

Border Studies, M.A.

Subject outline to map out the study programme profile

Responsible faculty

Human and Business Sciences, in cooperation with Humanities

Responsible department

Department of Social-Scientific European Studies

Degree qualification

M.A.

Standard period of study

4 semesters

Parallel to this outline, a very comprehensive study program documentation was submitted to the University of Luxembourg within the framework of the "Request for approval of a new study program 'Master in Border Studies'" (Ulu). In the case of identical or similar questions in this outline, the information was taken verbatim from the Ulu documentation. This documentation, which is attached to this outline, provides very detailed information about the study programme. Furthermore, reference is made to the agreement on the cooperation between the Technical University of Kaiserslautern-Landau, the University of Lothringen, the University of Luxembourg and the University of Saarland in the Joint Cross-Border Master Programme Border Studies as well as to the Joint Study Regulations for the 'Master programme in Border Studies'.

Study programme information	
Degree qualification and title (degree title, e.g. Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Bachelor's degree <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master's degree Master of Arts <input type="checkbox"/> State examination <input type="checkbox"/> Other: (Staatsexamen)
ECTS credits	120
Subject type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single subject <input type="checkbox"/> Main subject <input type="checkbox"/> Extended main subject <input type="checkbox"/> Subsidiary subject <input type="checkbox"/> Supplementary subject <input type="checkbox"/> Other: subject
Elective areas of specialization, if applicable	
Degree programme category (only for Master's)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consecutive <input type="checkbox"/> Professional development
Profile (only for Master's) ¹	<input type="checkbox"/> geared towards research <input type="checkbox"/> geared towards (professional) practice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> geared on research as well as (professional) practice
Type of study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joint degree <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple degree <input type="checkbox"/> In-person ² <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Blended learning / online ³ Click or type here to enter text.
Standard period of study	Standard period of study for full-time study: 4 semesters The standard period of study listed is based on the standard study programme structure when studied on a full-time basis. In principle it is possible to structure the study programme on a part-time basis. This will then change the standard period of study.
Cooperation partnership(s) with other higher education institutions (incl. location of study)	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes In the context of the association „University of the Greater Region UniGR“: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Université de Lorraine (Metz)

¹ For further informations, please take into account: [Specimen Decree \(MRVO\)](#), Section 5 admission requirements and transitions between study programmes.

² This includes study programmes with occasional online/blended learning components.

³ For professional development study programmes, both online and blended learning formats are to be classed as distance-learning programmes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• University of Luxembourg• Technical University Kaiserslautern-Landau <p>The program is also funded by the Franco-German University (DFH). It was positively evaluated by the DFH in 2020/21 and thus funded for another four years.</p>
<p>Subject to fees (applies only to Professional Development Offers)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>As part of the DFH funding, students receive a monthly allowance of 300 euros during their mobility phase (i.e. while studying at the partner universities abroad). In addition, students receive access to language training and other continuing education and training opportunities offered by the DFH. The departments/teaching units of the UdS and the Université de Lorraine also receive an infrastructure allowance from the DFH, which is used in particular for social activities with the students and networking among the partners of the study programme.</p>

**Information about the content of the study programme and learning outcomes
(as per Diploma Supplement)**

This Master in Border Studies is dedicated to the acquisition of major concepts and analytical tools in the field of Border Studies from a multi- and interdisciplinary perspective. Students should acquire theoretical knowledge on border problems, border culture, border literature and „otherness“. This theoretical basis will be completed by concepts of regional knowledge and strategies to mobilize them for applied research questions.

The main learning outcomes will enable students to:

- critically analyze and theorize border regions, as well as to consider borders as complex spatial, political, economic, social and culture processes (re-/ de-bordering);
- understand and comment on the social, cultural, political and economic challenges of border regions and cross-border cooperations;
- recognize the interdependences built between (trans)regional and (trans)national, local and global, individual and collective patterns of migration, of mobility, of identity and of memories in the context of region, nation and ethnicity;
- understand intercultural and transcultural phenomena as well as to analyze cultural identities and their aesthetical representation in border regions;
- question the potentials and risks of transnationalization processes in modern societies and to develop future approaches;
- compare different border regions, identify problem areas of border regions and mobilize border (region) knowledge and competences;
- design and develop interdisciplinary research;
- handle digital media and different forms of blended learning (Ulu, S. 4f).

Accreditation information – to be completed by the Quality Office

Institution details	01.10.2017
Accreditation type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First accreditation <input type="checkbox"/> accreditation () ⁴
Validity period of current accreditation	01.10.2017 to 30.09.2022
Inclusion of external expertise (national and/or international reference framework, if applicable)	The inclusion of at least 2 external expert reports, at least 1 external vocational report, at least 1 external student report and their input and assessments of the further development potential of the study programme or subject are documented in the quality report and were integrated into the decision-making process.

