

## Appendix 1: Module Descriptions

### Explanatory notes:

These module descriptions address the following aspects for each module in the master's program unless otherwise noted that another set of regulations applies:

- The name of the module,
- The person responsible for the module (module coordinator),
- The prerequisites needed to take a particular module,
- The module's content and learning objectives,
- Modes of instruction used in the module,
- The amount of work required by students to complete a module successfully,
- Types of active participation,
- Types of assessments,
- Whether or not regular attendance is required,
- Credits awarded for the module,
- Standard duration for the module,
- Frequency,
- Applicability.

The information provided on student workload takes the following factors into account:

- Active participation during class sessions,
- Time needed to complete small assignments during class sessions,
- Time needed for students' preparations before class and follow-up work,
- Work on study units in online learning sections,
- Preparation time required specifically for assessments,
- The time needed for the assessment/examination itself.

The amount of time indicated for independent study (including preparing for class, follow-up work, preparing for an exam) are only approximations meant to help students organize their time when planning their workload for modules. The information on the workload corresponds to the number of credit points assigned to the respective module, which serves as a unit of measurement for the amount of work required to complete the module successfully. One credit point equals 30 hours.

If regular attendance is required for the specific type of instruction, then regular attendance, along with active participation in the instruction and successful completion of assessments, is necessary to receive credit points for the specific module. Regular attendance means that a student has attended at least 75% of the instruction in the module. If regular attendance is not required in a module, students are still strongly encouraged to attend classes regularly. Instructors teaching courses in which regular attendance is merely encouraged cannot decide that attendance should be required. For modules that include alternative forms of active participation, the type of participation, which must correspond to the student workload allotted for active participation in the respective semester, must be determined by the responsible instructor on the first day of class at the latest.

To complete each module, the student must complete the module assessment for that module if the module has one. To finish a graded module, only one assessment (module assessment) must be completed. The module assessment is based on the module's learning objectives and serves to test whether the objectives have been achieved. The scope of the assessment covers the components necessary to this end. For modules that include alternative assessment forms, the assessment for the respective semester must be determined by the responsible instructor on the first day of class at the latest.

Active and (if applicable) regular participation in the various modes of instruction as well as the successful completion of assessments are necessary to receive credit points for the specific module. If a module does not involve a module assessment, then active and regular participation in the mode of instruction is necessary to receive credit points for the specific module.

## 1. Required Modules

<b>Module:</b> Old Iranian Philology				
<b>University/department/teaching unit:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/History and Cultural Studies/History and Culture of the Near East				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> Module instructors				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> None				
<b>Learning objectives:</b> Students possess basic knowledge of an Old Iranian language (Old Persian or Avestan) and knowledge of elementary grammar as well as reading skills; they are able to use the sources preserved in the respective text corpus of the language critically as well as to critically approach different editions of a text. They have fundamental knowledge of editorial procedures and can develop academic research questions from a philological perspective.				
<b>Content:</b> In conjunction with an introduction to the script, grammar, and text corpus of an Old Iranian language (Old Persian or Avestan), this module offers an exemplary overview of the fundamentals of philological work, and the methods and research questions specific to the field of Iranian philology. It also provides students with the opportunity to practice particularly relevant philological working techniques for analyzing texts and gives an insight into the respective research history and the current state of research within this field by dealing with example problems. The module makes extensive use of original language texts.				
<b>Modes of instruction</b>	<b>Contact hours</b> (hours per week during the semester)	<b>Types of active participation</b>	<b>Workload (in hours)</b>	
Introductory course	2	Independent reading of academic literature, group work	Attendance (introductory course) Preparation and follow-up (introductory course)	30 135
Seminar	2	Grammar exercises, work on original texts	Attendance (seminar) Preparation and follow-up (seminar)  Assessment preparation and assessment	30 135  120
<b>Module assessment</b>		Written exam (90 minutes)		
<b>Module language</b>		English		
<b>Regular attendance required</b>		Yes		
<b>Total workload</b>		450 hours	15 credit points	
<b>Duration</b>		Two semesters		
<b>Frequency</b>		Once a year: the introductory course takes place during the winter semester, the seminar takes place during the summer semester		
<b>Applicability</b>		Master's degree program M.A. Iranian Studies		

