



# GAZETTE

Official newsletter of the Corporation and Foundation

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— New announcement of the Subject-Specific Schedule 5.17 Politics and Democracy (M.Sc.) and Public Affairs and Democracy (M.Sc.) with commencement of studies before the winter semester 2026/27 to the General Assessment Regulations for the Master's programs of the Graduate School of Leuphana University Lüneburg

## **New announcement of the subject-specific schedule 5.17 Politics and Democracy (M.Sc.) and Public Affairs and Democracy (M.Sc.) for students starting their studies before the winter semester 2026/27 regarding the General Assessment Regulations for the Master's programs at the Graduate School of Leuphana University Lüneburg**

The Executive Board of Leuphana University Lüneburg hereby publishes the wording of Subject-Specific Schedule No. 5.17 Politics and Democracy (M.Sc.) and Public Affairs and Democracy (M.Sc.) for students who began their studies before the 2026/27 winter semester, dated 15 February 2024 (Gazette No. 56/24 of 15 February 2024), in the currently valid version, taking into account

- the first amendment of 12 November 2025 (Leuphana Gazette No. 09/26 of 12 January 2026)

to the General Assessment Regulations for the Master's programs at the Graduate School of Leuphana University Lüneburg to the General Assessment Regulations for the Master's programs at the Graduate School of Leuphana University Lüneburg dated 17 September 2008 (Leuphana Gazette No. 15/08 dated 6 October 2008), last amended on 19 April 2023 (Leuphana Gazette No. 49/23 dated 16 June 2023).

### **SECTION I**

#### **Regarding § 2 RPO, aim of the programme, purpose of the examination**

The English-language programme is aimed at both national and international Bachelor's graduates in the field of political science. It enables students to analyse key aspects of democratic governance and the current challenges facing liberal democracy in Western societies and political systems in the Global South in a theoretically sound and scientifically rigorous manner using empirical methods. It also aims to enable students to operate confidently in an international professional environment. This is achieved through the focus on internationally relevant curricular topics, the use of English as the language of instruction, close cooperation with the non-university and internationally oriented Leibniz Institute for Global and Regional Studies (GIGA) within the framework of the programme and beyond, the international composition of the student body, and the opportunity to participate in existing and new exchange programmes (e.g. Hebrew University Jerusalem).

#### Acquisition of subject-specific skills

Graduates:

- have broad and theoretically sound knowledge in the field of democracy research based on the latest scientific findings;
- have sound, broad and practical knowledge of relevant social science methods for dealing with complex problems in the field of democracy research;
- have critical judgement with regard to central issues in democracy research and current developments in this field;
- have advanced knowledge at the interfaces with related fields;
- have specialised technical and conceptual skills for solving strategic problems within democracy research.

- have the technical, conceptual and methodological skills to conduct independent research in the field of democracy research.

#### Acquisition of interdisciplinary skills

##### Graduates:

- can present complex subject-related problems and solutions to experts in a well-argued manner and develop them further with them.
- can define, reflect on, evaluate and sustainably shape goals for learning and work processes.
- can work responsibly in teams of experts and lead groups or organisations in the context of complex tasks.
- can guide and specifically promote the professional development of others.
- can lead field-specific and cross-disciplinary discussions and present their work results.
- can define goals for new application- or research-oriented tasks, reflecting on the possible social and political implications, use appropriate means and independently acquire knowledge for this purpose.

#### **Regarding § 3 RPO, modularisation, study structure and scope, standard period of study**

The standard period of study is two years. The scope of study is 120 credit points.

## Module overview Masters in Politics and Democracy (M.Sc.)

(see also Subject-Specific Schedule 8 Complementary Studies)

