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# SOCIOLOGY – SOCIAL RESEARCH

INSIGHTS AND DATA SKILLS FOR A COMPLEX WORLD

Master of Science

Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences  
University of Cologne



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# UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE

## The Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences

The **University of Cologne** is one of the oldest and most prestigious European universities. It has produced several Nobel and Leibniz Prize winners and is part of the only economic cluster of excellence in Germany. Founded in 1388, the University of Cologne is a leader in many disciplines and a member of many international networks.

The **Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences** (also known as "WiSo Faculty") is part of the University of Cologne and has over a century of experience in educating new generations of business professionals, economists, social analysts and political experts. As one of Germany's largest educational institutions, the WiSo Faculty regularly ranks among the top providers of sociological, managerial and business education.

As a student of the WiSo Faculty, you benefit from a teaching approach based on theory and methods in combination with research and applications.

The traditional diversity of subjects, top-level research, practical relevance and internationality allow the WiSo Faculty to stand up to national and international comparison and to achieve top positions in international research rankings. Through its interdisciplinary research approach, the Faculty's seminars and institutes make a major contribution to the excellent research at the University of Cologne.

Despite our emphasis on research skills, all teaching programmes at our Faculty are strongly application-oriented and meet the increased demands of a highly complex and differentiated labour market. With this we succeed in the realisation of our motto "Today's ideas. Tomorrow's impact."

By joining this programme you will receive training from an outstanding, internationally recognised faculty at Germany's leading sociology department (first rank in Germany in the Shanghai Ranking in 2018, 2019, and 2020). Furthermore, you will develop the valuable skills to solve real-world problems and challenges arising within organisations and our contemporary society.

The M.Sc. Sociology – Social Research at the University of Cologne has a strong reputation for linking theory, methods, and substantive research. It will prepare you for an increasingly data-rich professional life. By taking introductory and advanced courses in empirical methods and statistics, you will learn to collect, prepare, analyse, and interpret data. While developing these skills, you will get the opportunity to engage with a great variety of topics, such as ageing and health, family, education, labour markets, migration and integration, prosocial and antisocial behavior, crime and deviance, social networks, or sociological theories and interpret data, as well as how to effectively present and communicate your results.



*"The Cologne Master in Sociology – Social Research has a strong reputation for its focus on advanced methods of data collection and analysis. Our approach is practice and research oriented and deals with current topics such as ageing, ethnic diversity, education, family or the economy."*

Clemens Kroneberg, Professor at the Institute of Sociology and Social Psychology

# FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT THE WISO-FACULTY

Studies at the WiSo Faculty of Cologne University help to establish an excellent basis for your further professional and personal career paths. With nearly 8,000 students and a host of departments and academic staff, the WiSo Faculty is one of the largest and most renowned schools of management, economics and social sciences in Europe.

- ▶ **7,901** national and international students
- ▶ **149** partner universities worldwide\*
- ▶ **91** professors
- ▶ More than **200** research and teaching assistants

Enrolling in a programme at the WiSo Faculty will give you everything you need to take the next step in furthering your career. One of Germany's most prestigious educational institutions, the school regularly ranks among the top providers of management and business education. The following is an overview of current rankings:

<b>1<sup>st</sup></b> Sociology	In the current Academic Ranking of World Universities ("Shanghai Ranking") by Subject, the University of Cologne ranks first in the national evaluation for "Management", "Business Administration" and " <b>Sociology</b> ", as it did last year.	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	According to the WirtschaftsWoche research ranking, the University of Cologne is one of the most research-intensive German-speaking universities. In business administration, it ranks second within Germany.
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	The Supply Chain Management (SCM) Journal List Ranking places the University of Cologne in first place in Germany.	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	According to the WirtschaftsWoche personnel ranking, which asks HR managers in German companies which universities train students best for their needs, the University of Cologne is currently in third place.
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	In the AIS 8 Information Systems Ranking in the field of Business Information Systems, the University of Cologne is top of the list in Germany.	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Prof. Dr. Erik Hornung is the third best researcher at a German university in the Handelsblatt economist ranking "Researchers under 40 (overall research performance)".

As of Jan 22

\* The WiSo Faculty maintains excellent partnerships with 149 leading institutions of higher education across the world on different levels of study, enabling its students to spend time abroad within a range of study and exchange programmes. Students can choose from an attractive range of partner universities, depending on their chosen path of study.

# SOCIOLOGY – SOCIAL RESEARCH (M.Sc.)

## Key Facts



**Degree:**  
Master of Science



**Duration:**  
4 Semesters



**Language:**  
English



**Credits:**  
120 ECTS



**Content:**  
Study sociology with a special emphasis on advanced methods of social research and gain substantive knowledge on societal challenges and trends.



**International:**  
1 Optional Semester Abroad, Double Master's Programme in Demography and Social Inequality with University of Groningen

## This programme provides you with:

- key qualifications in empirical research that are demanded and rewarded on the labour market.
- insights into societal and organisational challenges and how to address them (e.g. aging workforce, ethnic diversity, social inequality, crime).
- a coherent learning experience that follows a clear paradigm of theory-driven empirical research.
- plenty of opportunities for practical experiences in private and public research institutes.