<b>Module:</b> Middle Iranian Philology				
<b>University/department/teaching unit:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/History and Cultural Studies/ History and Culture of the Near East				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> Module instructors				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> None				
<b>Learning objectives:</b> The students are able to further develop their academic approach to philological work and have a basic knowledge of a Middle Iranian language (Middle Persian, Parthian, Sogdian, Khotanese Saka, or Bactrian) and knowledge of elementary grammar as well as reading skills; they can make use of sources preserved in the respective text corpus of the language and approach different editions of a text critically. Students also have basic knowledge of editorial procedures and can develop academic questions on a philological basis.				
<b>Content:</b> In conjunction with an introduction to the script, grammar, and text corpus of a Middle Iranian language, the module offers an exemplary overview of the fundamentals of philological work, methods and questions in the field of Iranian philology. It also serves to practice particularly relevant techniques of philological work for analyzing texts and provides an insight into the respective research history and the current state of research by dealing with example problems. The module makes extensive use of original language texts.				
<b>Modes of instruction</b>	<b>Contact hours</b> (hours per week during the semester)	<b>Types of active participation</b>	<b>Workload (in hours)</b>	
Introductory course	2	Independent reading of academic literature, group work	Attendance (introductory course) Preparation and follow-up (introductory course)	30 135
Seminar	2	Grammar exercises, work on original texts	Attendance (seminar) Preparation and follow-up (seminar)  Assessment preparation and assessment	30 135  120
<b>Module assessment</b>		Written exam (90 minutes)		
<b>Module language</b>		English		
<b>Regular attendance required</b>		Yes		
<b>Total workload</b>		450 hours	15 credit points	
<b>Duration</b>		Two semesters		
<b>Frequency</b>		Once a year: the introductory course takes place during the winter semester, the seminar takes place during the summer semester		
<b>Applicability</b>		Master's degree program M.A. Iranian Studies		

<b>Module:</b> Iranian Religions in History				
<b>University/department/teaching unit:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/History and Cultural Studies/History and Culture of the Near East				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> Module instructors				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> None				
<b>Learning objectives:</b> The students are able to further develop their analytical skills in the academic study of Iranian religions and personal accounts of Iranian religions. Using scientific methods taken from the fields of philology, literary criticism, gender studies, and hermeneutics, they can describe, analyze, and classify Iranian religions from a historical and religious studies perspective, taking into account the most important research approaches and making critical use of secondary literature and pertinent primary sources.				
<b>Content:</b> The module provides an insight into Iranian religious history as well as source and text analysis based on one or more critically discussed religions of Iranian origin. It provides an overview of the main problems of the specific research area based on a critical discussion of secondary literature. Based on the reading of relevant sources, students will explore their own ways of combining methods and discussing problems. The focus is on independent work and developing problem solving techniques that integrate approaches and methods taken from the fields of history, religious studies, philology, and gender studies. The module makes extensive use of original language texts.				
<b>Modes of instruction</b>	<b>Contact hours</b> (hours per week during the semester)	<b>Types of active participation</b>	<b>Workload (in hours)</b>	
Lecture	2	Participation in discussion, group work, reading assignments, critical discussion of Iranian-language primary texts	Attendance (lecture) Preparation and follow-up (lecture)	30 60
Seminar	2	Grammar exercises, work on original texts	Attendance (seminar) Preparation and follow-up (seminar) Assessment preparation and assessment	30 60 120
<b>Module assessment</b>		Term paper (approx. 3,000 words); the module assessment is graded on a pass/fail basis only.		
<b>Module language</b>		English		
<b>Regular attendance required</b>		Yes		
<b>Total workload</b>		300 hours	10 credit points	
<b>Duration</b>		Two semesters		
<b>Frequency</b>		Once a year: the lecture takes place during the winter semester, the seminar takes place during the summer semester		
<b>Applicability</b>		Master's degree program M.A. Iranian Studies		

