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UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

WALTER BENJAMIN KOLLEG
CENTER FOR GLOBAL STUDIES

MASTER IN WORLD ARTS AND MUSIC

World Arts and Music



What are 'World Arts and Music'?

African art music, shadow puppetry in Bali, heavy metal in Indonesia, modern art in Egypt, migrant theatre in Western Europe, Bhangra pop in Great Britain, and painting in Argentina – all these diverse forms of artistic expression, and many more, fall under the label 'World Arts and Music'. Transcending the established, predominantly Western canon, *World Arts and Music* views any kind of cultural expression from across the globe within its individual context. The programme pays particular attention to popular, traditional, and non-Western art forms which are side-lined in the West.

Studying *World Arts and Music*

The Master's programme in *World Arts and Music* studies a diverse range of visual, musical, theatrical, and literary art forms as well as their medial dissemination under the theoretical and methodological framework of cultural studies. The programme offers insights into traditions of Western and non-Western music, art, and literature, assessing them from perspectives such as globalisation, intercultural and transcultural studies, as well as cultural anthropology. As a matter of course, such analyses include sociological, political, economic, and historiographical considerations, questioning and aiming beyond the established boundaries between individual disciplines.

Students are furnished with a theoretical and methodological foundation in the field of *World Arts and Music*, as well as in cultural studies and media studies. Building on this foundation, students scrutinise specific artistic traditions in the fields of 'music, theatre, and dance', as well as 'art, media, and literature'. Students choose their own research focus towards the final stages of the programme, and this may be interdisciplinary and/or seek out a cross-cultural vantage point. Students are encouraged to develop their own research profile in close collaboration with one or more professors.

At the end of the degree, students are well-versed in the basic theoretical paradigms of cultural studies, relevant to Western and non-Western traditions of music, art, and literature. They are able to apply these theories and associated methods – including field work, interview techniques, and the use of digital media in the analysis of music, images, films, and texts – in a variety of professional occupations.

The MA programme in *World Arts and Music* is for you, if...

- you are interested in cultural phenomena from across the globe (music, art, theatre, literature, film, etc.) and wish to study them in from a scholarly, analytical, comparative perspective,
- you enjoy seeing and researching things from the perspective of cultural studies and you hope to reach beyond the disciplinary scope of your own subject,
- you plan to engage with global arts and cultures in your professional career.

Examples of Individual Courses

In the past, the *World Arts and Music* programme has offered courses on the following topics (and more):

- Music, Religion, and Globalisation
- The Transformation of Balkan Music in Western World Music
- Music in West Africa
- Choreography at the Museum
- Popular Music from Latin America
- Modernism and the Avant-Garde on the „Periphery“
- Concepts of the Body in Dance
- Travelling Images: Orientalism in Painting and Photography

Language

The programme is run in German, advanced English skills are required.

Career Perspectives

Potential career paths for our students include arts journalism and management, museum management and curatorship, tourism, and intercultural dialogue. An MA in *World Arts and Music* also qualifies you for further academic studies in related disciplines.

Degree Programmes

- MA World Arts and Music, Major (90 ECTS)
- MA World Arts and Music, Minor (30 ECTS)

Entry Requirements

You should have a Bachelor's degree (at least 60 ECTS) in art history, (ethno-) musicology, or theatre, dance, or film studies. Graduates from other disciplines within the humanities and cultural sciences may also apply for admission to the MA in *World Arts and Music*; such candidates may, however, be required to obtain additional qualifications.

A personal appointment with the programme coordinator is compulsory before taking up this programme. Appointments can be arranged at any time.



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Contact and Information

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Title

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