

MA International War Studies Frequently Asked Questions

Short answers to the most important and frequently asked questions about applying for and enrolling in the International War Studies (IWS) program at the University of Potsdam and the University College Dublin.

What are the main characteristics of the program?

The International War Studies double degree program at the University of Potsdam and the University College Dublin investigates the causes, dynamics, contexts and consequences of violent conflict at the national and international level. From an interdisciplinary perspective, IWS analyzes how state, society and the military interrelate – with a particular focus on war and conflict in the 19th and 20th centuries. The program's main pillars are military history, military sociology and security policy, with their specific methodological approaches and theories. IWS offers a wide range of courses from history, political science, sociology, international relations and international law.

Students spend their first year in Potsdam and their second year in Dublin, exposing them to two different academic cultures and giving them the opportunity to network across the German-speaking and the English-speaking world. More information on IWS can be found on UP's dedicated program website, [here](#).

Who can apply?

You should have obtained your first degree in a subject relevant to the degree program, ideally in history, political science or sociology – although we are open to other backgrounds in the humanities and the social sciences as well. It is essential that you have earned at least 40 credit points in history or a social science as part of your first academic degree. If you are unsure or your first degree was earned in a higher education system without credit points, the Selection Committee will decide on the equivalence of the credits earned. As this is an international program, proof of English language proficiency is required at C1 level. It is not necessary to be able to speak German to apply for IWS.

What are the application deadlines?

We accept applications for the winter semester only. The application deadline usually is July 15. The current application deadlines can be found [here](#).

What proof of English language proficiency is accepted?

UP offers courses in English and German, but it is possible to study IWS fully in English while in Potsdam. UCD only offers courses in English. We thus require you to provide proof of English language proficiency at C1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The following certificates are recognized for IWS:

- ⇒ UNiCert (level III or higher)
- ⇒ TOEFL iBT (score range 24 or higher)
- ⇒ IELTS (band scores of 6.5 or higher)

Under special circumstances, alternative certificates might be permissible.

Where do I have to submit my application documents?

Applications can only be submitted via UCD. All information and access to the application portal can be found [here](#).

As an international student, do I need a visa or a residence permit to be able to begin my studies at the University of Potsdam?

Depending on your country of origin, different entry and residence regulations apply. UP can provide accepted international students with a letter of reference, if needed. EU students do not need a visa to study in Germany. All relevant information on this topic can be found [here](#).

Do I also need a visa or residence permit to continue my studies at University College Dublin?

Depending on the country of origin, different entry and residence regulations also apply here. UCD refers applicants to the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) to check individual entry conditions. EU students do not need a visa to study in Ireland. All relevant information can be found [here](#).

I was accepted to the program. Do I have to send my documents by post to the University of Potsdam in addition to the online enrollment?

Enrollment applications for prospective students are completed online. Further steps are normally completed by post. Accordingly, you will receive your (bilingual) letter of admission both by post and by email. After your enrollment papers have been processed (and if your documents are complete) UP will send you information how to pay the administrative fees to the email address provided in the online portal. UP's online portal and information on the required documentation can be found [here](#).

Once enrollment is complete, you will receive your student ID number as well as your PUCK (UP's student card), which will allow you to use our university on-campus resources (libraries, canteens, etc.).

Do I also have to pay tuition fees for the first two semesters in Potsdam?

All tuition fees are charged by UCD alone and pay for the Dublin year. Tuition fees are divided between both years of study to enable students to pay them in installments, thus reducing their financial burden. The exact amount of the tuition fees can be found [here](#).

UP only charges administrative fees for the Potsdam year. These administrative fees amount to roughly 300 EUR per Potsdam semester. The exact amount can be found [here](#).

Where can I find accommodation in Potsdam?

UP does not own student housing. All public student dormitories are managed by *Studentenwerk Potsdam* that offers the best prices for students. This state-run company needs your letter of admission and the certificate of enrolment for you to successfully apply for a place in one of their student dormitories. However, it is advisable to apply before you receive your letter of admission. You will then receive a confirmation email from the *Studentenwerk* with your application number. It is possible to hand in the letter of admission and the certificate of enrolment by email later, once you have received it. More information on how to apply for a room can be found [here](#).

Other accommodation options exist at private dormitories such as [Basecamp](#) or [YOUNIQ](#) – though both are a bit pricey. Most students in Germany live in shared flats. To find shared flats in Berlin and Potsdam you should use dedicated search engines such as [immoscout](#) or [WG-gesucht](#) (in German only).

What about accommodation in Dublin?

It is advisable to look for shared flats on the private market by using specialized search engines. You can also apply for one of UCD's student residences through this [website](#).

Are there any scholarships available for international students?

Through the Association of Friends of the Chair of War Studies, we regularly offer one merit-based scholarship for IWS students that covers the cost of tuition at UCD at the EU rate. A call for applications will be hosted each year on the Chair's website. Only second semester IWS students are eligible for this scholarship. Information on the Association of Friends can be found [here](#).

You can also apply for PROMOS, an international mobility fund which is run by UP's International Office. More information can be found [here](#).

Both the Dublin and Potsdam years of IWS are eligible for [DAAD](#) scholarships. Specific questions should be directed to DAAD's [London Office](#) that runs all scholarships in Ireland.

Germany has a range of government-funded scholarship foundations that cater to national and international students. Funding by all these foundations is in the form of a monthly stipend of roughly 1.400 EUR and are awarded based on a combination of merit and social criteria. Deadlines are usually in January and July. More information on Germany's 13 scholarship foundations and their application procedures can be found [here](#). However, application processes tend to take a long time, be in German at most foundations, and might thus be impractical for a two-year graduate program such as IWS.

Who should I contact if I have further questions?

If you have any further questions, please contact the Academic Coordinator, Christian E. Rieck, or the Tutor for international students, Lisa Marie Freitag, under dao-warstudies@uni-potsdam.de