<b>Module:</b> Iranian Literatures				
<b>University/department/teaching unit:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/History and Cultural Studies History and Culture of the Near East				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> Module instructors				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> None				
<b>Learning objectives:</b> Students are able to further develop their analytical skills in working with Iranian cultural testimonies from an academic perspective. They can use methods taken from the fields of philology, literary criticism, gender studies, history, and hermeneutics to analyze texts, taking into account the most important research approaches to historically and aesthetically describe, analyze, and classify a sub-epoch or a literary genre of Iranian literary history by critically using secondary literature as well as the most important primary sources.				
<b>Content:</b> The module allows students to follow the development of a sub-epoch of the literary history of Iran or of a specific literary genre using examples taken from the most important original-language sources and by critically examining academic literature. In the seminar, students develop an overview of the sub-epoch or literary genre under investigation that includes specific research problems taken from the fields of literary studies, social studies, gender studies, and history. In the reading course, the most significant Iranian-language texts are read and discussed. The module makes extensive use of original texts.				
<b>Modes of instruction</b>	<b>Contact hours</b> (hours per week during the semester)	<b>Types of active participation</b>	<b>Workload (in hours)</b>	
Seminar	2	Participation in discussion, group work, independent reading of academic literature	Attendance (seminar) Preparation and follow-up (seminar)	30 60
Reading course	2	Reading and classifying Iranian-language primary texts, guided research exercises, work on original-language texts	Attendance (reading course) Preparation and follow-up (reading course)  Assessment preparation and assessment	30 60  120
<b>Module assessment</b>		Term paper (approx. 3,000 words)		
<b>Module language</b>		English		
<b>Regular attendance required</b>		Yes		
<b>Total workload</b>		300 hours	10 credit points	
<b>Duration</b>		Two semesters		
<b>Frequency</b>		Once a year: the seminar takes place during the winter semester, the reading course takes place during the summer semester		
<b>Applicability</b>		Master's degree program M.A. Iranian Studies		

<b>Module:</b> Iranian History in its Sources				
<b>University/department/teaching unit:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/History and Cultural Studies/ History and Culture of the Near East				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> Module instructors				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> None				
<b>Learning objectives:</b> Students are able to deepen and intensify their basic knowledge of Iranian sources and manuscripts by working on examples of important writings from a specific historical period. They can make use of philological and hermeneutic methods of analyzing and interpreting texts and have mastered specific academic techniques for dealing with problems in interpreting sources. They can analyze primary sources and use secondary literature critically, taking into account research approaches from fields such as the social sciences, gender studies, and history.				
<b>Content:</b> The module allows students to follow the development of a sub-epoch of the literary history of Iran or of a specific literary genre using examples taken from the most important original-language sources and by critically examining academic literature. In the seminar, students develop an overview of the sub-epoch or literary genre under investigation that includes specific research problems taken from the fields of social studies, gender studies, and history. In the related practice session, students read and discuss the most significant Iranian-languages sources. The module makes extensive use of original texts.				
<b>Modes of instruction</b>	<b>Contact hours</b> (hours per week during the semester)	<b>Types of active participation</b>	<b>Workload (in hours)</b>	
Advanced seminar	2	Participation in discussion, group work, independent reading of academic literature	Attendance (advanced seminar) Preparation and follow-up (advanced seminar)	30 60
Practice session	2	Reading and classifying Iranian-language primary texts, guided research exercises, work on original language texts	Attendance (practice session) Preparation and follow-up (practice session)  Assessment preparation and assessment	30 60  120
<b>Module assessment</b>		Term paper (approx. 3,000 words)		
<b>Module language</b>		English		
<b>Regular attendance required</b>		Yes		
<b>Total workload</b>		300 hours	10 credit points	
<b>Duration</b>		Two semesters		
<b>Frequency</b>		Once a year: the advanced seminar takes place during the winter semester, the practice session takes place during the summer semester		
<b>Applicability</b>		Master's degree program M.A. Iranian Studies		