### Module overview Masters programme in Politics and Democracy (M.Sc.)

|    |  |   |  |  |  |   |
|----|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| 4. | Master's Forum<br>(MA-PAD-4a)<br>5 CP                              | Master's Thesis (MA-PAD-4b)<br>25 CP                              |  |  |  |   |
| 3  | Research Seminar in Democracy Studies<br>(MA-PAD-3a)<br>5 CP       | Democracy in a Changing World Order<br>(MA-PAD-3b)<br>5 CP        | Climate Governance in the Global South<br>(MA-PAD-3c)<br>5 CP  | Cultural Perspectives on Democracy*<br>(MA-PAD-3d)<br>5 CP | Elective<br>5 CP   | Connecting Science, Responsibility, and Society<br>(MA-K-3)<br>5 CP |
| 2. | Qualitative Methods (Integration Methods)<br>(MA-PAD-2a)<br>5 CP   | Experimental Methods (Integration Methods)<br>(MA-PAE-2a)<br>5 CP | Global Theories of Democracy<br>(MA-PAD-2b)<br>5 CP            | Democratic Policymaking<br>(MA-PAD-2c)<br>*<br>5 CP        | Elective<br>5 CP   | Reflecting on Research Methods<br>(MA-K-2)<br>5 CP                  |
| 1  | Quantitative Methods (MA-PAE-1a)<br>(Integration Methods)<br>10 CP |   | Introduction to Sustainability Governance<br>(MA-GL-1)<br>5 CP | Institutions of Democracy (MA-PAD-1a)*<br>5                | Accountability and Participation in the Global South (MA-PAD-1b)<br>5 CP | Engaging with Knowledge and Sciences<br>(MA-K-1)<br>5 CP            |

\*1 CP at Leuphana University Lüneburg corresponds to a workload of 30 hours and thus also to one ECTS.

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
|  | Electives                      |
|  | Integration area               |
|  | Core area (Main Area)          |
|  | Complementary Studies          |
|  | Master's Forum/Master's Thesis |

In the *elective area*, students must take two modules from the following modules:

- Comparative and International Political Economy (MA-PAD-2d) (5 CP, 2nd semester)
- Environmental Economics (MA-PAE-2c) (5 CP, 2nd semester)
- Governing transformation to sustainability (MA-GL-3) (5 CP, 2nd semester)
- Public Finance and Public Politics (MA-PAE-2d) (5 CP, 2nd semester)
- Global Sustainability Politics and Sustainable Statehood (MA-GL-5) (5 CP, 3rd semester)
- Security Policy in a Globally Comparative Perspective (MA-PAD-3e) (5 CP, 3rd semester)
- Replication Studies in Economics (MA-PAE-3d) (5 CP, 3rd semester)
- Behavioral Public Economics (MA-PAE-3c) (5 CP, 3rd semester)

The **integration area Methods** comprises (20 CP) and is completed together with the two Master's programmes "Politics and Democracy" and "Economics and Transformation". It covers the most important methods of contemporary social science research and teaches students the ability to critically evaluate existing research and conduct their own thorough research.

The Main Area (45 CP) introduces students to the most important concepts, theories, arguments and debates in democracy research in both the Global North and the Global South. This area of study includes a research seminar in which students carry out their own research project in preparation for their Master's thesis.

The modules in the "**Complementary Studies**" area (MA-K-1, MA-K-2, MA-K-3) (15 CP in total) offer an interdisciplinary programme that helps students to understand knowledge outside their own subject area and different subject-specific methods, as well as to establish connections between different areas and forms of knowledge (see Subject-Specific Schedules 8 Complementary Studies).

In the modules "**Master's Forum**" (MA-PAD-4a) (5 CP, 4th semester) and "**Master's Thesis**" (MA-PAD-4b) (25 CP) (4th semester), students are prepared for the practical and methodological requirements of independent democracy research and are supported in writing their Master's thesis.

#### **Regarding § 5 RPO, Academic Degrees**

Master of Science (M.Sc.)

#### **Regarding § 6 (3) RPO**

The teaching and examination language is English.

#### **Regarding § 8 RPO**

The processing time for the Master's thesis is five months. There is no oral examination.

