

Introduction to the Master's degree Social Sciences

October 8th, 2025, 04:15 pm
Room A06 4-411

Prof. Dr. Jan Sauermann

I. School of Educational and Social Sciences
Institute for Social Sciences



Welcome!



The plan for orientation week:

Monday 06.10.2025	Dienstag 07.10.2025	Mittwoch 08.10.2025	Donnerstag 09.10.2025	Freitag 10.10.2025
				Timetable help / open questions A01 0-006 12:00 - 14:00
	Timetable assistance / Going to the Mensa together A01 0-006 11:00 - 14:00	BA presentation A07 Hörsaal G 14:15 - 15:45 MA presentation A06 4-411 (Institutsraum) 16:15 - 17:45		
followed by Flunkyball tournament Dobbenwiesen	Pub crawl Meeting point: Extrablatt (Wallstraße) 19:00 - open end	Mensa party Mensa wing 20:00 - open end	Game night A01 0-004 17:00 - 21:30	

Quelle: <https://uol.de/fssowi/orientierungswoche-2020>

Agenda

- Introduction
- Overview of the Master's program
- Career opportunities
- Studying abroad
- The „Fachschaft“ (Student council)
- Questions and get-together



Quelle: https://uol.de/mediapool/Uni-Bilder/Campus_Haarentor/Luftaufnahme_mit_Hoersaalzentrum__c__Universitaet_Oldenburg-Daniel_Cloeren.jpg?v=1687268199

- Founded in 1973
- 15.000 students (incl. 1.500 international students from 110 countries)
- 3.000 employees
- Budget: 306.5 million €
- 3 key research areas
 - Environment and Sustainability
 - Humans and Technology
 - Society and Education
- 6 faculties
- Faculty I – Educational and Social Sciences
 - Department of Educational Sciences
 - Department of Special Needs Education and Rehabilitation
 - Institute for Social Sciences

Carl von Ossietzky



Quelle: <https://uol.de/carl-von-ossietzky>

- 1889-1938
- Journalist, author, pacifist, democrat
- Nobel Peace Prize for 1935 (awarded in 1936)
- Exposed Germany's secret rearmament program after WW1.
- Persecuted, imprisoned by the Nazis
- Suffered torture in concentration camp
- Died in 1938 as a direct consequence of the mistreatment.
- University was named after him in 1991.

Agenda

– Introduction

- Introduction of teaching personnel in the Master's program
- Introduction of students

- Overview of the Master's program
- Career opportunities
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Institute's Faculty Members engaged in the Master

Prof. Feldhaus



Prof. Sauermann



Prof. Schnettler



Prof. Mattes



Prof. Oeftering



Social and political inequalities



Dr. Broschinski



Prof. Zoch



Dr. Köker

Knowledge and organisation



Prof. Sältzer



Prof. Farzin

Introduction of Students

- Please introduce yourself
 - Your Name
 - Your Bachelor's degree
 - Your previous University?
 - What type of BA degree?
- How did you learn about this Master's programme?
- Your expectations for this Master's program?

Agenda

- Introduction
- **Overview of the Master's program**
 - **Overview of the course of study and orientation**
 - **Mandatory modules (terms, competence goals, seminars)**
 - **Elective modules**
 - **Practice modules**
- Career opportunities
- Studying abroad
- The „Fachschaft“ (Student council)
- Discussion/questions and informal conclusion

- **Strong social science foundation** with equal emphasis on sociology and political science
- **A shared focus on the topic of organizations** ensures course coherence
 - Organizations = specialized focus for the German-speaking context
- **Empirical-analytical research methods**
- Comprehensive instruction in **quantitative and qualitative research methods**
- Encourages **normative reflection** of scientific and practical issues from different perspectives
- Taught (primarily) **in English**

