Heidelberg University established the HCA in 2004 to serve as an institute for higher education, a center for interdisciplinary research, and as a forum for public debate.

The HCA is an intellectual center dedicated to the study of the United States in a global context, providing space for academic, public, and political discussion.

Heidelberg University offers unique conditions for the HCA: an outstanding academic tradition, a sterling international reputation, an attractive location in the historic center of one of Germany’s most beautiful and welcoming cities, and a strong record of study of the United States.

The HCA calls the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais its home. Located just steps away from the University Library and the main lecture halls, this 300 year old baroque townhouse with a state of the art modern annex offers perfect working conditions as well as a welcoming atmosphere for students, scholars, and the public.

MAS Contact and Information

- To learn more about the HCA and its MAS program, please contact: mas@uni-hd.de or visit: www.mas.uni-hd.de

- Applications for the M.A. in American Studies will be accepted from February 1 to March 15 each year via Heidelberg University’s online application system.

- Start of the program: October

- Tuition fee: none for EU-students; 1,500 EUR / semester for non-EU-students
The curriculum includes courses from economics, geography, history, literary & cultural studies, political science, and religious history. The unique design of the MAS gives students ample opportunity to choose an individual configuration for their course of study, including multiple combinations of disciplines. Individual study plans may concentrate on disciplines from the humanities or the social sciences, or combine both.

Benefits

- Outstanding teaching by internationally renowned scholars
- Excellent student-to-faculty ratio
- Interdisciplinary seminars and courses
- Superb research opportunities for the M.A. thesis under the supervision of distinguished experts
- A truly international and intercultural setting: To date, almost 200 students from almost 50 countries and five continents have earned their MAS at Heidelberg University

Heidelberg University

Study at a world-class research university: Heidelberg University is one of eleven German universities of excellence. It reliably ranks among the German top three in the Times Higher Education Ranking, and is the country’s highest ranked university in the 2018 Shanghai Ranking. The university is spread across Heidelberg’s 800-year-old historic town with social and natural sciences campuses in adjacent Bergheim and Neuenheimer Feld neighborhoods respectively.

Study in an international learning community: Heidelberg is home to more than 30,000 students, of which almost 6,000 come from abroad. The university also attracts around 250 international visiting professors each year.

MAS participants benefit from both excellent academic teaching by internationally renowned scholars and from an interdisciplinary approach which meets the needs of future leaders.

The HCA admits up to 20 students to the MAS every year. Most candidates will hold previous degrees in American Studies and/or from academic fields represented in the program.

Program

American Studies at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) is characterized by exemplary and interdisciplinary teaching of U.S. culture and society.

Study at the HCA, a premier institute for interdisciplinary research at Germany’s oldest university: an ideal combination of innovation and tradition.

Enjoy a first-class library: Along with 3.2 million volumes, the university library system boasts almost 95,000 electronic journals, more than 3,000 databases, and almost one million dissertations in full text. For the sixth consecutive year, Heidelberg University Library has been ranked at the top of the renowned BIX Library Index. Heidelberg is the only major academic library to be among the leaders in all four evaluation categories.

Enjoy access to outstanding research facilities: Our students conduct research at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (a United Nations depository library), and the Schurman Library for American History, among others.

Enjoy faculty expertise: Accomplished scholars from numerous disciplines teach in the MAS program. Our students have access to the resources of the participating departments, such as economics, geography, history, political science, and theology as well as the English department.