## Regarding § 21 RPO, type and scope of assessments

### Module table First semester

| Module  | Content  | Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH)     | Module requirements  | CP | Comments |
|---|--|---|--|----|----------|
| <b>Mandatory Models</b>   |  |   |  |    |          |
| <i>Quantitative Methods (MA-PAE-1a) (Integration)</i>                               | <i>This course provides an overview of quantitative methods used in economics and political science focusing on regression analysis. It covers regression models for continuous, binary, categorical, and ordinal outcomes as well as regression models for statistics other than the mean.</i>  | <i>1 Lecture (2 CH) and Tutorial (1 CH) or 1 Seminar (3 CH)</i> | <i>1 written examination under supervision (60 min.) or 1 combined scientific work</i> | 10 | English  |
| <i>Introduction into Sustainability Governance (MA-GL-1) Main Area</i>              | <i>This module offers a comprehensive and advanced introduction to environmental and sustainability governance. It aims to provide a thorough understanding of key concepts and theoretical approaches in this field and their application to real-world cases. The module explores the functioning of governance systems in the development and implementation of public policies that address pressing environmental and sustainability issues at local, national, and international levels. The module focuses on both the structural and procedural aspects of governance.</i> | <i>Lecture (2 CH)</i>   | <i>Written examination under supervision (60 min.)</i>                                 | 5  | English  |
| <i>Institutions of Democracy (MA-PAD-1a) (Main Area)</i>                            | <i>This module examines the institutional foundations of democracy in a historical perspective. Particular attention will be paid to the trade-off between majority rule and minority rights. Additionally, parties' historical evolution is a major topic of this module, especially with respect to the interactions between established parties and their populist contenders.</i>  | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)</i>   | <i>1 combined scientific work or 1 written scientific work without supervision</i>     | 5  | English  |
| <i>Accountability and Participation in the Global South (MA-PAD-1b) (Main Area)</i> | <i>This module provides an overview of theories and empirical research on the variety of forms and means of political accountability and political participation in the Global South. It will also introduce students to different regime types and broad trends of democratization and autocratization since the early 1990s.</i>   | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)</i>   | <i>1 oral examination or 1 written scientific work without supervision</i>             | 5  | English  |

**Module Table Second Semester**

| Module  | Content  | Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH) | Module requirements  | CP       | Comments       |
|---|--|---|--|----------|----------------|
| <b>Mandatory Models</b>                               |  |   |  |          |                |
| <i>Qualitative Methods (MA-PAD-2a) (Integration)</i>  | <i>This module familiarises students with the following qualitative methods: individual and comparative case studies, (Bayesian) process analysis, ethnography and participant observation, content and discourse analysis as well as interviews. In addition to methodological basics, the focus is on the application of selected methods. The module also deals with questions of research ethics and transparency.</i> | <i>1 Lecture (1 CH)<br/>1 Seminar (1 CH)</i>                | <i>1 combined scientific work or<br/>1 practical examination</i>                               | <i>5</i> | <i>English</i> |
| <i>Experimental Methods (MA-PAE-2a) (Integration)</i> | <i>The module provides an introduction to experimental research methods (e.g., laboratory experiments, field experiments). Topics include the role of the experimental method for research in economics and political science, methodological foundations, the design of experiments, and their statistical analysis.</i>  | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)<br/>or<br/>1 Lecture (2CH)</i>          | <i>1 Combined scientific work or<br/>1 written scientific work under supervision (60 Min.)</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>English</i> |

**Continuation of Module Table Second Semester**

| Module  | Content   | Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH) | Module requirements  | CP       | Comments       |
|---|---|---|--|----------|----------------|
| <b>Mandatory Models</b>   |   |   |  |          |                |
| <i>Global Theories of Democracy (Main Area)</i>                               | <i>This course examines classical and modern theories of democracy as well as normative and empirical-analytical theories of democracy. Approaches from the European canon, the Global North, and the Global South will be discussed. Finally, theories and analyses of democracy will be compared, and challenges and perspectives of democratic theory will be discussed.</i> | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)</i>                                     | <i>1 oral examination or<br/>1 combined scientific work</i>                                    | <i>5</i> | <i>English</i> |
| <i>Democratic Policymaking (MA-PAD-2c) (Main Area)</i>                        | <i>This course examines how democratic institutions shape policymaking, using the case of migration policy. Studying migration policymaking in democratic and non-democratic countries in the Global North and the Global South, we will assess how norms, interests and institutions affect policy output and outcome in a national and regional context.</i>                  | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)</i>                                     | <i>1 combined scientific work or<br/>1 written scientific work without supervision</i>         | <i>5</i> | <i>English</i> |
| <i>Comparative and International Political Economy (MA-PAD-2d) (Elective)</i> | <i>This module provides an advanced introduction to political economy, focusing on its intricate relationship with democracy. It explores how economic systems impact democratic institutions and vice versa, covering key concepts like capitalism, socialism, and globalization.</i>  | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)</i>                                     | <i>1 written scientific work without supervision or<br/>1 combined scientific work</i>         | <i>5</i> | <i>English</i> |
| <i>Environmental Economics (MA-PAE-2c) (Elective)</i>                         | <i>Fundamental treatment of environmental economic problems based on environmental economic modeling and practical examples.</i>  | <i>1 Lecture (2 CH)</i>                                     | <i>1 written scientific work under supervision (60 Min.) or<br/>1 combined scientific work</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>English</i> |

