- A university degree with English as the primary language of instruction, as evidenced by either the designation of English as the language of instruction on the transcript or transcript supplement (please make this clear in your application materials), or a certificate from the university.
- University entrance qualification from an English-speaking country/English as the language of instruction
- language certificates by university language departments (C1 level)
- confirmation of completed C1 level language courses (taken at a university or a public/private language school).
- Recognized language certificates with corresponding minimum scoring:
 - IELTS (General or Academic): overall score at least 7.0 (C1)
 - TOEFL Internet-based iBT or iBT Special Home Edition: overall score 95 or higher, at least 25 in writing
 - Cambridge Examinations: C2 Proficiency, C1 Advanced, B2 First (A): overall score at least 180
 - UNIcert® (level III or higher)
 - PTE Academic (also online): overall score at least 76
 - Erasmus Language Tests (C1 level)

Documenting your English language proficiency

Language certificates that are not recognized (among others):

- German high school diploma/Abitur (according to the FU language department, this is only equivalent to B2 level)
- OPIC
- Duolingo
- Other non-academic English test certificates

Documenting your proficiency in a program-related language

Chinese

- HSK4
- A university entrance qualification in Chinese or a university degree with a curriculum taught in Chinese.

Japanese

- JLPT N3
- A university degree with a curriculum taught in Japanese

Korean

- TOPIC 3; KLAT 3
- A university degree with a curriculum taught in Korean

Please also see our website for further possibilities and/or inquire with us your case.