Course overview

4. Sem	Master Thesis 30 KP						
3. Sem			9 KP (3rd semester) sow971 Project	sow972 Internship 12 KP	sow943 Society and Organisations 9 KP	elective module * 6 KP	
2. Sem	sow944 Quantitative Research Methods	sow948 Qualitative Research Methods	3 KP (2nd semester)		sow940 Theoretical Approaches	sow942 Knowledge, Learning and Organisations	elective module * 6 KP
1. Sem	6 KP	6 KP	sow941 Politics and Organisations 9 KP		9 KP	9 KP	elective module * 6 KP
	*Elective modules (min. 1 elective module Social Sciences / max. 2 freely elective modules)						
	Freely selectable modules:				Elective modules Social Sciences (min. 6 KP):		
	wir874 Advanced Microeconomics wir878 Public Economics and Market Design wir892 Computational Economics wir902 Perspectives and Instruments of Corporate Sustainability		wir904 Environmental and Sustainability Governance gsw300 Gesundheits- und Versorgungssysteme gsw410 Organisationsforschung und -entwicklung		sow961 Advanced Topics in Political Science sow962 Advanced Topics in Sociology sow963 Advanced Topics in Social Science Theory sow964 Advanced Social Research Methods sow965 Advanced Statistics		

Mandatory modules (entry curriculum – 48 CP)

sow940
Theoretical
Approaches
(9 KP)

- Seminar 1:
Winter term 2025/26
- Seminar 2:
Summer term 2026

sow941
Politics and
Organisations
(9 KP)

- Seminar 1 + 2:
Winter term 2025/26

sow942
Knowledge, Learning
and Organisations
(9 KP)

- Seminar 1:
Winter term 2025/26
- Seminar 2:
Summer term 2026

sow943
Society and
Organisations
(9 KP)

- Seminar 1 + 2:
Winter term 2026/27

sow944
Quantitative Research
Methods
(6 KP)

- Seminar 1:
Winter term 2025/26
- Seminar 2:
Summer term 2026

sow948
Qualitative Research
Methods
(6 KP)

- Seminar 1:
Winter term 2025/26
- Seminar 2:
Summer term 2026

Competence goals of each mandatory module ➡

Competence goals of sow940 Theoretical Approaches (9 KP)

What are
organisations
?

How can we
analyse
organisations
?

Which
theoretical
approaches
exist?



What is
collective
action?

How do organisations
as collective systems
interact with each
other?

Competence goals of sow941 Politics and Organisations (9 KP)

What are
political
parties?

Who
runs for
political
offices?

How do
politicians
behave in
parliament
?



Competence goals of sow942 Knowledge, Learning and Organisations (9 KP)

- ✓ deepen **theoretical and analytical knowledge** on the processes of knowledge production in modern society in general
- ✓ gain insights in **specific processes of the production and the distribution of political knowledge and competencies** to learners in certain organisations and other learning environments



Competence goals of sow943 Society and Organisations (9 KP)

- ✓ give students a solid understanding of **labor markets and social inequality research**, and provide the skills to conduct own empirical research projects:
- ✓ understand the **central concepts and theories** in the field,
- ✓ distinguish, explain, and evaluate various **dimensions and causes of inequalities**,
- ✓ understand **data sources and research methods** used in real-world studies,
- ✓ **compare and evaluate findings** from research articles,
- ✓ **develop and answer your own research question** using theory and secondary data analysis in a written seminar paper.



Competence goals of sow944 Quantitative Research Methods (6 KP)

- ✓ Working knowledge of **common basic and advanced statistical methods**
 - ✓ Data management
 - ✓ Descriptive data analysis & visualization
 - ✓ Linear & generalized linear regression
 - ✓ Multilevel regression (e.g. for longitudinal data)
 - ✓ Approaches to causal inference
- ✓ Critical **understanding of quantitative empirical studies**, including their limitations
- ✓ Ability to **conduct data analytics tasks** using the statistical software R/RStudio



Competence goals of sow948 Qualitative Research Methods (6 KP)