**Continuation of Module Table Second Semester**

| Module   | Content  | Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH) | Module requirements  | CP       | Comments       |
|--|--|---|--|----------|----------------|
| <b>Electives</b>   |  |   |  |          |                |
| <i>Governing Transformation to Sustainability (MA-GL-3) (Elective)</i> | <i>Sustainability transitions (transformations) is a comparatively young field of research that studies how fundamental societal or socio-technical change occurs and how such change for sustainability can be instigated and maintained, focusing on the role of governance. Students will work with cutting-edge academic literature and investigate promising (and failed) examples of sustainability transition in different sectors and world regions.</i> | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)</i>                                     | <i>Combined assessment</i>   | <i>5</i> | <i>English</i> |
| <i>Public Finance and Public Policy (MA-PAE-2d) (Elective)</i>         | <i>Basic concepts of market efficiency, externalities, public goods, Public choice, taxation and tax avoidance.</i>  | <i>1 Lecture (2 CH)<br/>or<br/>1 Seminar (2 CH)</i>         | <i>1 written scientific work under supervision (60 Min.)<br/>or<br/>1 combined scientific work</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>English</i> |

**Module Table Third Semester**

| Module  | Content   | Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH) | Module requirements  | CP | Comments |
|---|---|---|--|----|----------|
| <b>Mandatory Models</b>   |   |   |  |    |          |
| <i>Research Seminar in Democracy Studies (MA-PAD-3a) (Main Area)</i>  | <i>The module provides an overview of the debates in democracy research with the aim that students apply the concepts of democracy research to their own research project. Within this module students will be developing their own research project (elaboration of a democracy-specific research question, the collection and analysis of data and the presentation of the research results).</i>                           | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)<br/>or<br/>1 Project (2 CH)</i>         | <i>1 combined scientific work<br/>or<br/>1 written scientific work without supervision</i> | 5  | English  |
| <i>Democracy in a Changing World Order (MA-PAD-3b) (Main Area)</i>    | <i>This module examines the manifold interconnections between democracy and international relations in a changing world order, covering both normative and analytical perspectives. Analytically, we examine how democracy shapes international politics and how international politics, in turn, may shape democracy domestically. Normatively, we consider the democratic legitimacy of international politics.</i>         | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)</i>                                     | <i>1 combined scientific work<br/>or<br/>1 oral examination</i>                            | 5  | English  |
| <i>Climate Governance in the Global South (MA-PAD-3c) (Main Area)</i> | <i>This module covers the linkages between global and national climate policy and different aspects of democratic governance. On the one hand, it is about the significance of the "Global South" for international climate negotiations, but also about case studies and comparisons of national policies as well as different attempts of cross-border cooperation to combat climate change.</i>                            | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)</i>                                     | <i>1 oral examination<br/>or<br/>1 combined scientific work</i>                            | 5  | English  |
| <i>Cultural Perspectives on Democracy (MA-PAD-3d) (Main Area)</i>     | <i>This course addresses the cultural foundations and pre-requisites of liberal democracies. We study value orientations that enable and motivate citizens to live democratic freedoms. To this end, we analyse how shifts in societal values lead to regime-culture tensions. Doing so, we develop an understanding of the role of value change in regime-culture coevolution from a globally comparative point of view.</i> | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)<br/>or<br/>1 Project (2CH)</i>          | <i>1 written scientific work without supervision<br/>or<br/>1 combined scientific work</i> | 5  | English  |

