

# 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 (SAI) 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. Furthermore, the SAI is home to one of the largest libraries for South Asian Studies and 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, guest scholars, and doctoral 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 the *Centre for Asian and Transcultural Studies* (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 the countries of South Asia.

### Admission Requirements

- B.A. degree in anthropology, social sciences, culture or regional studies, or health-oriented disciplines; IELTS score the least 6.5 or equivalent.
- Program begin: Every winter semester (October).
- Application deadline:
  - April 15<sup>th</sup> to June 15<sup>th</sup> (International students).
  - German students: Application possible until 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](http://www.sai.uni-heidelberg.de/ethno/mahassa)  
**M.A. Health and Society in South Asia**  
**MAHASSA Heidelberg**



Photos by: K. Schmidt, Wellcome Collection, D. Torri



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CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND  
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES  
**SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE**



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386

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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. Medical anthropology is the study of healing systems, not primarily in terms of scientific theories or health policies, but of how they are practiced, organised, understood, and experienced in concrete, sociocultural and political contexts. While the program has a medical anthropology focus, students not only study medical anthropology and learn to apply its methods but also acquire knowledge about South Asia through integrating courses from other departments of the SAI (geography, history, political science, religious studies, or South Asian languages and literature) into their plan of study. Most students base their master's thesis on field research conducted in South Asia. Students in the past have observed and participated in health-related NGOs and development projects, worked in hospitals and with traditional healers, and conducted research on the myriad health problems of South Asian migrants in Europe, just to name a few research 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:

- Medical Pluralism
- Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and other forms of South Asian Medical Systems
- Social Justice and Health
- Ritual Healing
- Mental Health
- Public and Global Health
- Health and Environment
- Migration and Health
- Religion and Healing
- Science, Technology, and Medicine
- Reproductive Health

#### For Whom

MAHASSA is designed for students who wish to pursue a health-related career in South Asia, or elsewhere in the world and also for those who intend on pursuing 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.



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#### Prospects for Further Study and Employment

- Cultural mediation and intercultural communication in health-related fields
- Development work
- Peace and conflict work
- Cultural administration
- PhD in Anthropology, Public Health, and related fields
- Public health management and administration
- ...and many more!

