General information on the MA Turcology

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I. Summary

The MA Turcology programme at JGU Mainz offers an advanced curriculum in general and comparative Turcology, including linguistics, philology and literary studies. The programme is set for a standard duration of four semesters, comprising in total seven modules and 120 ETCS credits.

Right from the start it encompasses a complementary combination of the acquisition of advanced theoretical knowledge with the training of the corresponding methodological competences.

Accordingly each of the three consecutive linguistics modules consists in the acquisition of structural knowledge in a Turkic language (or alternatively a Mongolic or Tungusic language, depending on the course schedule), a seminar on linguistic theory and methodology (which, depending on the topic, includes various subdisciplines, such as typology, dialectology, language contact, historical linguistics, grammaticalization, etc.) and a research-oriented seminar where specific working techniques in domains like field work, transcription, corpus linguistics, or quantitative methods can be trained in individual or group projects.

The modules on Turkic Literature and Culture are composed of a lecture that conveys the theoretical contents and an accompanying seminar where selected topics can be examined and discussed in detail.

There is also an elective module, which offers the possibility to focus on a specific Turcological topic or to strengthen methodological, theoretical or practical skills. The final module is mainly devoted to the preparation and development of the master thesis.

During the study period it is possible to spend one term of the curriculum at a partner university abroad. Highly qualified master graduates have the possibility to subsequently enter a consecutive PhD programme.

Terms of admission:

- BA diploma in Turcology/Turkic Studies, or any BA with a Turcological focus of at least 36 ECTS credits (or equivalent), or a BA in Linguistics, Literary Studies or History with a BA thesis on a Turcological topic.
- Good active and passive proficiency in Turkish or another Turkic language corresponding to at least B2 according to CEFR.
- Advanced active and passive proficiency in English.
- Knowledge of German is not required in advance, but students without sufficient proficiency in this regard are obliged to take at least two German language courses as electives.

Start of programme: Every winter and summer semester.

General information and administrative requirements:
- Application deadline for all MA programmes is March 01 for the summer term and September 01 for the winter term. Detailed information: https://www.studying.uni-mainz.de/master-application/
- Foreign diplomas must be formally recognized before the application, a process which takes about 6 weeks and costs a fee of EUR 60. Information on recognition: https://www.studying.uni-mainz.de/certification-of-recognition-validation-of-foreign-certificates/
- There are no tuition fees, but JGU charges a semester fee of ca. EUR 322 per semester to cover administrative costs, bus and train use, etc.
- General information for foreign students on studying at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz regarding accommodation etc., is found on https://www.studying.uni-mainz.de/international-office-incoming/
II. Detailed description

1. Object and content

The MA Turcology offers an attractive study programme for advanced local, national and international students. It is aimed at students with a bachelor or lisans degree in Turcology or a discipline from the field of Oriental studies with a focus on Turkic. With its design in English, it addresses both international students and offers local BA graduates an attractive consecutive programme to prepare them optimally for the expectations and challenges of the Turcological academic community with its intrinsic international profile. The programme is mainly research-oriented, but also transfers and strengthens practice-oriented skills, such as language competence, intercultural competence, general knowledge related to the discipline, and teamwork.

The programme generates Turcology competence for the job market on the one hand, and prepares students for a doctorate in Turcology on the other. The MA Turcology contains thematical foci on linguistics, literature, and culture.

Students in the MA Turcology acquire structural knowledge on three Turkic languages (alternatively, Mongolic and/or Tungusic languages) and are enabled to classify them in a historical and comparative perspective. They can read and handle basic and intermediate texts in these languages with the support of grammars and dictionaries (a-courses in Modules 1a/2a/3a).

They acquire knowledge on the diachronic development and typological diversity in the Turkic languages as well as theoretical, methodological, and practical skills in three areas such as field work, transcription, text editing, corpus linguistics, quantitative methods (b-courses in Modules 1a/2a/3a).

They obtain knowledge on three domains of linguistic Turcology such as semantics, morphosyntax, lexicon, dialectology, language contact, and language history and are capable of developing these skills independently or under mentorship (c-courses in Modules 1a/2a/3a).