- ✓ Working knowledge of **advanced methods of qualitative social research**
 - ✓ Data collection methods (ethnography, interviews, focus groups)
 - ✓ Data analysis/interpretation
 - ✓ Mixed methods designs
 - ✓ QDA software
- ✓ Ability to decide **when to use quant/qual methods**
- ✓ Ability to **critically assess existing research** along established quality criteria
- ✓ Experience with **conducting & documenting own qualitative research**



Elective modules (18 CP)

- at least 6 credits from the institute's own range of elective modules
- 12 credit points freely elective, chose from institute's or external elective modules

Institute's elective modules

sow961 Advanced Topics in Political Science

advanced political science topics and issues with different emphases

sow962 Advanced Topics in Sociology

advanced sociological topics and issues with different emphases

sow963 Advanced Social Science Theory

advanced theoretical topics and issues with different emphases

sow964 Advanced Social Research Methods

advanced methodological skills and knowledge with different emphases

sow965 Advanced Statistics

advanced knowledge of statistics with different emphasis

Other institutes' elective modules

wir874 Advanced Microeconomics (6 KP)

wir878 Public Economics and Market Design (6 KP)

wir892 Computational Economics (6 KP)

wir902 Perspectives and Instruments of Corporate Sustainability (6 KP)

wir904 Environmental and Sustainability Governance (6 KP)

gsw300 Health and Care systems (6 KP)

gsw410 Organisational research and Development (6 KP)

sow971 Project

(introductory session in the 1st semester)
(3 CP in the 2nd semester)
(9 CP in the 3rd semester)

As part of an independent research project, students will learn to ...

- formulate their own empirically workable research question
- develop an appropriate theoretical framework
- conduct and evaluate their own empirical study

The objectives are to ...

- foster the practical application of acquired theoretical knowledge,
- enhance independent work and research skills as a core competency
- strengthen collaborative teamwork abilities

sow972 Internship (12 CP)

- Prepares students for diverse professional opportunities
- Placement in various settings: companies, non-profits, public institutions (incl. universities / municipal institutions), associations, societies, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other suitable organizations that can offer interns an activity related to the field of study / future professional activity.

The objectives are to provide students with ...

- exposure to non-academic environment
 - language skills beyond academic studies
 - experience in short-term, independent projects
 - familiarity with new forms of cooperation communication and reporting techniques
 - insights into different organizational contexts and processes.
- ✓ internship of 270 hours + accompanying course with internship report
 - ✓ Completed consecutively or during the semester



Part I: Introductory session of project coaching:

Wednesday, November 5th, 2025

12:00-16:00

Room: V03 0-D001

- main goal: to refresh and obtain important skills for academic work in Germany
- Participation is crucial to refresh your competences and know where you need to deepen competences



Part II: Project coaching seminar in summer term 2026 on a weekly basis:

You

- will be accompanied in the beginnings of writing your "project" report,
- improve your scientific writing skills and research methods,
- learn how to structure a report,
- formulate an appropriate research question,
- start working on this question.

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Career opportunities

By taking the M.A. "Social Sciences", graduates will acquire a **wide range of skills** transferable to a **number of excellent career opportunities**, including ...

- (International) Organizational development and consulting
- Public administration and political organizations
- Media production and development, e.g. opinion research
- University research and teaching
- Research and teaching in other education institutions
- Science management at universities or research institutions
- Data analyst positions in a variety of sectors

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Study abroad

Erasmus representative for Social Scientists

- You can ask Prof. Dr. Tonio Oeftering: tonio.oeftering@uol.de
- Further contacts are the **International Office** <https://uol.de/en/io> or **Andreas Maennle and Karolina Dymek** (goingabroad@uol.de).
- **Destinations:** <https://uol.de/sozialwissenschaften/internationale-kontakte>

