

Programme Title

MARS (Media and Area Studies)

Where?

Charles University, Prague.

Application Deadline

April 30th

Who is this programme for?

MARS is ideal for students who want to gain better knowledge about the societal role of media and politics, and who want to understand how different contexts interact with each other. MARS welcomes students who want to sharpen their critical and inquisitive minds, and who wish to gain in-depth knowledge about how the Czech Republic, Central and Eastern Europe and the European Union function.

The MARS cohort is diverse, welcoming students from a variety of interdisciplinary backgrounds who wish to pursue their interests in Media Studies and Area Studies. Presently, amongst others, MARS students benefit from and contribute to a multicultural learning environment, with students from – amongst others – China, Nigeria, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa, Vietnam, the Ukraine and Czechia.

Why are Media Studies and Area Studies important?

Media are omnipresent in society, and play a key role in circulating a wide variety of representations about an equally large diversity of issues. More than ever, different technologies and organisations have become very active in mediating our worlds. These representations, technologies and organisations are not neutral in themselves, but actively intervene in how we see our worlds. Moreover, they are crucial locations to understand how processes of making-making function.

Area studies is based on the premise that space matters, and that particular spaces have specificities that need to be studied in their own right. But at the same time, area studies is characterized by the permanent reminder that no space is homogeneous and that spaces influence each other, for instance in contexts of globalisation and post-coloniality. Finally, area studies also critically focusses on power relations within and among different areas, thematising issues of domination and resistance.

The Master in Media and Area Studies (MARS) combines these two fields of study: Media Studies and Area Studies. This combination provides in-depth and critical knowledge about processes of mediation and signification, and how space and geography - the political and social specificities of an area - intersect with them.

Course Structure

MARS is a collaboration between the [Institute of Communication Studies and Journalism](#) (ICSJ FSS CU) and the [Institute of International Studies](#) (IIS FSS CU).

MARS is a two-year programme. Its language of instruction is English.

To successfully complete the MARS studies, students must complete courses worth at least 120 ECTS credits, and pass a state examination, which consists of the successful completion and defence of the Master's thesis and an additional exam component in the field of media and areas studies.

Out of the 120 ECTS credits, 84 ECTS credits concern the 14 compulsory courses (see table below), all of which need to be successfully completed. Then, at least 12 ECTS credits need to be from Media Studies elective courses and at least 12 ECTS credits need to be from Area Studies elective courses. The remaining credits can be from other courses taught at Charles University, or from an exchange period abroad (such as Erasmus+).

To learn more about specific course content, we recommend taking a look at the [MARS Student Handbook](#), where detailed course outlines are accessible.

Internship Opportunities

Aside from study exchanges, practical work placements provide students with yet another opportunity to gain experience abroad within the Erasmus+ programme.

Placements can be performed in the member as well as non-member EU countries as follows:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Malta, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

Study Abroad Opportunities

Students may pursue study abroad options through a range of facilitated exchange options: the Erasmus+ programme, inter-university study exchanges, inter-faculty and inter-government exchanges or through the Central and Eastern European countries with the Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies (CEEPUS).

More detailed information about international student mobility can be found on the faculty's website: <https://fsv.cuni.cz/en/academics/study-abroad-opportunities>.

Professional Outcomes

MARS graduates will have achieved in-depth knowledge about the media and political ecology in Central Eastern Europe and the European Union. This will support their future employment in senior/advisory positions in a variety of social fields and organizations, including state administrations, private sector (including media), public service institutions, and non-profit organizations.

Where To Learn More?

For more information about the application process and study prerequisites, please visit our Institute webpage. Similarly, for enquiries regarding any of the information shared above, you may contact Karolina Simkova (karolina.simkova@fsv.cuni.cz), the MARS programme coordinator, who may provide assistance regarding application queries.

For insight into the MARS programme from student and teacher perspectives, you can find student testimonies on our [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#). Similarly, you may find insight through [this video](#), produced by the Faculty of Social Sciences, or our [Institute](#) and [Faculty](#) webpages!