HEALTH AND SOCIETY IN SOUTH ASIA
MASTER OF ARTS

Study Environment
Established in 1386, Heidelberg is Germany’s oldest university, and the town is a classic “university town” dominated by students. Heidelberg University is a comprehensive university (Volluniversität) integrating the natural and social sciences with the humanities. It is one of Germany’s top universities 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, as well as classical and modern South Asian Languages, in addition to Anthropology. Affiliated professors teach art history, Buddhism, and media studies. It regularly offers courses in eleven South Asian languages and has one of the largest libraries in South Asian studies. The institute also has branch offices in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, and representatives in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Research Networks
Our Medical Anthropology Forum is a required lecture series for MAHASSA students that hosts presentations from 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. We cooperate closely with other departments in the South Asia Institute, which is the largest institute within CATS, Europe’s largest centre for conducting research on East, Southeast, and South Asia. Research and study linking South Asia to these other parts of Asia is strongly encouraged. We also have strong links to numerous universities in Europe, North America, and all of the countries of South Asia.

Admission Requirements
• B.A. degree in anthropology, social sciences, culture or regional studies, or health oriented disciplines; IELTS score 6.5 or equivalent
• Program begin: Every winter semester (October)
• Application deadline:
  – May 1st to June 15th (non-EU students)
  – German students: until the start of the winter semester
• Tuition fee: €1,500 per semester (non-EU students only)

For more details please visit the program’s website and Facebook pages:
www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/ethno/mahassa
M.A. Health and Society in South Asia
MAHASSA Heidelberg

Photos by: K. Schmidt, Wellcome Collection

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Overview
The M.A. Health and Society in South Asia (MAHASSA) is a two-year interdisciplinary degree combining South Asian Studies and medical anthropology at the South Asia Institute, Europe’s leading academic institution for the study of South Asia. This allows students to include geography, history, political science, religious studies, and South Asian languages into their plan of study. Most students base their master’s thesis on field research conducted in South Asia. The language of instruction is English.

Contents of the M.A. Program
Medical anthropology is the study of healing systems, not primarily in terms of scientific theories or health policies, but rather focusing on and analysing how they are practiced in concrete, sociocultural contexts. Students prepare for their master’s thesis by studying not only medical anthropology and its methods, but also by taking courses with a regional focus such as Spoken Hindi, Gastropolitics, Cityscapes and Urban Imaginaries, and Muslim Healing. Students have observed and participated in health-related NGO’s 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.

Main Themes
Besides the core courses introduction to medical anthropology, healing in South Asia, fieldwork methods, scientific working skills, and the lecture series Medical Anthropology Forum, the program offers a variety of health related topics, varying each semester, such as:

- Plural medical systems
- Ayurveda and other forms of South Asian medicine
- Social justice and health
- Ritual healing
- Mental health
- Public and global health
- Health and environment
- The health of (un)documented migrants
- Religion and healing.

For Whom
MAHASSA is designed for students who wish to pursue a health-related career in South Asia, and also for those who plan to go on to doctoral studies in Anthropology or related disciplines. We also encourage anyone coming from a medical background who would like to explore the broader implications of their work or add anthropological knowledge into their practice to apply. We attract international students who work together in an interdisciplinary environment, where they benefit from each other’s academic as well as cultural background.

Prospects for Further Study and Employment
- Cultural mediation and intercultural communication in health-related fields and migration work
- Development work
- Peace and conflict work
- Cultural administration
- PhD in Anthropology, Public Health, and related fields
- …and many more!