The Institute of Social Sciences' University Partnerships

Country	City	University	Seminar Language
Bulgaria	Burgas	Free University of Burgas	English
Finland	Jyväskylä	University of Jyväskylä	English
France	Rennes	Université Rennes 2	French
Great Britain	Ormskirk	Edge Hill University	English
Italy	Florence	Universita' degli Studi di Firenze	Italian & English
Lithuania	Vilnius	Mykolas Romeris University	English
Poland	Lublin	Katolicki Uniwersytet	English
Poland	Torun	Uniwersytet Mikolaja Kopernika	Polish & English
Poland	Warsaw	University of Warsaw	Polish & English
Sweden	Sundsvall & Östersund	Mid Schweden University	English
Sweden	Huddinge	Södertörns Högskola	English
Spain	Murcia	Universidad de Murcia	Spanish
Spain	Madrid	Universidad Autonoma de Madrid	Spanish & English
Czeck Republic	Prague	Charles University	English
Turkey	Ankara	Middle East Technical University	English
Turkey	Ankara	TED University	English
Turkey	Istanbul	Bilgi University	English
Turkey	Istanbul	Sabanci Universitesi	English

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The „Fachschaft“ Student Council Social Sciences

New members welcome!

Open to **all** questions/complaints/wishes.

Our remit:

- Christmas party/parties/events
- Committee work (e.g. Institute Council, Faculty Council, Appeals Commission)
- Regular exchange and meetings among each other (e.g. current topics and problems, complaints)
- Orientation week

Student Council Meetings: will be announced
in room A04 1-112

Why join the „Fachschaft“?

Do you want to...

- help shape your degree program?
- understand the university in a different way than most students?
- plan and organize events and parties with your fellow students?
- represent the opinion of your fellow students?
- meet nice people?

Then join the student council of the Faculty of Social Sciences!

Contact information

Feel free to contact us!:

- Mail: fssowi@uol.de
- WhatsApp group:
- **Meeting & consultation hours: to be announced!**

Master Social Science 2025

WhatsApp-Gruppe



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Questions and get-together

Questions about our MA program

Prof. Dr. Jan Sauermann, jan.sauermann@uol.de

Prof. Dr. Jannika Mattes, jannika.mattes@uol.de

Dr. Ana Broemmelhaus, ana.broemmelhaus@uol.de (Student Advisory Service MA)

Dr. Sven Broschinski, sven.broschinski@uol.de (Internship Supervisor)

NN, Email (Internationalisation Officer)

Kay Uphoff, kay.uphoff@uol.de (Coordination for Studies and Teaching of School I)

Questions about the examination procedure in general

- Examination regulations, study regulations and study handbook (PDF files: Websites of the Examination Office and the Institute (<https://uol.de/en/social-sciences>))
- E-Learning: STUD.IP
- Prüfungsamt: p-amt.fk1.fk2.dez3@uol.de

Questions and get-together

Further SOWI-Specific Offerings at the University

- Field of Practice in Educational and Social Sciences - Advising and Event Offers related to Internships
- 70.02.309 Social Sciences Info Tool (Registration via Stud.ip)

Study-Related Offers

- Central Student and Career Counseling (Zentrale Studien- und Karriereberatung ZSKB)
- Training and Tours by the Library and Information System (BIS)
- Events by the General Student Committee (AStA)

Courses and Further Training Opportunities

- Learning Workshop by ZSKB – Writing Assistance, Literature Management, etc.
- Study Starter Support – Workshops by the Psychological Counseling Service

Questions and get-together

Other helpful Services and Contacts on and around Campus

- Psychological Counseling Service (PBS)
- Counseling Services by the General Student Committee (AStA) – (Financial Aid, Studying with Children, Initial Contact for Discrimination, etc.)
- Students at Work – Office Hours for Employment-Related Questions (Part-Time Jobs, Internships, etc.)
- Study Financing Counseling by Studentenwerk
- Social Counseling by Studentenwerk
- Family Services at the University of Oldenburg (Studying with Children, Childcare, Single Parents, Care for other relatives or irrespective of family relationship)
- List of Student Associations

Welcome to the University of Oldenburg!



Wishing You a Successful Start to Your Master's Program!