

Study environment

Heidelberg is a comprehensive university (Volluniversität) integrating the natural and social sciences with the humanities. It is one of Germany's top universities (Germany's leading university in QS World University Ranking 2013/14), and one of the oldest in Europe, with approximately 30,000 students from 130 countries.

The South Asia Institute is Europe's leading centre for South Asian Studies, with departments of Economics, Geography, History, Politics, and classical and modern South Asian languages, in addition to Anthropology. Affiliated professors teach Art History, Buddhism, and Media Studies. The South Asia Institute regularly offers courses in eleven South Asian languages, and has one of the world's largest libraries in South Asian Studies, as well as branch offices in different South Asian countries.

Research networks

We cooperate closely with other Departments in the South Asia Institute.

Our Medical Anthropology Working Group meets regularly for lectures and presentations of colleagues, guests, and students. Well-known experts have spoken here, but we also encourage younger scholars to present their work in progress, so as to foster a lively and stimulating learning environment.

The Cluster of Excellence *Asia and Europe in a Global Context* has supported a number of research projects related to health, and MAHASSA students have regularly benefited from the guest lectures and MA-level instruction offered there.

We regularly teach short courses in Medical Anthropology for Heidelberg University's Institute of Public Health.

We also have strong links to Edinburgh University in Scotland, Jawaharlal Nehru University in India, and the CNRS (*Centre national de la recherche scientifique*) in France.

Admission

- Applicants should hold a Bachelor's degree in a health-oriented discipline or in social science, cultural or regional studies
- Students whose first language is not English must have IELTS of at least 6.5 or equivalent TOEFL score
- Program begin: every winter semester (October)
- Application deadline: June 15th for international students, German students can enroll until the start of the winter semester
- Tuition fee: € 134 per semester

For further details please visit the program website:
www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/ethno/mahassa



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HEALTH AND SOCIETY IN SOUTH ASIA

Master of Arts



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Overview

The Master of Arts Health and Society in South Asia (MAHASSA) is a two-year degree with a focus on Medical Anthropology and South Asian Studies. It is integrated with the curriculum of the South Asia Institute, one of the world's leading centers of interdisciplinary research and teaching on South Asia. This allows students to integrate South Asian languages, geography, politics, etc. into their plan of study. Most students base their Masters Thesis on field research conducted in South Asia. The language of instruction is English.



Contents of the M.A. program

The MAHASSA program combines Medical Anthropology with South Asian Studies. Medical Anthropology is the study of healing systems, not primarily in terms of scientific theories or health policies, but rather focusing on and analyzing how they are practiced in concrete, socio-cultural contexts. MAHASSA students have observed and participated in health-related NGOs and development projects, worked in hospitals and with traditional healers, and conducted research on the health problems of South Asian migrants in Europe, just to name a few projects. They prepare for their research by studying not only the Medical Anthropology of South Asia, but also South Asian languages, history, political systems, economics and geography.

Main themes of the M.A. program

The program comprises a great variety of health-related topics, including plural medical systems, Ayurveda and other forms of traditional Indian medicine, social justice and health, ritual healing, mental health, public health, global health, health and environment, the health of legal and illegal migrants, religion and healing, and fieldwork methods.



For whom is the course designed?

MAHASSA is designed for students who plan to go on to doctoral studies in Anthropology or related disciplines, as well as for those who wish to pursue a health-related career in South Asia. Graduates of the MAHASSA program have pursued both of these options. We attract international students who work together in an interdisciplinary environment, where they benefit from each other's academic as well as cultural background. We encourage South Asian students to apply.

Prospects for further study and employment

- Ph.D. in Anthropology; M.Sc. in Public Health
- Development work
- Peace and conflict work
- Cultural administration
- Cultural mediation in health related fields and migration work
- Intercultural communication in the health care sector



Studying and living in Heidelberg

Established in 1386, Heidelberg is Germany's oldest university, and the town is a classic "university town" dominated by students, with a very active nightlife and cultural scene. The major cities of Mannheim and Frankfurt are quite close (15 minutes and 45 minutes away, respectively). Visitors come from all over the world to see Heidelberg's castle and other medieval monuments, and there are a wide range of concerts, theatres, galleries, and sporting events.

For more information, see the city of Heidelberg's website (www.heidelberg.de).