The students learn aspects of older and newer Turkish literature or the literatures of other Turkic peoples. They learn to contextualize the investigated phenomena within the literatures of the Turkic peoples and within world literature historically and comparatively. They get an understanding of forms, motives, tropes, and questions of genre (a-courses in Modules 1b/2b/3b).
They obtain techniques and methods for the analysis of literature and the skill to apply theories of literary and cultural studies on texts in Turkic languages (b-courses in Modules 1b/2b/3b).

Further qualifications relevant to the discipline and to general scientific methods can be obtained in the elective module, in which lectures and seminars, internships, language courses, and summer schools are selected within the specifications defined in the module handbook, and pertinent qualifications can be trained according to individual needs and interests.

Students without a good command of German are obliged to learn German within the elective module during at least two semesters.

The study plan and the module handbook with details on the contents, examination types, and other information on the modules can be downloaded here:
www.turkologie.uni-mainz.de/m-a-turkologie/

2. Target group and teaching philosophy

The MA Turcology brings together students with a highly heterogeneous profile. Most graduates of a German Turcology BA programme possess an intermediate proficiency in Turkish and basic linguistic, literary and historical skills. In Mainz, they demonstrate a basic command of Ottoman Turkish as well. Throughout Germany and Central Europe, qualifications acquired in a first-cycle Turcology or Oriental Studies programme are usually relatively similar. Another target group, students with a first degree acquired in a Turkic-speaking country (such as Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan), have a slightly different profile: Here, Turkish or another Turkic language is usually the mother tongue, and consequently the acquisition of practical language skills is a much less important part of the first study cycle. Knowledge of pre-modern Turkic varieties such as Ottoman Turkish or Chaghatay is usually present. The latter student type has often a significantly more comprehensive competence in literature, while the former often demonstrates a deeper structural knowledge.

These heterogeneous student profiles have to be reconciled in the MA Turcology. Thus, the MA Turcology puts special emphasis on the transfer of methodological skills and specific knowledge in linguistics and literary studies, and their application on Turkish and Turkic data. Structure courses (a-courses in the modules 1a, 2a, and 3a) advance structural knowledge, in which local students might have a certain advantage from the BA level. In topics on literature
and culture, on the other hand (modules 1b, 2b, and 3b), students from Germany often lag behind compared to foreign students, especially regarding general and background knowledge as well as language competence, less so in respect to methodological skills specific to the discipline.

The heterogeneous student profile which we expect – students with native skills in different Turkic languages, especially in Turkish, students who have learned Turkish as a foreign language and must further develop their skills, students with a strong methodological education, students with strengths in the domain of historical linguistics, etc. – is seen as an opportunity for the MA Turcology, a setting with a large potential in which students with highly diverse skills and competences meet and are encouraged to interact and cooperate, a framework which stimulates both the exchange of expertise and the training of pedagogical skills and social competences. English as the medium of communication makes a dialogue and an exchange in an international atmosphere and ambience possible. Turkish and German function as additional contact languages within and outside the courses.

The expert qualifications acquired in the MA Turcology focus on skills and contents from linguistics and comparative literary studies, under inclusion and consideration of the social and historical context.

**Applicants are expected to possess very good English skills.** They must understand, speak, and write English at a level which enables them to participate actively in all aspects of an academic study programme.

### 3. Structure

The MA Turcology is a consecutive study programme covering four semesters. It consists of eight modules, each of which consists of a set of specific courses. The first three semesters contain a module on Turkic linguistics and a module on Turkic literature and culture each. Within these modules, there are structure courses on selected Turkic languages, seminars on linguistic Turcology, research seminars, as well as lectures and seminars on Turkic literature and culture. The elective module accompanies the first three semesters. The final module (fourth semester) consists of a colloquium, the MA thesis, and an oral examination. All modules except the elective module finish with a module examination.

