

M.A. INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION (GLOBALMBA)

A guide for applicants and students

NOTE: TH Köln will discontinue this Master's degree program in the winter semester 2025/26. Applications will therefore no longer be accepted.

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Contents

1 General Information on the Program	2
2 Admission Requirements at TH Köln	3
3 How to Apply at TH Köln	4
4 Objectives	5
5 Curriculum.....	5
7 Master Thesis and Defense	7
8 Studying at the Partner Universities.....	8
9 Tuition Fees and Program Fee	8

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Study Guide Master International Management and Intercultural Communication
Dagmar Schall - Internationalization Officer (ITMK)

1 General Information on the Program

The M.A. International Management and Intercultural Communication is an internationally-oriented post-graduate degree. The Faculty of Business, Economics and Law (04) and the Faculty of Information Sciences and Communication Studies (03) of Technische Hochschule Köln (THK) provide it in co-operation.

The foreign partner universities of THK for this program and their webpages are:

- **University of North Florida (UNF), Jacksonville, USA:** <https://www.unf.edu/>
Official GlobalMBA webpage: <http://www.unf.edu/coggin/globalmba/>
- **University of Warsaw (UW), Poland:** <http://www.wz.uw.edu.pl/>
GlobalMBA webpage: <https://wz.uw.edu.pl/en/student-2/study-in-english/global-mba/>

The language of instruction is English, regardless of the place of study.

Each university admits a maximum of ten students to the program per year. Thus, up to 30 students participate in the program each year.

The program is divided into four study periods and takes approximately 15 months (including examinations). Students of all three universities start their studies at THK in October. The students then proceed to WU. After the study semester at UW, an intercultural training on Asian cultural areas (covering the module Applied Intercultural Communication: Asia) followed by a study tour to Asia (covering the Module Business Environment: Asia) is planned. The final courses are taken at the UNF.

Students are awarded ECTS credit points for successfully completed modules. By the end of the program they must have obtained 90 ECTS credit points. Modules or courses and the corresponding credit points are laid down by the participating partner universities.

Students who have successfully passed all the examinations (at all three universities) and completed an M.A. thesis will be awarded the following degrees/certificates from the participating partner universities:

- Master of Arts in International Management and Intercultural Communication, awarded jointly by THK and WU,
- Master of Business Administration (MBA), awarded by UNF (based on their examination regulations)

THK students will be enrolled at THK for the duration of the program and must re-register every semester (students continue to be enrolled at THK during their time abroad). Every student will be responsible for his/her visa applications, travel to and registration at the partner universities. All GlobalMBA students will receive the application materials from their host universities by email before the program starts. These must be returned to the partner universities complete and in due time. Shortly after the program starts in Cologne the students will receive the admission letters from the host universities (provided that they submit the application documents in time). This process should ensure the students an easy transfer and proper registration. Consistent with the terms of the exchange agreements, exchange students do not pay any tuition fees at their host universities.

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2 Admission Requirements at TH Köln

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PLEASE NOTE: Polish or North- and South-American citizens shall contact the University of Warsaw, students from North and South America shall contact the University of North Florida for admission/application information.

Graduates with a bachelor degree, master degree or a German university diploma can apply for the program. They have to provide evidence of the following:

- 1) An Average grade of at least 2,5 (= good) and 210 ECTS in your first Bachelor's degree program.
 Applicants with a Bachelor's degree requirement with less than 210 ECTS, must submit proof (original or certified copy) that they have completed the difference between the ECTS of their Bachelor's degree and 210 ECTS. The difference can be compensated or proven by:
 - a. At least six calendar months of relevant work experience/internships after the BA/BSc degree, which will be recognized with 30 ECTS,
 - b. Relevant academic achievements amounting to 30 ECTS, which were completed in addition to the Bachelor's degree, or
 - c. A combination of a and b, whereby each month of professional experience/internship is credited with 5 ECTS.
 Applicants who have not yet achieved 210 ECTS at the time of application (May 15/June 1) can be admitted to the application procedure with a written declaration stating how they will achieve the missing ECTS before the start of the program i.e. by September 15. Please use the template in the TH Köln application portal for this purpose.
 It is possible to compensate for a difference of up to 5 ECTS by taking an individual propaedeutic examination, which shall be scheduled before the start of studies. In this case, the successful completion of this examination is an additional admission requirement.
1. Sound knowledge of basic economics and business studies and of world politics. For more information see "Prerequisites Economics/Accounting" on: <http://www.th-koeln.de/globalmba/program> or UNF's web page (see "Special Notes about the Program"): <https://www.unf.edu/graduateschool/academics/programs/GlobalMBA.aspx>
2. Excellent command of English (equivalent to level B2 according to the "Common European Framework of Reference for Languages" (CEFR)) proven by an internationally recognized English language qualification (for example TOEFL, IELTS). The test result must not be older than two years. This proof may be waived if:
 - a) you are a native speaker of English
 - b) the language of your previous program was English
 - c) you have gained work/study experiences in an English-speaking country
 b) and c) must not date back more than two years.
3. The successful completion of an American test for admission to postgraduate studies, either
 - a) GMAT (American Graduate Management Admission Test) Exam with a minimum score of 500 (alternatively Focus Edition with a min. score of 485)
 or
 - b) GRE (Graduate Record Examinations test) with a minimum score of 150 verbal and 150 quantitative.
 Please do select the University of North Florida to send your official score report. TH Köln's GMAT account code for the GlobalMBA is 3KV-F2-31 (THK has no GRE account).

