



Frequently Asked Questions: Applying to the P&E MA programme

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Which documents do I need for the application?

In order to apply, you have to follow one of these links:

German citizens: <https://www.studierendenkanzlei.uni-bayreuth.de/de/masterstudium//Philosophy-and-Economics-Master-of-Arts/index.html>

EU citizens: <https://www.international-office.uni-bayreuth.de/en/degree-programmes/master-EU/philosophy-and-economics-ma/index.html>

Non-EU citizens: <https://www.international-office.uni-bayreuth.de/en/degree-programmes/master-Nicht-EU/philosophy-and-economics-ma/index.html>

During the application process, the application portal will tell you step by step which documents to upload.

I do not have a degree in philosophy or economics. Can I still apply?

The P&E programme admits students from diverse backgrounds: Some have studied P&E, economics, or philosophy in their bachelor's while others have degrees in business administration or political science. You have a good chance to be accepted if you have taken courses in mathematics and statistics, micro- and macroeconomics, or logic.

We are very open to applications from highly motivated students who are willing to acquire the missing skills and knowledge. If you are unsure whether you are eligible for the programme, please get in touch with us by sending an e-mail to pe-master@uni-bayreuth.de. One of the Programme Coordinators will then get in touch with you to discuss your chances.

I have not yet completed my bachelor's degree. Can I still apply?

Yes, in this case you can use your transcript of records for the application, but you need to have at least 150 ECTS and a grade point average of at least 2.3. If you meet all the requirements, we will make you a conditional offer. You need to submit your final degree certificate by the end of your first semester. If there are administrative problems obtaining your degree certificate by this date, please inform us as soon as possible.

I do not have any samples of my academic writing in English. Can I replace these with an appropriate language certificate?

No, we need the writing samples to determine your ability to pursue higher academic study in English. You have to send us either one thesis or two essays from your coursework in English. The topic does not matter; it only has to be academic. If you do not have samples, you can simply translate two essays from your coursework or part of your Bachelor thesis. Note that studying analytic philosophy requires an excellent level of text comprehension, reading, and writing in English. We recommend you to not take this requirement lightly.

Do I need academic references?

Yes, your application must be accompanied by two letters of reference from academic referees. Please download the Confidential Academic Reference Form from the webpage and forward it to your referees. And please do not forget to fill out Section G of the Application Form. Your application will not be processed until both referees have sent in their references.

When will I be informed of my acceptance or rejection? What are the most common reasons for turning down an application?

We run a “rolling admissions” policy. The Selection Committee meets once a month in the period March-September. We try to inform applicants via e-mail within 30 days.

The most common reasons for turning down an application are that your previous curriculum has not included sufficient amounts of core economics topics (like micro- and macroeconomics, statistics, or econometrics) or that your grades do not fulfill the minimum requirement of 2.3.

If I am accepted, what must I do?

All instructions on enrolment are contained in your letter of acceptance that you receive via e-mail. As a non-EU citizen, we advise you to start taking care of your visa documents as early as possible in order to ensure a smooth start in Bayreuth.

If you would like to defer your enrolment for the next academic year, you can. Please inform us as soon as possible.

I am a non-EU applicant. Are there any special restrictions or rules that I should be aware of?

To avoid complications with visas and enrolment, we advise you to apply as early as possible and contact our International Office. Please note that enrolling into the programme requires extensive documentation, such as evidence of health insurance coverage, evidence of sufficient financial funds, and evidence of accommodation. For further information, consult the information for international students and the webpages of Bayreuth’s immigration office.

Are there any welcome events or preparatory courses and when do they take place?

Lectures usually start between October 14-18. Two weeks prior to that, there is a welcome session and an orientation week for international students as well as two crash courses in “Philosophical Writing” and “Philosophy”. Further crash courses in mathematics and econometrics usually take place during the winter term.

Does the P&E Programme of the University of Bayreuth offer scholarships or financial assistance?

The P&E programme itself does not offer any, but there are several scholarship and assistance programmes by the German state, the State of Bavaria, the DAAD, as well as private and public foundations, and other organizations.

How can I find accommodation in Bayreuth?

The [Studentenwerk Oberfranken](#) offers affordable rooms in student residences for which you can apply on their website. Other dormitory options are listed [here](#). If you prefer to move into one of the many private shared flats around town, you can find room advertisements on [WG-gesucht](#). We advise you to start looking for accommodation as early as possible.

Does the University of Bayreuth charge fees?

The University does not charge tuition fees. However, students must pay a social contribution (Semesterbeitrag) of about 120€ for student services every semester. This allows you to use the services of the Studentenwerk as well as public transport in Bayreuth.

Where can I find information on the courses I need to take?

Detailed information about the course contents and semester schedule can be found in the Module Handbook. A description of the programme structure is provided on our website.

How demanding is the programme?

Since the P&E MA prepares you for PhD studies or for practical work requiring up-to-date knowledge of philosophical research as well as theoretical and empirical methods of economics, you should expect the programme to be more challenging compared to your bachelor's. Depending on your background, you might find it hard to read complex philosophical texts in English, to participate in class discussions, and to familiarize with the mathematical methods used in the economics courses. If you have limited experience in formal economics, we recommend refreshing your skills in calculus, elementary algebra, and matrix algebra. Usually, students can acquire and develop missing skills through self-study in their first two semesters. Reaching out to peers and forming study groups can be very helpful for this. In case of serious problems to follow the courses, you can always get in touch with lecturers and coordinators to find a solution.

Do I need to know German to study the programme?

The program is entirely taught in English, so German skills are not required for the courses. There are sufficiently many electives taught in English, but if you know German, you might have a broader set of options. By the end of your first year of study, you are required to provide evidence of basic knowledge of the German language corresponding to CEFR Level A1. German classes are offered free of charge by the [Sprachenzentrum](#).

Can I do an internship or semester abroad during my studies?

Yes, but it is not part of the programme and we do not recommend it due to potential interference with your academic obligations at UBT.