In the elective module, international students without a substantive knowledge of German (at least B2 according to the CEFR) are obliged to attend German classes of the ISSK (International Preparatory and Language Centre) for at least two terms. Besides, students can
select language courses, courses from disciplines such as comparative literary studies, linguistics, and geography, from the course programme of the Gutenberg International School, or additional courses from the Department of Turcology. It is also possible to complete internships, summer schools, or external language courses. It is compulsory to have the elective activities approved in advance by the module representative.

The design of the study programme with its modules of one semester’s length encourages international student mobility. A broad network of international partnerships facilitates temporal study periods abroad.

4. Terms of admission

Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree (or equivalent, e.g. lisans) with a prescribed period of study of at least six semesters at a university in Germany or abroad. One of the following connections to Turcology are compulsory:

- A record of Turcology courses of at least 36 ECTS credits.
- Graduation in linguistics, literary studies, or history with a bachelor thesis on a Turcological topic.

Students must have good active and passive competence in Turkish or another Turkic language corresponding to at least level B2 of CEFR.

The teaching programme is in English. Students must have a very good command of English which enables them to participate actively in the courses and to read extensive academic literature fluently. Knowledge of German is not required for admission; however, students without a good command of German must attend German language courses within the framework of the programme in the elective module. As most of the other teaching programmes at JGU Mainz are in German, students without knowledge of German will have reduced elective options.

Application deadline for all MA programmes is March 01 for the summer term and September 01 for the winter term. Detailed information:

https://www.studying.uni-mainz.de/master-application/

Foreign diplomas must be formally recognized prior to the application, a process which takes about 6 weeks and costs a fee of EUR 60. Information on recognition:

https://www.studying.uni-mainz.de/certification-of-recognition-validation-of-foreign-certificates/
5. Selection
Admission to the MA Turcology is not restricted. Students fulfilling the formal criteria for admission and applying with the complete documents within the deadlines will generally be admitted.

6. Degree
After successful completion of the programme, the students obtain the degree of Master of Arts (MA) in the discipline Turcology.

7. International mobility
Due to its structure with modules of one semester’s duration, periods of international mobility can be integrated flexibly into the study. A stay abroad is possible after any finished module but particularly recommended in the third semester. International mobility is not obligatory but highly recommended.

The stay abroad can be organized individually, i.e. students can select a university abroad which suits their needs best, and finance the stay by themselves, with the support of BAFöG (Auslands-BAFöG), or another study grant. Besides, the Department of Turcology maintains a broad network of international partners within the ERASMUS programme, with universities in Sweden, Macedonia, Hungary, Poland, and Turkey, which enables an easy exchange of non-degree-seeking students and teaching staff.

The current list of our ERASMUS partners is found here:
https://www.turkologie.uni-mainz.de/erasmus/

Furthermore, there are developing relations with partners in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, which will be broadened and tightened in the future. The English design of our MA programme facilitates international exchange.

Study results acquired within ERASMUS stays are recognized by the ERASMUS coordinator of the Department of Turcology. The coordinator issues a document on the recognition of study achievements (“Anerkennung von Studienleistungen”), which is submitted by the student to the relevant Office for Student Affairs to be entered into the JOGUSITINE database. Marks are converted according to the ETCS guidelines. The coordinator is also in charge of guidance and advice before, during, and after the stay abroad. Recognition is implemented
upon request of the student and should normally happen before the start of the subsequent term.

Internet resources:
https://www.studium.uni-mainz.de/nach-der-rueckkehr/
https://www.turkologie.uni-mainz.de/erasmus/

Other study results are recognized upon request by the student advisor (“Studienberater”) of the Department of Turcology.

8. Internships

An accompanying internship is not obligatory but highly recommended. Internships are important links between university and the job market and will be a valuable asset for your job planning and the organization of your studies. You will get insight into possible occupation fields, apply knowledge and skills acquired during your studies, and will find out on how far studies and job opportunities meet your expectations and interests. Internships will grant you additional practical skills, work experience, and valuable contacts to potential employers.

9. Information and orientation

Advice and information on application and procedures are found here:
https://www.studying.uni-mainz.de/

For specific information on Turcology and the organization of your studies, contact the Students’ Advisor of the Department of Turcology, Özlem Deniz Ahlers, M.A.: deniz.ahlers@uni-mainz.de.