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Only scores up to five years old will be accepted. The result of one of these tests should be submitted with the application.

c) For applicants who cannot submit the GMAT/GRE test score with the application, the final deadline for late submissions is June 20. In this case, you have to submit your full application documents by May 15/June 1 together with a confirmation from the test center that you have registered for the test. Then email a scan of the test result (final or preliminary) by June 20.

Please note that an interview invitation can only be expressed if we have received the respective result.

4. Furthermore, applicants have to successfully pass the course-related aptitude test (see below).

Information on the **GMAT** and the **GRE** can be found at:

- <http://www.mba.com/global/the-gmat-exam.aspx>
- <http://www.ets.org/gre>

Please note: When you take the test, you have the option of selecting several universities to which the result will be sent directly. Please do select the University of North Florida. Because UNF requires the test result for your approval and accepts automatically provided evidence from the test centers only. If you have not specified UNF among the addresses, you can ask the test center for delivery later, but this will incur additional costs.

For details on the **TOEFL** (as one example for a test) and the **CEFR** of languages please go to:

- <https://www.europaeischer-referenzrahmen.de/> (German version only)
- <https://www.coe.int/en/web/language-policy/home>
- www.toefl.org/index.html

The application process for this program includes a **course-related aptitude test**. The tests will be conducted in form of interviews in July; invitations will be sent out in good time. You are not required to register for the aptitude test separately. A selection commission will determine the applicant's particular aptitude for the program on the basis of:

- in-depth knowledge in the fields of business administration and economics
- intercultural competence and awareness
- excellent English language proficiency.

A prerequisite for participation in the selection interviews is that all admission requirements have been met. Applicants can only be admitted if they pass this test.

3 How to Apply at TH Köln

PLEASE NOTE: Polish or North- and South-American citizens are requested not to submit their application to the THK, but to apply directly to our respective partner universities in Warsaw (Polish citizens) and Jacksonville (North and South American citizens).

Details on the application process at TH Köln can be found on the following website: www.th-koeln.de/globalmba/application. There are two different application procedures:

1. **German Applicants + foreign applicants with a German university degree** apply directly with TH Köln. Please find the link to TH Köln's online application platform (from early May on) here:

<https://thk.hispro.de>.

Applicants are requested to register online first. Afterwards you will receive a confirmation email containing a link. You are requested to follow the link and download the GlobalMBA

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application form as well as a check list. The submission deadline is June 1 (all application documents have to be uploaded by 24:00 h).

- 2. Non-German applicants with a university degree from a non-German university** are required to use *uni-assist* to submit their application. The appropriate application form (download from the *uni-assist* website) together with the documents as required have to be uploaded to the *uni-assist* online portal.

Further details about the application procedure via *uni-assist* can be found at:
https://www.th-koeln.de/en/academics/uni-assist-document-review_8553.php
<https://www.uni-assist.de/en/>

You can find an overview of the application documents to be submitted on the information sheet "Important information on the application process" at:

https://ilu.th-koeln.de/goto.php?target=file_127655_download&client_id=thkilu

Course-related aptitude test

Once your application has been reviewed and if you meet the formal admission requirements (or if the result of your academic document review by *uni-assist* is positive) you will be invited to take the course-related aptitude test in form of an interview. The interviews will be held in July (see chapter 2). Afterwards, applicants receive written notification as to whether they have been admitted to the study program.

4 Objectives

The M.A. International Management and Intercultural Communication is intended to qualify students for all aspects of international management as well as for academic research. The program takes account of the fact that professional international management requires intercultural skills. Therefore, the main aim of the program is to enable students to become communicative, creative managers in an international environment and, by applying their intercultural competence to find solutions at the interface of culture and management.

For an in-depth description, please see our [GlobalMBA Flyer](#).

5 Curriculum

The M.A. program requires full-time participation. Deriving from the objectives of the program, the contents are organized around a "Three-Plus-One Pillars" structure:

1. The first pillar develops competences in international management through course modules in international economics, corporate strategy, marketing, financial management, human resource management and organizational theory.
2. The second pillar emphasizes the development of intercultural competences through seminars on the theory and practice of intercultural communication in each of the four countries.
3. The third pillar aims to develop problem-solving skills in international company settings. International student teams work on Master's thesis projects within well-defined timeframes. Thesis topics identify and examine recent developments, innovation and sustainability in global industries. The research done by the students will enter into a consulting database. Based on the continuous import of research, the database will be dynamic and subject to constant updating. Research activities of this kind will also prepare students for later PhD work.

