



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMME EGYPTOLOGY





During a tour of the Egyptian Collection

Egyptology as a scientific discipline

Egyptology investigates ancient Egyptian civilisation, from its pre-history (5th millennium BC) to the Arabic conquest of Egypt (641 AD) and focuses on the area of the lower Nile valley as well as neighbouring regions. In terms of content, Egyptology examines various source types and areas of interest. Philological research encompasses, among other things, the study of ancient Egyptian language levels as well as deciphering papyri and inscriptions whereas archaeological questions focus e.g. on ancient Egyptian architecture or the structures of necropoleis. In art-historical studies, on the other hand, the emphasis is on two- and three-dimensional depictions of everyday Egyptian life and the realm of the gods while historical approaches investigate political, economic and societal phenomena. The combination of philology, archaeology and history plays a significant role in Egyptology as these areas of interest are always interrelated and as the individual types of sources generally are relevant for various topics. A further feature of Egyptology is the fact that the ancient Egyptian culture constantly developed for several millennia. As a result, texts and artefacts from the various epochs can provide mutual explanations for one another, which is why it is vital to have an overview of the entire relevant time period.

Egyptology as a subject at university

The abundance of sources makes Egyptology a particularly research-intensive subject. The Bachelor's degree in Egyptology, which takes into account both philological and archaeological sources, is therefore a very challenging programme. Learning hieroglyphic and cursive script as well as the Middle and Late Egyptian language levels, gaining a historic overview of all areas and epochs of the culture as well as acquiring methodological-theoretical foundations, places high demands on the students. Perseverance and a high degree of motivation are therefore significant requirements for students who wish to enrol in a programme in Egyptology. At the same time, students of Egyptology are provided with the opportunity to gain first insights into current research in the context of work placements (e.g. in Egyptian collections or on excavations), field trips, lectures or while writing the Bachelor's thesis, and to participate in small research tasks themselves.



Egyptologists working on
Egyptian papyri

Studying Egyptology in Heidelberg

Egyptology in Heidelberg benefits from various locational advantages. In addition to the Egyptian Collection of the University of Heidelberg, these also consist in the specialised information service of the University Library that purchases all relevant Egyptology books and makes them available for research on site in the—as a result—very well-equipped library. A further locational advantage is the close institutional cooperation of the ancient studies subjects within the “Centre for Studies of the Ancient World” (Zentrum für Altertumswissenschaften, ZAW). Aside from the Institute for Egyptology, it also includes the Department of Ancient History and Epigraphy, the Institute for Classical Archaeology and Byzantine Archaeology, the Institute for Papyrology as well as the Institute for Prehistory, Protohistory and Near Eastern Archaeology. Furthermore, students have the possibility to work as student assistants and gain first Egyptological work experiences in one of the research projects associated with the institute. Last but not least, the “Forum of Friends of the Institute for Egyptology at Heidelberg University” (Forum der Freunde des Ägyptologischen Instituts der Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg e.V.) merits particular mention for providing an exciting accompanying and informative programme with a variety of guest lectures.

Admission requirements

The programme has no admission restrictions. German and international applicants with a German university entrance qualification can enrol at the university within the enrolment period. International applicants with a foreign university entrance qualification can apply to the university within the application period.

The lectures and courses in Egyptology are held in German, and very good German language skills are also a general admission requirement at Heidelberg University: The German language test for the admission to universities (DSH) must have been passed at min. level DHS-2, provided applicants cannot submit proof of equivalent language proficiency.

Additional language skills are not required for the Bachelor’s programme (there are requirements for the Master’s programme, however, see below).



Students doing their homework in the kitchenette of the Institute for Egyptology.

The Bachelor's degree programme Egyptology: different options

The Bachelor's programme Egyptology can only be started in the winter semester. It can be studied as a part-time or full-time programme. In the full-time programme, the standard period of study is 6 semesters. In the part-time programme, the standard period of study is prolonged according to Heidelberg University's part-time degree programme rules and regulations.

Egyptology can be studied as a major subject at 50% or as a minor subject at 25%:

a. Egyptology as a major

The Bachelor's programme Egyptology can be studied as first or second major subject at 50% (74 credits) and must be combined with a further major subject (50%). The Bachelor's programme as first or second major culminates with an oral examination. As first major, students are also required to write a Bachelor's thesis (+ 12 credits, normally in the 6th semester).

b. Egyptology as a minor

The Bachelor's programme Egyptology can be studied as a minor subject at 25% (35 credits) and must then be combined with a major subject at 75%. There is no final examination in the minor subject. The academic programme in the minor is completed once all 35 credits have been achieved.

Recommended combination of subjects

In principle, Egyptology as a major or minor subject can be combined with any subject for which corresponding Bachelor's examination regulations exist. The recommended combination of subjects are:

- a. subjects dealing with topics in which Egyptian findings figure prominently, e.g. Prehistory and Protohistory, Byzantine Archaeology and Art, Classical Archaeology, Ancient History, Classical Philology;
- b. "neighbouring" subjects like Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Near Eastern Archaeology, Semitic Studies, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies etc.;
- c. disciplines with similar methodological and theoretical approaches/concerns (except some which have been referred to above), e.g. Religious Studies, History of Art, Anthropology, and



Bust of Ramses II (replika) in the library corridor

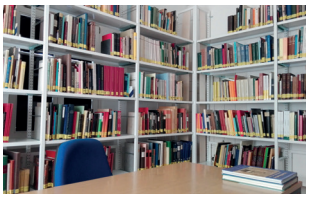
- d. disciplines in natural sciences or mathematical-computer science subjects that are becoming increasingly important for the study and application of modern fields and methods of research as well as for storing, organisation and publication of research data, and in combination with the humanities (digital humanities), such as Applied Computer Science, Computational Linguistics and Geography (including Geoinformatics).

