What are Sorbian Studies? | Study programmes

The Institute for Sorbian Studies
WHAT ARE SORBIAN STUDIES?

Sorbian Studies as an academic discipline deals with both of the Sorbian languages and the Sorbian culture and literature. The research into didactics and Sorbian Studies conducted in our Institute, structured into the bachelor’s, master’s and teacher-training programmes, is globally one of a kind.

Qualified and well-educated graduates are needed, particularly for schools and other teaching and administrative institutions, in both Lower Lusatia in Brandenburg and Upper Lusatia in Saxony, as the Sorbian populations there have protected status as speakers of minority languages. We offer our students a practically-orientated, well-grounded education which aims to develop their linguistic competence and awareness of these languages and their related culture.

Furthermore, even outside Lusatia there is a need for competent graduates who can cooperate nationally and internationally with representatives of other minorities and develop strategies for the maintenance and revitalisation of the Sorbian language and culture.

Extensive changes in a multitude of professional fields mean that study programmes have to be increasingly internationally orientated. This also implies a greater need for international cooperation, be it in economic or academic fields. For Sorbian Studies, which is unique to Leipzig, this is a particular challenge. However, we closely cooperate with partner universities in Slavic areas in order to offer our students international experience with a bearing on Sorbian Studies, particularly in themes relevant to minority languages.
STUDY PROGRAMMES

SORBIAN STUDIES

BA IN SORBIAN STUDIES

The BA in Sorbian studies is an academic undergraduate degree in Sorbian languages and culture.

The BA is a three-year degree course leading to a third-level professional qualification (Bachelor of Arts in Humanities).

Half of the subjects in the BA form part of the core programme, while the remainder can be chosen from a range of elective and key subject options.

The BA in Sorbian Studies has two streams:

The first stream is for those who have Upper or Lower Sorbian to B1 level according to the Common European Framework (CEF), and who would therefore have no difficulty in following classes or initiating classroom discussions conducted through the medium of Sorbian.

The second stream is designed for students with little or no prior knowledge of Sorbian, who therefore begin language courses conducted through the medium of German.

In both cases, it is expected that students write their dissertation in Sorbian.

MA IN SORBIAN STUDIES

Upon completion of the BA, students can begin their professional lives or can continue their studies for a further two years to complete a master’s degree (MA). The MA in Sorbian Studies is a third-level degree programme offered by the Institute for Sorbian Studies (Master of Arts in Humanities).

Admission requires a bachelor’s degree (typically a BA in Sorbian Studies). The two-year master’s programme allows students to deepen their knowledge of their core subject (i.e. Sorbian) or to expand it through interdisciplinary studies, and offers both a practical and an academic orientation.

The MA programme can be followed with a PhD programme.
MINORITY LANGUAGES

BA IN EUROPEAN MINORITY LANGUAGES

The underlying concept is that students study for two years at their home university and for one year abroad. The degree certificate is issued by the home university. Our partner is the University of Szczecin in Poland.

This study programme builds on that of Sorbian Studies, with elective subjects including modules in Celtic Studies. These modules link to those of our Partner University and guarantee the acquisition of a high level of intercultural competence. Furthermore, the prospects for pursuing an academic career are improved, as graduates will possess the following qualifications, in addition to those of Sorbian Studies: knowledge of Polish/Czech (one year study), a good working knowledge of English (the language of instruction at the Partner University) and a good knowledge of at least one other minority language.

The study programme has two streams:

The first stream is for those who have Upper or Lower Sorbian to B1 level according to the CEF, and who would therefore have no difficulty in following classes or initiating classroom discussions conducted through the medium of Sorbian.

The second stream is designed for students with little or no prior knowledge of Sorbian, who therefore begin language courses conducted through the medium of German.

In both cases, it is expected that students write their dissertation in Sorbian.

MA IN MINORITIES IN SOCIETY

This study programme is in the final stage of planning.

The MA programme can be followed with a PhD programme.
TEACHER-TRAINING FOR SORBIAN

TEACHER-TRAINING PROGRAMMES
(STAATSEXAMEN)

The teacher-training programme concludes with a Staatsexamen (State Exam) for Brandenburg or Saxony. The Sorbian teacher-training programme enables students to become teachers of Sorbian in Upper and Lower Lusatia and acquaints them with the necessary specialist knowledge, skills and methods to independently and responsibly engage with academic research subjects and didactic teaching materials. First of all, future teachers must be able to communicate adequately – both orally and on paper – about linguistic, literary, cultural and everyday subjects. As competent and qualified speakers, they should strive to maintain Sorbian in their surroundings.

The period of study depends on the school type. Primary School teachers study for eight semesters, Middle School teachers for nine, and Secondary School teachers for ten. We do not educate Sorbian teachers for Special Education.

As with the MA programmes the Staatsexamen (State Exam) can be followed with a PhD programme.
LOCATION AND CONTACT

The Institute for Sorbian Studies is located in the University’s Humanities Building (GWZ).

POSTAL ADDRESS
Universität Leipzig
Institut für Sorabistik
04081 Leipzig

CONTACT
T +49 341 97-37650
F +49 341 97-37659
sorabistik@uni-leipzig.de

ADDRESS FOR VISITORS
Beethovenstr. 15
04107 Leipzig
Room H1 2.06
www.sorabistika.de

PHOTO
Matthias Schlegel
Leipzig University

TOWN MAP
Stabsstelle
Universitätskommunikation
Leipzig University

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