



Master of Customs Administration



Law and Policy
at Münster University



University of Münster, Germany

Course Objectives



The modern customs environment requires customs administrations and the private sector to work hand-in-hand in order to achieve an efficient and secure system of trade. The Master of Customs Administration (MCA) fosters this collaboration by offering the opportunity to broaden one's knowledge of customs and create networks with participants from other countries. In this way, it assists cooperation and communication between customs practitioners of different countries.

The MCA is open to customs practitioners in the public and private sectors from a wide range of professional backgrounds who wish to further their careers by increasing their knowledge of customs. The aim of the course is to enable future customs managers to perform their daily tasks more efficiently, improve customs-related procedures and formulate policy with regard to future developments.



The MCA provides participants with a forum for exchanging their experiences with customs

“The MCA is an intense program that provides an excellent balance of academic theory and practical experience. It is a very informative and valuable course that facilitates career growth and opportunities to acquire broader knowledge, skills and experience from the highly qualified experts. The program also provides a venue for networking and exchanging experiences with colleagues on practical problems and best practices in customs.”

Kasty Phelicean, Tanzania (2007)

The Master of Customs Administration is offered by the University of Münster, one of Germany's leading educational establishments. It is a well-established course which is **recognized and supported by the World Customs Organization and the International Network of Customs Universities**. Upon the successful completion of the course of studies, graduates will obtain the unique title of “Master of Customs Administration” (“MCA”) thereby certifying the acquisition of in-depth practical and theoretical knowledge of customs-related subjects.



The MCA advances the development of future management staff



Appropriate class sizes allow expert teaching staff to respond to your needs

“Munster is just amazing – a very beautiful city which is conducive for studying. The qualifications are impressive and quite beneficial to me since the course really widened my understanding and knowledge on Customs matters. The mention of the qualification “MCA” makes me the envy of many in my Organization.”

Jane Ombui, Kenya (2006)

The MCA: Balancing Your Career and Study Needs

The MCA is divided into three components. The first consists of two blocks of **lectures** which take place at Munster University during the second quarter of the first year and first quarter of the following year. For the second component, participants undertake a **distance learning** module. These two components are divided into modules which are assessed by means of examinations. Finally, participants have six months to write a **thesis** on a customs-related subject of their choice.

Structure

component a

lectures at the University of Münster, Germany

component b

Internet-based distance learning, home country

component a

lectures at the University of Münster, Germany

component c

Master's thesis, home country

| Lectures / Germany | | Distance Learning / Home Country | | | | | | Lectures / Germany | | Master's Thesis / Home Country | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|-------|--------------------|-----|--------------------------------|------|--------|-----------|--|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | | |
| August | September | October | November | December | January | February | March | April | May | June | July | August | September | | |

Participants are resident in Germany for four months in order to attend lectures

Lecture Modules

The course contents are divided into **nine modules that deal with different aspects of customs**. By way of introduction, the course starts with general subjects in order to place customs in its legal, political and global context. During the distance learning component, participants are introduced to the various laws and instruments that enable customs practitioners to carry out their duties. In the second block of lectures at Münster University, customs experts concentrate on the application and operation of these laws and instruments within a practical context.

Customs Policy

- Role of customs
- Subjects of regulation
- Regionalization and globalization
- Customs unions

Customs Legislation

- Principles of statute law
- Codification of customs law
- Implementation of customs code
- Compliance with international law

Customs Instruments

- Harmonized system
- Customs valuation
- Rules of origin
- Customs clearance

Customs Management

- Internal and external auditing
- Modern management techniques
- Change management
- International network building

Risk Management

- Objects of protection
- Defining and evaluating risk
- International standards
- Implementing risk management

Non-tariff Trade Rules

- Foreign trade law
- Barriers to trade
- International security regimes
- Objects of protection

Commercial and Business Law

- Legal foundations
- Contracts and questions of liability
- Codifications
- Dispute resolution

Multilateral System of Trade

- Foundations of the WTO
- WTO Agreements
- Dispute settlement procedure
- Special issues

International Trade Relations

- Regionalization and globalization;
- Harmonization strategies
- Exchange rates and international transactions;
- International financial crises



Discussions with other participants can lay the foundations for future cooperation

Lecturers and Research Facilities

The MCA teaching staff are drawn from full-time lecturers at the law faculty and business school of Münster University. The Master of Customs Administration involves the departments of:

- Tax Law
- International Business Law
- Political Science
- Empirical Economic Research
- Economic Education

Lectures are also held by representatives from national and international institutions including the German Federal Ministry of Finance, Federal Office of Economics and Export Control as well as the World Customs Organization and European Commission. Lecturers are also invited from members of the International Network of Customs Universities including the Centre for Customs and Excise at the University of Canberra, the Warsaw School of Economics and Leeds Metropolitan University.