## 2. Required Elective Modules

<b>Module:</b> Modern Iranian Languages				
<b>University/department/teaching unit:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/History and Cultural Studies/History and Culture of the Near East				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> Module instructors				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> None				
<b>Learning objectives:</b> Students are able to classify and analyze different varieties of various Iranian languages. They will expand their reading and translation skills as well as their oral and written expression skills by working on texts or using modern communication media.				
<b>Content:</b> Language skills are expanded upon using classical and/or modern Iranian-language texts relevant to Iranian studies as well as modern communication media. This can take the form of prepared reading tasks, translations, written essays, or oral presentations. The focus is on further developing oral and written expression and consolidating text grammar. In addition, elements of Iranian grammar and rhetoric tradition are also covered.				
<b>Modes of instruction</b>	<b>Contact hours</b> (hours per week during the semester)	<b>Types of active participation</b>	<b>Workload (in hours)</b>	
Seminar	2	Preparing and carrying out follow-up work on reading assignments, short presentations, participation in discussion, written assignments, grammar exercises, developing reading and speaking skills	Attendance (seminar)	30
			Preparation and follow-up (seminar)	60
Practical language exercise	2		Attendance (practical language exercise)	30
			Preparation and follow-up (practical language exercise)	60
			Assessment preparation and assessment	120
<b>Module assessment</b>		Written exam (approx. 90 minutes)		
<b>Module language</b>		English		
<b>Regular attendance required</b>		Yes		
<b>Total workload</b>		300 hours	10 credit points	
<b>Duration</b>		Two semesters		
<b>Frequency</b>		Once a year: the seminar takes place during the winter semester, the practical language exercise takes place during the summer semester		
<b>Applicability</b>		Master's degree program M.A. Iranian Studies		

<b>Module:</b> Introduction to Iranian Linguistics				
<b>University/department/teaching unit:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/History and Cultural Studies/ History and Culture of the Near East				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> Module instructors				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> None				
<b>Learning objectives:</b> The students have a basic understanding of the synchronic and diachronic linguistics of Iranian languages. They are familiar with the terms and methods used within the field of linguistics.				
<b>Content:</b> Students learn the fundamentals of linguistics and are introduced to methods for analyzing Iranian languages and historical linguistic evidence.				
<b>Modes of instruction</b>	<b>Contact hours</b> (hours per week during the semester)	<b>Types of active participation</b>	<b>Workload (in hours)</b>	
Seminar	2	Participation in discussion, group work, reading assignments, critical discussion of Iranian-language primary texts	Attendance (seminar) Preparation and follow-up (seminar)	30 60
Proseminar	2	Participation in discussion, guided research exercises, work on original language texts	Attendance (proseminar) Preparation and follow-up (proseminar)  Assessment preparation and assessment	30 60  120
<b>Module assessment</b>		Written exam (90 minutes)		
<b>Module language</b>		English		
<b>Regular attendance required</b>		Yes		
<b>Total workload</b>		300 hours	10 credit points	
<b>Duration</b>		Two semesters		
<b>Frequency</b>		Once a year: the seminar takes place during the winter semester, the proseminar takes place during the summer semester		
<b>Applicability</b>		Master's degree program M.A. Iranian Studies		