## Continuation of Module Table Third Semester

| Module   | Content   | Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH) | Module requirements  | CP       | Comments                |
|--|---|---|--|----------|-------------------------|
| <b>Electives</b>   |   |   |  |          |                         |
| <i>Global Sustainability Politics and Sustainable Statehood (MA-GL-5) (Wahlpflichtmodul)</i> | <i>In September 2015, 193 member-states of the United Nations agreed on the 2030 Transformation Agenda and, within it, on global sustainability goals (SDGs). Since the Agenda is not binding under international law, the question arises, which significance the Agenda plays for the nation states and to what extent they actually move forward on the path to sustainable development. The seminar will use literature, empirical information and country studies to examine the status and potential of sustainable statehood in the context of inter- and transnational political, social and economic contextual conditions and dynamics.</i> | <i>1 Seminar (2 SWS)</i>                                    | <i>Kombinierte wissenschaftliche Arbeit</i>  | <i>5</i> | <i>Englischsprachig</i> |
| <i>Security Policy in a Globally Comparative Perspective (MA-PAD-3e) (Elective)</i>          | <i>This module analyses the core concepts of security policy. These include defence policy, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, human security and critical security studies. The course focuses on comparative and empirical analysis across different time periods, regime types and regions of the world, particularly in the Global South.</i>  | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)</i>                                     | <i>1 oral examination or<br/>1 combined scientific work</i>                                | <i>5</i> | <i>English</i>          |
| <i>Replication Studies in Economics (MA-PAE-3d) (Elective)</i>                               | <i>Replication studies usually focus on the robustness of empirical findings. They can use (a) different methods and same data or (b) same methods and different data (different time or different population); but no pure reproductions (same method and same data). Students select a replicable journal paper and conduct an own replication study.</i>   | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)<br/>or<br/>1 Project (2 CH)</i>         | <i>1 combined scientific work<br/>or<br/>1 written scientific work without supervision</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>English</i>          |

**Continuation of Module Table Third Semester**

| Module  | Content  | Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH) | Module requirements  | CP       | Comments       |
|---|--|---|--|----------|----------------|
| <b>Electives</b>  |  |   |  |          |                |
| <i>Behavioral Public Economics (MA-PAE-3c) (Elective)</i> | <i>The module covers fundamental topics from the field of behavioral public economics. It raises different policy relevant questions and incorporates behavioral insights to test whether they improve policy outcomes. It covers basics from behavioral economics and their application to specific topics of behavioral public economics research.</i> | <i>1 Lecture (2 CH)<br/>or<br/>1 Seminar (2 CH)</i>         | <i>1 combined scientific work<br/>or<br/>1 written scientific work without supervision</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>English</i> |

**Module Table Fourth Semester**

| Module  | Content  | Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH) | Module requirements  | CP       | Comments  |
|---|--|---|--|----------|---|
| <i>Master's Forum (MA-PAD-4a) (Masters Forum / Thesis)</i>  | <i>The module accompanies students' work on their Master's thesis in political science. It serves to provide guidance to students in the conception, planning, organisation and execution of their Master's theses and provides for giving feedback on individual research projects.</i> | <i>1 Seminar (2 CH)</i>                                     | <i>1 written scientific work without supervision or<br/>1 combined scientific work</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>English<br/>If the Master's thesis is written in a practice-oriented way, an internship must be completed in this module instead of the seminar.</i> |
| <i>Master's Thesis (MA-PAD-4b) (Masters Forum / Thesis)</i> | <i>Students produce a scientific thesis within a limited period of time using scientific methods.</i>  | <i>none</i>   | <i>1 Master's Thesis</i>   |          | <i>English</i>  |

**Complementary Studies**

| Module                                 | Content   | Types of taught components (type and number of courses, CH) | Module requirements | CP | Comments                      |
|--|---|---|---------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| Complementary Studies<br>1-3 Semesters | The structure, content, types of class and assessments in Complementary Studies are set out in Subject-specific Schedule 8: Complementary Studies |   |                     |    | 5 CP per module each semester |

**Transitional Provisions**

Students who began their studies before the 2026/27 winter semester will retain the name of the study programme Public Affairs and Democracy (M.Sc.) until 30 September 2029. They may apply to the examination board for a name change before 30 September 2029.