The Institute of Sociology and Social Psychology (ISS) at the WiSo Faculty is Germany's leading sociology department (first rank in the Shanghai Ranking in 2018, 2019, and 2020, and in TOP 50 internationally in 2020) and is well-known for a strong integration of theory, methods, and substantive research areas. As a student, you will therefore benefit from an interdisciplinary learning environment while developing your research skills. Moreover, many third-party funded research projects at the ISS as well as neighboring research institutes in Cologne will allow you to gain research experiences and work as a student assistant.

## This programme is right for you if you:

- have successfully completed a bachelor's or equivalent degree in sociology or related study fields (refer to admission regulations for the exact entry requirements).
- are interested in understanding societies and social change and motivated to learn new things.
- are interested in further developing your analytical, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, as well as your writing and language skills.
- want to improve as a team player, because working in groups is often practiced in seminars and will be an asset to you within a working environment.
- are eager to develop a profile that will prepare you for working responsibly in exciting areas.





*"This master's programme offers me practical, empirical research on current topics, as well as the possibility to develop my own interests and pursue research questions.*

*I appreciate the international atmosphere in the programme. This not only helped me to improve my English language skills but also enabled me to network internationally."*

**Laura,**  
student at the WiSo-Faculty



# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

## Preparing you for future challenges

The Cologne **Master in Sociology – Social Research** combines advanced training in sociology and social research with the opportunity to take courses in business administration, data analytics, economics, and other social sciences. By choosing this study programme, you will benefit from the multi-disciplinary strengths of the Faculty of Management, Economics, and Social Sciences.

The programme emphasizes both scientific rigour and practical relevance. We build on a strong research reputation, regularly publish in internationally leading academic journals, and present our work at conferences around the globe. Since most of our research is empirical in nature, we collaborate with various organisations and institutes – which gives you plenty opportunities to gain practical experiences in private and public research institutes. Among other organisations, strong ties exist to GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences, the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne, as well as to the Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB) and the Federal Institute for Vocational Training (BIBB).

The empirical and analytical focus of the programme enables you to analyse social phenomena using state-of-the-art research methods and to carry out an independent research project. Upon graduating from the programme, you will be ready for a professional career in many areas as well as for PhD programmes in social sciences with us or worldwide.

## Strong Focus on Data and Research Skills

The Research Seminar gives a hands-on approach to social research. Another module is devoted to learning how to apply scientific knowledge to solve real-world problems in organisations and society as a whole. The methods training is strongly application-oriented. Furthermore, the department hosts numerous research projects funded by international and national funding agencies.



# CURRICULUM

<b>Core Section</b> Lectures on the Analysis of Cross-Sectional Data, Sociological Theory and Contemporary Societies 24 ECTS.	
<b>Specialisation Section</b> 42 ECTS	(Choice of 2) <b>Supplementary Sections</b> 24 ECTS
<b>Analysis of Longitudinal Data</b>	<b>Marketing</b>
<b>Research Seminar in Sociology and Social Research</b>	<b>Media and Technology Management</b>
(Choice of) 3 Seminars, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Social Change</li><li>■ Comparative Research</li><li>■ Diversity, Cohesion and Conflicts</li><li>■ Advanced Sociological Theories and Research</li></ul>	<b>Data Analytics</b>
	<b>Corporate Development</b>
	<b>Economics for Social Sciences</b>
	<b>Economic Geography</b>
	<b>Political Science</b>
	<b>Optional Semester Abroad</b>
<b>Master Thesis</b> 30 ECTS	

## From strong foundations to your personal expert profile

- The Core Section of this programme will equip you with state-of-the-art knowledge on contemporary societies and as well as the ability to use sociological theory in order to understand the social world. A special emphasis is placed on learning and practicing advanced methods for analysing cross-sectional data.
- The Specialisation Section will allow you to develop your own profile as a social researcher: You can choose seminars of your interest, will learn advanced methods for analysing longitudinal data, and will gain practical research experience in the research seminar – one of the highlights of the programme.
- The Supplementary Section gives you valuable opportunities to further develop your profile and prepare you for the labour market. You can choose among modules from business administration (marketing, corporate development, media and technology management), data analytics, economics, as well as from other social sciences.
- With your master's thesis, you complete your studies, underline the knowledge and skills you have acquired throughout the programme, and are ready to continue your career as an expert in your field.

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# INTERNATIONAL

## English-taught programme

The M.Sc. Sociology – Social Research is taught entirely in English and welcomes students from countries all over the world.

## Optional semester abroad

The integration of the “Studies Abroad” module into the programme provides you with attractive options for spending a term abroad.