<b>Module:</b> Iran and Turan				
<b>University/department/teaching unit:</b> Freie Universität Berlin/History and Cultural Studies/ History and Culture of the Near East				
<b>Module coordinator:</b> Module instructors				
<b>Prerequisites:</b> None				
<b>Learning objectives:</b> Students are able to describe and interpret the complex relationships between Iranians and Turks in the areas of gender, literature, religion, society, and language through the centuries using primary texts, as well as to critically use secondary literature to focus on these aspects within a specific sub-epoch. They are able to carry out academic work independently and to critically evaluate research approaches both old and new.				
<b>Content:</b> The module provides basic knowledge of Iranian-Turkish relationships on various sociocultural levels, with a particular focus on gender issues. The reading course provides an overview of the sub-epoch covered using translated original sources and relevant secondary literature.				
<b>Modes of instruction</b>	<b>Contact hours</b> (hours per week during the semester)	<b>Types of active participation</b>	<b>Workload (in hours)</b>	
Advanced seminar	2	Participation in discussion; group work, independent reading of academic literature	Attendance (seminar) Preparation and follow-up (seminar)	30 80
Reading course	2	Reading and classifying primary Turkish and Iranian texts that have been translated, guided research exercises	Attendance (reading course) Preparation and follow-up (reading course)	30 40
			Assessment preparation and assessment	120
<b>Module assessment</b>		Term paper (approx. 3,000 words)		
<b>Module language</b>		English		
<b>Regular attendance required</b>		Yes		
<b>Total workload</b>		300 hours	10 credit points	
<b>Duration</b>		One semester		
<b>Frequency</b>		Every winter semester		
<b>Applicability</b>		Master's degree program M.A. Iranian Studies		

**Appendix 2: Standard Curriculum Plan for the Master's Degree Program M.A. Iranian Studies**

Semester	Modules							Master's thesis, including presentation of results (30 credit points)
	Required Modules (60 credit points)			Required Elective Modules (10 credit points)			Inter- and Transdisciplinary Area (20 credit points)	
				either	or	or		
<b>1 (30 credit points)</b>	Module: Old Iranian Philology	Module: Middle Iranian Philology	Module: Iranian Religions in History	Module: Modern Iranian Languages	Module: Iran and Turan	Module: Introduction to Iranian Linguistics	Module: Interdisciplinary Section  (20 credit points)	
<b>2 (30 credit points)</b>	(15 credit points)	(15 credit points)	(10 credit points)	(10 credit points)	(10 credit points)	(10 credit points)		
<b>3 (30 credit points)</b>	Module: Iranian Literatures	Module: Iranian History in its Sources						Master's thesis, including presentation of results  (30 credit points)
<b>4 (30 credit points)</b>	(10 credit points)	(10 credit points)						

### Appendix 3: Transcript (template)



FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND CULTURAL STUDIES

#### CERTIFICATE OF ACADEMIC RECORD

**[First name/Last name]**

born on [Month DD, YYYY], in [City of Birth, Country],

has successfully completed the master's degree program in

#### **Iranian Studies**

in accordance with the Examination Regulations of February 13, 2019 (published in *FU-Mitteilungen* No. 2/2019) with the final grade

**[Grade as number and text]**

and has earned the required amount of 120 credit points.

The examination results are as follows:

Areas of study	Credit Points	Grade
Modules	90 (63)	n.n
Master's thesis with presentation	30 (30)	n.n

The topic of the master's thesis was: [XX]

Berlin, [Day/Month/Year]

(Seal)

Dean

Chair of the Examination Board

Grading scale: 1.0 – 1.5 very good; 1.6 – 2.5 good; 2.6 – 3.5 satisfactory; 3.6 – 4.0 sufficient; 4.1 – 5.0 insufficient / fail

Non-graded achievements: BE = pass; NB = fail

Credit points correspond to the European Credit Transfer System ECTS.

Some coursework is ungraded; the amount of credit points in parentheses denotes those credit points that have been graded and have an effect on the cumulative grade.

## Appendix 4: Degree Certificate (template)



FREIE UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND CULTURAL STUDIES

### D E G R E E C E R T I F I C A T E

**[First name/Last name]**

born on [Month DD, YYYY], in [City of Birth, Country],

has successfully completed the master's degree program in

**Iranian Studies.**

In accordance with the Examination Regulations of February 13, 2019 (published in *FU-Mitteilungen* No. 2/2019),

the degree of

**Master of Arts (M. A.)**

is hereby awarded.

Berlin, [Day/Month/Year]

(Seal)

Dean

Chair of the Examination Board