With questions on course management and examination management, you may contact the responsible Office for Student Affairs (Studienbüro):
https://www.studium.uni-mainz.de/studienbueros/

Information from a student’s perspective can be obtained from our Students’ Union (Fachschaft):
https://fs-turkologie.weebly.com/
https://www.facebook.com/turkologiemainz/
fs.turkologie@gmail.com
10. Job qualification

Being a research-oriented study programme, the MA Turcology puts emphasis on discipline-related expertise and methodological competences, which play a dominant role in all phases of university studies.

The discipline-related expertise is of seminal importance for employability in academic jobs, in universities and research institutions within Germany and abroad. The design of the programme in English prepares students especially for an international career and job fields for which international networks are important. Discipline-related skills that are given prominence in the MA Turcology are related to the academic disciplines Turcology, linguistics, and comparative literary studies.

Methodological skills conveyed and trained in the programme are equally important for these job fields, but also relevant for non-academic domains such as media, publishing houses, culture institutions, parties, NGOs, public relations and human resources departments, etc. Apart from competences relevant to the discipline, graduates of the MA Turcology also possess general methodological competences, a know how in the classical sense of the word, i.e. a capacity for outcome-oriented thinking and the development of creative approaches to master tasks, challenges, and problems.

Social skills are trained on various levels in the MA Turcology. In written exams and oral presentations, students practice how to present hypotheses, methods, and results in a clearly structured, transparent, intelligible, and formally sound way, and to communicate their findings and positions convincingly. In doing so, they must pay attention to the needs of a heterogeneous group of addressees. The flexibility and adaptiveness necessary for this task is as relevant to social skills as is assertiveness, which is trained in partner and group work. During lessons and preparation of oral presentations and written essays, the students will be prepared for effective performance in communication. As this skill is partly culture-specific, the students broaden their competence to master communicative and interactive situations in a Turkish and/or Turkic setting through the acquisition of culture-specific knowledge. Here, the MA programme builds on the fundamental communicative patterns already trained on the BA level, especially in language courses.

Cooperativeness and teamwork are practiced in partner and group work, while motivation is trained in self-study, which forms an important part within the MA Turcology.

Personal competences developed and trained in the MA Turcology are self-reliance, an organized and structured work performance, and the ability to plan and organize activities and tasks relevant to the studies, as well as awareness for formally immaculate, thorough
work (citation, treatment of sources, orthography, language use, terminology, etc.). The intercultural dimension (contrast Turkic world vs. Germany and Central Europe; inter- and intra-cultural diversity within and among the Turkic societies) will contribute to the students’ development of awareness for culture-specific and individual values.

Further job-relevant skills can be developed in the elective module, where courses, internships, language courses and summer schools can be selected flexibly within the parameters defined in the module handbook, and students can acquire further qualifications according to their specific needs and preferences.

11. Contextualization at JGU Mainz and in Germany

A. At JGU Mainz

At the University of Mainz, there is currently a BA minor programme in Turcology, and an elective Turcology focus within the BA Linguistics. A BA major programme Turcology is being planned. In the second study cycle, Turcology offers study foci within the MA Linguistics and the MA World Literature programmes besides the MA Turcology. In the third study cycle, JGU Mainz offers a doctoral degree in Turcology.

There are teaching cooperations with other disciplines in the Institute of Slavic, Turkic and Circum-Baltic Studies (ISTziB), with the Linguistics department, and with the Turkish department of the Faculty of Translation Studies.

B. In Germany

According to the documentation portal “Kleine Fächer” (www.kleinefaecher.de), there are a total of 13 professorships of Turcology at 10 locations in Germany: Bamberg, Berlin (2x), Bochum, Duisburg-Essen, Freiburg, Gießen, Göttingen, Hamburg, Mainz, and München. Research foci of the individual persons and locations are highly diverse. At present, Mainz offers the only Turcology MA programme in Germany which is fully designed in English. The programme is also unique in that it combines a linguistics focus with a literature focus in one programme.
III. Contact

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