Programmes offered by the Department of Southeast Asian Studies

BA Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia

- 3-years Bachelor programme
- language of instruction: German

The bachelor degree course in Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia provides fundamental knowledge in the fields of language, literature and media studies. This is supplemented with regional studies contents such as politics, economics, religion, and arts of Southeast Asia. The main focus is on insular Southeast Asia namely Indonesia and Malaysia. The studies program imparts advanced language skills in modern Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia) and Malay (Bahasa Malaysia) including reading and text-comprehension, oral and written communication and a sound understanding of matters of inter-cultural communication as well as basic knowledge in Thai or Vietnamese language.

Another fundamental building block of the program consists of teaching general scientific skills in order to achieve thorough mastery of academic skills for researching, analyzing, organizing and presenting information based on an understanding of the structures of scientific arguments and theories.

BA Empirical Linguistics / focus: Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia

- 4-years Bachelor programme
- language of instruction: German

The bachelor degree course in Empirical Linguistics provides fundamental knowledge of linguistics and its sub-disciplines as well as, depending on the adopted major subject, reliable education in ancient or modern languages including the cultural background involved.

The studies program in Empirical Linguistics is concerned with human languages, their exploration and analysis. It focuses upon modern and older languages with the aim to describe both global aspects of human speech as well as specific aspects of the languages dealt with, including their historical, genetic, and typological classification. With this aim, the program comprises the usage of languages in everyday communication as well as in written form.

The elective focus on "Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia" provides graduates with good proficiency in Indonesian language and basic knowledge in Thai or Vietnamese language; familiarity with Southeast Asian literature and good expertise in Austronesian linguistics; knowledge concerning political, social, economic and cultural structures of Southeast Asian countries; thorough mastery of academic skills for researching, analyzing, organizing and presenting information; competence in inter-cultural communication.

MA Empirical Linguistics / focus: Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia

- 2-years Master of Arts programme
- language of instruction: German

The program provides its graduates with a good expertise in the theory and practice of linguistics concerning all its disciplines (incl. phonetics, morphology, syntax, semantics, pragmatics) and with a deep knowledge of ancient and / or modern languages, together with a thorough insight into the cultural embedding of written and / or spoken languages. The program enables students to formulate theoretically and empirically based statements on human languages and to independently undertake investigations into the analysis and description of languages and linguistic aspects of communication. By the integration of

studies in foreign languages and the adaptation of computational methods, the program prepares the students for a professional career within linguistics and adjacent subjects.

The MA in Empirical linguistics with focus on the Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia builds on the BA in Empirical linguistics. Its aim is to provide graduates with a deeper knowledge of the topics covered in the BA, as well as to introduce new subjects that are not elements of the BA programme but build an essential part of the academic study of the languages and cultures of Southeast Asia.

This programme furthers language skills of the Malay language, including the national languages Bahasa Indonesia and Bahasa Malaysia, both the spoken and written. The study of literature from the Malay world and its development, the analysis of regional and context-dependent varieties of language, as well as the exploration of modern mass media provides students with a well-grounded comprehension of the cultural embedding of social processes. In addition to this, exploration of historical and current issues of societies living in Southeast Asia comprises the programme.

currently in preparation:

MA Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia

- 2-years Master of Arts programme
- language of instruction: English or German (yet to be determined)
- scheduled date of begin: October 2012

The Department of Southeast Asian Studies furthermore contributes Southeast Asia – related content to the following Master programme:

MA Modern East Asian Studies

- 2-years Master of Arts programme
- language of instruction: English

Within this MA programme students choose language courses either in Indonesian or Chinese, Japanese or Korean and are regularly offered elective courses on political and social aspects of Southeast Asia.

A list of courses that may be of interest for foreign students who wish to spend a year or a semester at our department since the language of teaching is (or could be) mainly English and Indonesian is provided below.

Please note that the specific topics of the modules change from year to year. The course titles mentioned are just examples of the most recent courses that were held at our department in previous semesters.

Courses held by Prof. Arndt Graf

(MA Modern East Asian Studies, Module: Economy and society in Asia: Theories, concepts, framework)

- Tourismus im insularen Südostasien (Tourism in insular Southeast Asia)
- Armut und Armutsbekämpfung in Südostasien (Poverty and poverty reduction in Southeast Asia)
- Regionalkonflikte in Südostasien (Regional conflicts in Southeast Asia)

Courses held by Dr. Lydia Kieven

(BA Languages and Cultures of Southeast Asia, Module: Advanced language training course: Audiovisual media in Southeast Asia)

- Audiovisuelle Medien: Tempelarchitektur des hindu-buddhistischen Java und ihr Fortleben in Bali (Audiovisual Media: Temple architecture from Hindu-Buddhist Java and its continuity in Bali)
- Landeskunde Java (Javanese regional studies)