Participants have access to the university libraries and electronic research tools. Extensive lecture materials are also provided.



Modern, well-equipped seminar rooms ensure a positive learning environment



Lectures and seminars on location allow students to pool ideas, share experiences and create networks

The Department of Customs and Excise

The department was created in 1995 as a sub-department of the Institute of Tax Law at the University of Münster with the aim of promoting research into customs-related topics of international importance and raising the profile of customs within the law faculty and business school. The department is headed by Prof. Dr. Hans-Michael Wolffgang.

Münster University is a founding member of the International Network of Customs Universities which was founded in 2005 under the auspices of the World Customs Organization with a view to creating a comprehensive database of universities and other institutions involved in Customs research, education, development and capacity building activities.

History of the MCA

The MCA was set up in 2005 by the Department of Customs and Excise supported by the Federal Government under the auspices of InWent gGmbH, Berlin. Originally, the course was designed for customs authorities. By 2008, 64 customs officials had graduated with a Master's in Customs Administration. Owing to the number of enquiries received, the University of Münster decided to offer the course to privately funded applicants from all countries starting in 2008.

Further Information



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Applications and Course Fees

Further information on applications and course fees can be found on our website:
<http://www.uni-muenster-mca.de/>

Target Group

- Managerial staff of financial, economic and trade ministries; customs administrations; regional organisations and any other bodies concerned with customs-related matters
- Academics or trainers employed in higher education or private training establishments specializing in customs-related subjects
- Customs brokers; employees of global enterprises; consultants and lawyers specializing in customs-related subjects

Admission Requirements

- A four-year university/technical college degree
- Practical experience of working in customs administrations; authorities and institutions involved in customs policy; regional and international trade bodies or commercial co-operative ventures
- Fluency in spoken and written English



Münster University offers comprehensive facilities for effective self-study



Münster Castle is the administrative centre of the University and symbolizes its historical status

In 2004 Münster was awarded the LivCom award for the most liveable city in the world



Experience Münster! Life in a Vibrant University City

Münster University

The University of Münster was founded in 1771 by Freiherr Franz Friederich von Fürstenberg. In 1907 it was inaugurated as the "Wilhelminian University of Westphalia" in honour of Kaiser Wilhelm II. It is Germany's third largest university and consists of fifteen faculties. Overall there are 40,000 students and 5,000 staff. There are 200 visiting academics and foreign students make up almost 10 percent of the student population. Its budget in 2005 amounted to 280 million Euros. It is rated the fourth highest university in Germany.

"Münster has everything you need to study. It was like a training institution for us and we enjoyed studying, living and working with the Germans. Personally, I have learned so many things such as awareness of legal issues, ways of dealing with customers, the implementation of international standards in the customs administration and principles of good governance."

Motloli Mpela, Lesotho (2006)

The City of Münster

The historic city of Münster is located in North Germany near the border to the Netherlands and historically formed part of Prussia. It is famous for many reasons besides its internationally renowned university. For example, it was here that the Anabaptists erected their kingdom in 1534 and where the Westphalian Peace Treaty was signed in 1648.

The city offers an exceptionally high standard of living and in 2004 was awarded the LivCom award for the most liveable city in the world. Münster is a major tourist attraction and offers innumerable restaurants and pubs as well as high-quality hotels. The city also offers excellent transport facilities and is within comfortable reach of the major cities of North-Rhein Westphalia.

Münster is justly famed for its green areas, in particular the Aa Lake where the city was originally founded. There are also many cultural attractions including the Friedenssaal, Picasso Museum, Open Air Zoo, concert hall, cabaret and theatre. In addition, many local festivals take place throughout the year including the EuroCityFest, Harbour Festival and Jazz Festival.



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