⁴ Type of re-accreditation ('Accreditation confirmation' or 'New concept due to significant changes') registered.

Further information about the degree programme	
Employment opportunities ⁵	<p>"In general, students will have professional perspectives in cross-border and intercultural working contexts, especially in border regions in Europe (such as the Greater Region) but also outside of Europe.</p> <p>More specific career perspectives will be offered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the economic sector (trade companies); • In the cultural sector; • In the media sector; • In the public administration sector (cross-border regional and spatial planning, economic planning and promotion, cross-border cultural management, cross-border regional marketing, ministries); • In the non-governmental sector: (NGOs with a focus on cross-border (economic, social, cultural, political, environmental) development and cooperation); • In the consultancy sector (policy, spatial planning consultancies)" (Ulu, S.5f.)
Integration in the university development plan	The Master Border Studies is the first integrated UniGR study programme. It contributes not only to the European focus of Saarland University but is a central element of the strategy.
Integration in Saarland University study programmes	The Master Border Studies is an interdisciplinary and cross-faculty study programme for international highly mobile students with excellent language skills. For this reason, it is an interesting master offer for graduates of the cross-border and European BA programmes of Saarland University. The study programme benefits from the activities of the teachers in the UniGR-Center for Border Studies.
Positioning in the German/international academic environment	There is no comparable interdisciplinary study programme around the world that is offered by several universities from different countries and therefore is cross-border itself. It is based on the unique situation in the Greater Region where with the help of the UniGR a cross-border European higher education area evolves. (for more details, see Ulu, S. 2f)
Considerations regarding special needs	<p>Academic accommodations for any limitations or disadvantages due to disability or chronic illness are intended to ensure equal opportunities in participating in degree programmes. Academic accommodations are always adapted to the individual's limitations. Saarland University takes into account the various legal requirements that are prescribed in the relevant state legislation and university regulations. The requirements are also implemented at the degree programme level.</p> <p>To provide advice and support, Saarland University has set up a Support Service for Students with Disabilities (part of the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management Unit).</p>

⁵ This is a list of established areas of employment. It should provide a rough idea of potential occupations by way of guidance and does not represent an exhaustive list.

Gender equality

To achieve the goals of Saarland's Equal Opportunity Act, Saarland University has adopted an equal opportunity plan to actively contribute to gender equality and further reduce the underrepresentation of women and structural disadvantages within its scope of responsibility. In addition to other goals, this also helps to ensure equal opportunities in participating in degree programmes. Saarland University takes into account the various legal requirements that are prescribed in the relevant state legislation and university regulations. The requirements are also implemented at the degree programme level.

All questions relating to gender equality at Saarland University can be addressed to the central full-time Equal Opportunity Officers, the Equal Opportunity Office and the Advisory Committee on Women's Issues.

Graduate skills profile

This section provides an assessment of how the degree programme contributes to achieving the learning outcomes (research focus, interdisciplinary skills, international focus, individual skills profile, practical orientation, responsibility) of Saarland University. The contributions of the degree programme to the learning outcomes will always vary and will also enable a clear distinction to be made from other degree programmes through targeted focusing. The diagram in the appendix provides a framework for orientation.

Through the specific focus of the study programme regarding learning outcomes, the social participation skills which are generally promoted at Saarland University and the fostering of personal development, Saarland University graduates acquire an individual skills profile.

Emphasis of contribution to the learning outcomes of Saarland University

A: key aspect | B: high relevance | C: little relevance

Learning outcome (Select A, B or C)	Emphasis in study programme
Research focus B: high relevance	Except the introductory Module, the internship and the module element "Field Trip" in the module "Field Trip and Methods" all modules are research-oriented.
Interdisciplinary skills A: key aspect	The study programme involves the following disciplines from spatial studies, social sciences, language and cultural studies: geography, spatial planning, political science, sociology, romance linguistics, ethnolinguistics, North American literary and cultural studies and intercultural communication. That means that the programme is highly interdisciplinary orientated.
International perspective A: key aspect	The master is the first UniGR study programme and is offered by four universities in three countries (Germany, France, Luxembourg). Therefore, its character is very international. It attracts not only students from the Greater Region but also from other European countries and beyond.
Individual skills profile B: high relevance	The study programme includes two specialization tracks: spatial studies and language and cultural studies. The introductory seminar offered by all partner universities covers both specialization tracks as well as intercultural communication. In the first semester, both tracks are obligatory for all students. In the second and third semester, students choose one of the specialization tracks. The modules "Field trip and methods" and "Politics and law in multi-level governance" in the third semester are trans-sectoral.
Practical orientation B: high relevance	Beside the research-oriented courses, important practical elements are offered, for example the internship and the module "Field trip and methods".
Responsibility A: key aspect	The trilingual studies at four different universities requires high flexibility and self-responsibility of the students. Furthermore, students develop during their studies a sense of responsibility for peaceful cooperation in Europe.