## International Option: Double Master’s Programme in Demography and Social Inequality

We offer a double degree Master in Demography and Social Inequality in combination with the University of Groningen. This alternate programme gives you the opportunity to benefit from the expertise of two top-ranking universities in two different countries:

- Enjoy the advantages offered by the interdisciplinary approach and the participation of two renowned universities: University of Cologne and Groningen University.
- Study at each university for one year and graduate with two master’s degrees: spend your first year in Cologne followed by your second year in Groningen.

Find further information on the Double Master’s Programme in Demography and Social Inequality online.





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# CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

By completing this programme you will acquire skills that are highly demanded on the labour market, such as analytical thinking, problem-solving, the collection and statistical analyses of large-scale observational data, as well as substantive knowledge on societal challenges and trends.

It will prepare you for an increasingly data-rich professional life. By taking introductory and advanced courses in empirical methods and statistics, you will learn to collect, prepare, analyse, and interpret data. Teaming up with co-students and working on your own research project will prepare you for a broad set of positions.

Example job opportunities include work within:

- companies and organisations that look for heads of data science divisions (e.g. automobile industry, law enforcement).
- companies in market and opinion research.
- statistics agencies.
- associations concerned with social and economic policy or social planning.
- research institutes.
- media research departments within mass media corporations.
- human resources and data science departments in corporations.
- government agencies at local, state, federal and international levels (e.g. in departments responsible for school, family, urban or environmental policy).

Due to its strong research orientation and international reputation, our M.Sc. degree is an excellent base for applying for doctoral degree (Ph.D.) programmes, whether in Cologne or at other leading national and international universities.

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*"In this master's programme, quantitative methods as well as statistical techniques of data analysis are deepened. Together with the strong analytical skills acquired in the degree programme, this creates valuable core qualifications for the free labour market that have helped me in pursuing my professional career."*

Ruben Wienigk, Data Scientist „Deutsche Rückversicherung AG“ and Alumnus of the Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Science



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# COLOGNE

## An open minded and science-centred city!

Cologne is located within a metropolitan area of about 13 million people in the heart of Germany's economy which makes it easy for students and faculty to collaborate with great companies. It is one of Germany's most attractive locations and offers a vibrant student life.

With around 103,000 students and a lively start-up culture, Cologne is the economic and scientific centre of the Rhineland region. In addition to 17 universities and business schools, the area is also home to numerous internationally renowned research institutions as ESA European Space Agency or Gesis – Leibniz Institute for Social Sciences, with knowledge transfer to industry and society playing a key role. Successful transfer structures include the university's Excellence Start-Up Center GATEWAY start-up service, the start-up network cologne e.V. and the Digital Hub Cologne.

Cologne is also proud of its reputation as a vibrant and tolerant city and at the same time being both multicultural – with almost 25 % non-German citizens from 183 different nations – and strong in its local identity. Karneval, Cologne's famous carnival season every February, and the popular local beer "Kölsch", brewed exclusively in Cologne, are only two examples of the vivid cultivation of the city's traditions.

- ▶ Over **1 million** inhabitants in the city of Cologne
- ▶ **13 million** inhabitants in the metropolitan area of Cologne
- ▶ More than **100,000** students in Cologne
- ▶ Over **one third** of Cologne's total area is covered by public parks, sports grounds and nature areas
- ▶ **1** famous Gothic cathedral, the "Kölner Dom"
- ▶ **Unlimited** opportunities to fall in love with the city

Official Cologne Facts & Figures 2019 by City of Cologne



Liebe deine Stadt







# INFORMATION

Online Application:



## Application information and requirements

Application process and deadline:

- Applicants with a German bachelor degree apply via KLIPS
- Applicants with a non-German bachelor degree apply with their VPD document issued by uni-assist via KLIPS
- Application deadline is **June 15th**.

Requirements and selection procedure

A Bachelor degree or equivalent in the respective field (worth at least 180 ECTS) credits and an overall grade point average of at least 2.7 (German grade). Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- At least 18 ECTS in the field of Sociology or Social Psychology
- At least 12 ECTS in the field of Methods in Quantitative Social Sciences and/or Applied Quantitative Empirical Social Research and/or Statistics
- English language skills level B2 CEFR

The Admissions Board will communicate its decision by the end of July. Enrolment usually takes place in August.

## Detailed information and contact

We are happy to support you in your ambitions: for students the WiSo Student Service Point offers not only advice on studying but also support on all aspects of career choice, career planning and the application process:

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WiSo Student Service Point  
Phone: +49 (0) 221/470-8818  
[wiso-studentservice.uni-koeln.de](https://wiso-studentservice.uni-koeln.de)





*"Being one of the worldwide largest Faculties of Business, Economics, and Social Sciences, we bring together excellent researchers, students, alumni, and organizations in a friendly and stimulating environment to jointly address today's grand challenges. Our Faculty is part of an outstanding network of universities and cooperates with leading organizations. This leads into a great reputation in teaching, research and transfer activities, which is reflected in excellent rankings."*

Prof. Ulrich W. Thonemann, PhD  
Dean



Today's ideas.  
Tomorrow's impact.

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