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### The Institute for Turkish Studies

The Institute for Turkish Studies was founded in the winter semester of 1995/96. Due to its multiple disciplines and research areas which reflect the multilingualism and diversity of Turkey and Germany, the Institute has from its inception developed into a unique degree program in Germany. The Department is characterized by its research topics, its epistemic interests and its working methods of the disciplines that are involved: linguistics, literary and cultural studies, educational science, history, and didactics. Two full professorships (W3), an assistant professorship (W1) and a temporary, joint professorship (W1) with the Historical Institute ensure the professorial teaching at the Institute.

The department constitutes the biggest of its kind outside of Turkey. Its profile developed in distinction - but not in contrast - to the degree programs of Turkology in Germany. While the historically and philologically oriented degree programs of Turkology at German universities are to some extent connected with Oriental and Asian Studies and the study of other Turkic languages, the teaching and research of the Institute for Turkish Studies focusses on the Turkish Republic.

To begin with, the study of literature, culture, and history of Turkey at UDE promotes the language expertise of the students on an academic level. Besides the classic modules (linguistics, literary and cultural studies, didactics) the Institute for Turkish Studies also provides the possibility of specializing in courses that foreground the country's ethnical and religious diversity, multilingualism and transnationalism. An assistant professorship for the history of Turkey contributes to the training in historical expertise.

Students have the option of choosing between teacher training degree programs for either *Haupt-, Real-, Sekundar- und Gesamtschulen (HRSGe)* or *Gymnasien und Gesamtschulen (GyGe)*. In addition to the degree program for teaching Turkish, students may study Turkish in conjunction with the degree program *Kulturwirt*.

The new interdisciplinary bachelor program for Turkish Studies was established in the winter semester of 2018/2019. It focuses on the Turkish Republic within the context of the country's diversity and multilingualism in the past and present. The new degree program offers courses on literature, linguistics, history, and culture, which allow students to study Turkey within a European and global framework. Reflecting the ethnic and religious diversity of the Ottoman Empire and Turkey, this degree program offers the possibility of taking an intensive language course for one semester in another language besides Turkish. This language must be of relevance to the Ottoman Empire and/or modern Turkey from a cultural historical point of view. The languages on offer are Kurdish, Arabic, Greek, Ottoman and Armenian.

The establishment of a new interdisciplinary master program *Turkish Studies* to follow the bachelor program is currently in planning.

### Disciplines

On the one hand, the discipline of *Linguistics* teaches basic linguistic knowledge of the Turkish language and linguistic research methods. This allows students to consider and analyse the language as a system of signs from various perspectives. On the other hand, linguistics focusses on contemporary Turkish. Linguists research and teach linguistic characteristics of the Turkish spoken in Turkey and the Turkish spoken in Germany from an analytical and descriptive. Another focus lies on the multiple languages and literacy skills of German-Turkish multilinguals in Germany.



*Literary and Cultural Studies* researches and teaches contemporary Turkish-language literature and culture in its transnational and comparative context. *Literary and Cultural Studies* offers courses that convey the fundamental elements of literary studies as well as overarching historical and sociocultural questions. Literary works in Turkish as well as Kurdish are considered as central to Turkey's cultural and historical landscape.

*Educational Sciences* analyses the basic terminologies and theories concerning the relationship between schools, education and society. On the one hand, the discipline focuses on topics in educational sociology such as the social inequality of educational opportunities and the role of tertiary education in society. On the other hand, the discipline focuses particularly on pedagogically and psychologically informed concepts that are centred around classes and the individual student, focusing, for example on ways in which teachers deal with cultural diversity in classrooms, on theories of learning and on motivation as well as support measures.

As one of the disciplines, *History* contributes primarily on the teaching of historical expertise. This enables the students - regardless of their respective professional orientation - not only to deal with history from a critical point of view, but also to acquire proficiency with regards to historical questions, methodological expertise, professional expertise and value judgement.

The discipline *Didactics* is comprised of the following areas: language teaching, literary didactics as well as the didactics of regional and cultural studies. Of particular interest to didactics is the examination of processes of teaching and learning in the classroom.

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