Content and structure of the Bachelor's degree programme Egyptology

The Bachelor's programme in Egyptology is an undergraduate programme in which students learn the linguistic and subject-specific skills required for a global understanding of the main areas of the subject—specifically the Ancient Egyptian script, language and cultural history—through introductory, basic and specialised modules. Students will acquire basic and first in-depth knowledge in the areas of Egyptian archaeology, art history, religion and literature. In addition, they will learn the Egyptian hieroglyphic script, acquire basic knowledge of the hieratic script and knowledge of the grammatical structure of the Middle and Late Egyptian language levels.

In the first year, students will acquire basic knowledge of the Middle Egyptian script and language, an overview of pharaonic culture as well as the scientific methods used in the subject in mandatory introductory modules. In the second year, students can start to select individual areas of specialisation, e.g. in the elective “professional practice” (Wahlbereich “Berufspraxis”), as part of the basic and specialisation modules. In addition to the specialised modules on methodology, religion, archaeology, history and literature, the third year in the major also focuses on the acquisition of the hieratic script and the Late Egyptian language level as well as the final modules in the major subject (Bachelor's thesis and Bachelor's examination). For a more detailed overview of the individual modules, please consult the respective study guides and the module handbook.

In parallel to the courses in the first or second major subject, students in the major are given the opportunity to attend a cross-disciplinary module (Übergreifende Kompetenzen, ÜK) providing them with non-subject-specific study skills (10 credits). In this module, students can individually select courses from various subjects in the four areas of professional skills, intercultural skills, interdisciplinary skills as well as organisation, pedagogical and social skills.



View of the extensive departmental library

Types of courses in the Bachelor's programme

The following course types constitute the Bachelor's programme:

- *Lectures* provide students with introductory overviews of the subject's topics and their interrelations as well as current research areas.
- *Practice classes* are a specifically application-oriented type of course where students acquire practical, methodological and theoretical expertise.
- A multi-day *field trip* with a preparatory block course provides students with insights into a significant Egyptian collection in Europe and its history and conveys basic knowledge of art and artefacts of Egypt as well as their presentation in museums.
- A *work placement* (or *optionally the practice class* in the university's own Egyptian Collection) provides students with first professional experiences and competence acquisition in an individually selected area of interest to facilitate future career options.
- *Preparatory and main seminars* convey introductory or consolidating skills and knowledge related to religion, archaeology, history, literature and methodology through independently researched and jointly discussed presentations and term papers on various topics.
- The *language courses* focus on joint and independent completion of grammar and translation tasks whereby students acquire the foundations of the hieroglyphic and hieratic scripts as well as of the Middle and Late Egyptian language levels. The language course Middle Egyptian also includes a *tutorial* where students and tutors discuss homework together.
- In *reading courses*, students consolidate their acquired language skills by practicing independent translation and analysis of philological sources.
- In addition, there are the *extracurricular lectures* by members of the Heidelberg Institute as well as external colleagues who provide insights into their current research.

Objectives and degree

By conveying specialised knowledge using the example of Ancient Egypt, the Bachelor's programme Egyptology aims to provide students with connected knowledge and skills in the areas of philology and cultural science. The objective is a first qualifying degree and the ability to independently solve problems. After completion of the Bachelor's degree programme, students will be able to discuss the main topics of the philological and cultural fields of research as well as apply the associated methodological approaches. Thanks to their linguistic skills and competencies, they will be



Photo of excavation findings

able to discuss Egyptian texts in the respective scripts and language levels in terms of content and grammar and situate them within the Egyptian textual universe.

The Bachelor's thesis constitutes a first extensive scientific treatise and demonstrates students' abilities to independently deal with a specific problem using appropriate measures and to present the results in a written analysis. The purpose of the final oral examination is to assess whether students have mastered the basics of Egyptology, have an overview of the interrelationships within the subject, and have acquired the necessary fundamental skills, both methodological and practical, to enter a profession.

... and after graduation?

Due to the predominantly scientific focus of the tasks and careers in Egyptology, many graduates will go on to gain a doctorate, which requires further scientific training in the shape of a Master's degree. As students who wish to enrol in a Master's degree programme in Egyptology (major subject 75%) require knowledge of an ancient language (Latin, Greek, Hebrew or Arabic) as well as of two modern foreign languages (English B1 and French B1), it is strongly recommended that students interested in pursuing a Master's acquire these in the course of the Bachelor's programme. English and French courses can be taken in the cross-disciplinary modules (Übergreifende Kompetenzen).

Graduates who do not wish to obtain a Master's degree after their Bachelor's programme have the option to work in other fields such as e.g. publishing houses, libraries, archives, travel companies, press, radio and television, Goethe institutes, foundations, museums etc. As the number of graduates normally exceeds the number of available jobs in the field, students should always have a backup plan in mind.

Professional occupations

Thanks to their first qualifying degree, the Bachelor of Arts in Egyptology graduates have fundamental skills such as the ability to think critically and interconnectedly, independent learning competencies, autonomous knowledge acquisition, independent extraction and critical assessment of information, writing scientific texts, objective argumentation skills, presentation skills etc., which enable them to work within or outside of the constraints of the subject. After completing a Master's or doctoral programme, the main fields of professional activity are in teaching and research at the university level or in research projects with third-party funding. Furthermore, there are academic assistant positions at universities as well as scholarships in various funding programmes. Due to the subject's research focus, another main professional area for graduates are the positions at the German Archaeological Institute, Cairo Department as well as in museums and collections.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Images

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