Media and Communication Studies at the University of Mannheim offer a valuable interdisciplinary perspective on media and communication systems, processes, products, and reception in contemporary societies. Combining approaches from social sciences and the humanities, the Institute provides an excellent education with a scientific focus and outstanding research in a variety of fields in media and communication studies. Students also benefit from a comprehensive methods curriculum, featuring both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

The faculty at the Institute for Media and Communication Studies comprises five professors and numerous research associates, supported by visiting lecturers and professional instructors. The Institute runs a BA and an MA program. Teaching languages are German and English. At least eight courses in English language are offered each year. International students can also choose from English-language courses in the International Cultural Studies program and media-related courses in American Studies.

Doctoral degrees can be obtained on the basis of an individual agreement with one of our professors or within the “Research & Study Centre” of the Humanities.

Every year, more than 110 undergraduate students select the BA program in media and communication studies as their major. This makes the Institute one of the largest in German-speaking countries. However, with application numbers among the highest at the entire university, admission for the Institute’s core undergraduate program is highly selective.

Every year, about 80 undergraduate courses are offered. Students are free to choose from a wide variety of topics and shape their specialization independently. Additionally, the University of Mannheim offers a wide selection of professional and social skills courses.

15 postgraduate students are admitted to the MA program in a selective process every year. This low number allows for a highly productive but personal setting with excellent support from faculty. Students can also take electives in other departments of the university, including such top-ranked programs as sociology, linguistics, political science, psychology, or history.

Research and Teaching

Over recent years, the Institute for Media and Communication Studies has expanded considerably, attracting experienced researchers with international reputation. With five professorships, the Department has developed extensive expertise in various fields of research. Academic education greatly benefits from this diversity, as students can choose from a wide range of topics within media and communication studies and develop their individual specialization:

- Institute for Media and Communication Studies
  http://mkw.uni-mannheim.de
- Research & Study Centre
  http://rsc.uni-mannheim.de/
- For more information on international exchange possibilities, please contact Nils Borchers, our international affairs officer, at MKWint@mail.uni-mannheim.de.

Professor Eder | Teaching and research at the chair of Jens Eder focus on the theory and analysis of audiovisual media as well as on transmedial approaches to narration, representation, and emotion. One main research project is concerned with changing images of human nature in popular culture; another project is dealing with the elicitation of viewers’ emotions through audiovisual texts.
Being an International Exchange Student at Mannheim

The University of Mannheim has a nationwide reputation for excellent education, especially in the social sciences and economics. Frequently awarded high scores in university rankings, the institution is recognized for its high-quality teaching, comprehensive student support, and attractive facilities. Every year, about 500 international exchange students populate the baroque-style campus, which is one of the most picturesque in the entire country. Library and computer facilities are well-equipped and offer comprehensive student services.

To ease the transition to the study experience at Mannheim, the University offers the International Summer/Winter Academy, a four-week program introducing exchange students with or without previous German-language skills to German language and culture. The program takes place right before the start of classes and includes cultural and social events, such as concerts, excursions, and recreational sports. The International Office of the University also offers language courses to exchange students.

In addition, exchange students are offered personal support through the Buddy Program, which matches a German student to each visiting student interested. The German buddy will help the foreign student to adjust to German life, the University, and everything around it.

The University is located at the southern edge of downtown Mannheim – a vibrant and lively city of 320,000 inhabitants, located at the heart of the Rhine Neckar metropolitan area in Southern Germany. The city is surrounded by the scenic Palatinate wine region and located adjacent to the Odenwald mountain range. The cities of Frankfurt, Heidelberg, and Stuttgart are less than a 45-minute train ride away. Frankfurt International Airport is only a 30-minute train ride away.

Some of our recent English-language courses

- Virtual Worlds
- Comparative Public Sphere Research
- Permanently Online
- Media and Democracy
- Electronic Word of Mouth
- Prosumer Culture
- Recent Developments in Entertainment Theory
- Digital Network Culture and Posthumanism
- Communicating Climate Change Globally
- Media Systems, Journalism Cultures, and News Production
- Research Designs
- Effects of Media Communication
- Computer-Aided Qualitative Content Analysis
- Health Communication Theory and Research