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4. Besides these three core pillars, the fourth pillar focusses on developing digital literacy as a transversal competence. This fourth pillar is integrated in all course modules, projects and activities of the aforementioned three pillars. Students develop basic competencies in and familiarity with the important new economy concepts of digitalization, business analytics and technology strategy.

For an in-depth description, please see our [GlobalMBA Flyer](#).

The curriculum of the program is divided into modules. Every module is a combination of different courses. Students are awarded ECTS credit points for successfully completed modules. The language of the program, which includes teaching, examinations, and master thesis, is English. The following table shows how the program is structured:

GlobalMBA Study Plan from Winter Term 2023/24 on

Code	MA International Management and Intercultural Communication	Σ SWS	Σ ECTS	LV-Art	THK		UW		UNF	
					SWS	ECTS	SWS	ECTS	SWS	ECTS
224	Lehrveranstaltungen / Module									
01	MODUL Applied Intercultural Communication: Germany:	8	10	P						
01 1	Intercultural Communication (+ Intercultural Training)	3	4	SU	3	4				
01 2	Business Environment: Germany	3	3	SU	3	3				
01 3	Applied Intercultural Communication: Germany	2	3	SU	2	3				
02	MODUL Concepts and Controlling of Global Business:	7	9	P						
02 1	Global Economics (+ Thesis Seminar)	4	5	SU	4	5				
02 2	International Management Accounting	3	4	SU	3	4				
03	MODUL Global Management Tools:	5	7	P						
03 1	Making Decisions with Data (Statistics)	3	4	VÜ	3	4				
03 2	Management Information Systems (MIS)	2	3	Ü			2	3		
04	MODUL Applied Intercultural Communication: Poland:	5	6	P						
04 1	Business Environment: Poland	3	3	SU			3	3		
04 2	Applied Intercultural Communication: Poland	2	3	SU			2	3		
05	MODUL Global and European Business I:	4	6	P						
05 1	Organizational Theory	2	3	SU			2	3		
05 2	International Management and Strategy	2	3	VÜ			2	3		
06	MODUL Global and European Business II:	4	5	P						
06 1	Human Resources Management	2	2	SU			2	2		
06 2	Advanced Financial Management	2	3	SU			2	3		
07	MODUL Applied Intercultural Communication: Asia	6	6	P						
07 1	Business Environment: Asia	3	3	VÜ	2	3				
07 2	Applied Intercultural Communication: Asia	3	3	VÜ			3	3		
08	MODUL Global Management Methods:	6	8	P						
08 1	International Finance	3	4	VÜ					3	4
08 2	Modelling and Management of Operations	3	4	SU					3	4
09	MODUL Global Business Strategies:	5	7	P						
09 1	International Marketing	2	3	VÜ					2	3
09 2	Advanced Strategic Management	3	4	SU					3	4
10	MODUL Applied Intercultural Communication: USA:	6	6	P						
10 1	Business Environment: USA	3	3	SU					3	3
10 2	Applied Intercultural Communication: United States	3	3	SU					3	3
11	MODUL Master Thesis and Defense		20							
	GESAMTSUMME/TOTAL:	56	90		20	26	18	23	17	21

Abbreviations used:

THK = Technische Hochschule Köln

UW = Uniwersytet Warszawski

UNF = University of North Florida

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ECTS = Credit Points according to the ECTS

LV = Lehrveranstaltung (course)

SU = Seminaristischer Unterricht (seminar)

P = Pflichtveranstaltung (compulsory course)

SWS = Semesterwochenstunden (contact hours/week)

Ü = Übung (practical course)

V = Vorlesung (lecture)

For an in-depth module description, please consult our [GlobalMBA Module Manual](#).

6 Examinations and Exam Results

Each course ends with an examination in English language. Usually, examinations will be held as soon as the relevant course finishes in accordance with the study schedule (see above). Should students fail an exam, they can resit once. Re-sits will usually be held at the beginning of the following study period. Due to the transfer between universities, the time and place of each re-examination must be stipulated individually by the respective partner university. Please note: Only if all credit points required at the end of a study period have been earned can students continue their studies. If not, participants have to leave the program.

Examinations are passed if the examinee is awarded at least the mark “satisfactory” (passmark). The partner universities of THK will use the following equivalent grades:

	Fail	Retake	Pass						
	Fail	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory			Good		Excellent	
UNF	F	D	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A
THK	5.0	5,0	4.0	3.7 (3.7 - 3.9)	3.3 (3.3 - 3.6)	2.7 / 3.0 (2.7 - 3.2)	2.3 (2.3 - 2.6)	1.7 / 2,0 (1.7 - 2.2)	1.0 / 1,3 (1.0 - 1.6)
UW	2	2	3	3.5	4	4	4.5	5	

Examination results can be viewed online on the student self-service platform PSSO.

PSSO offers a great variety of functions that enable students e.g. to update and change their information online, or to download and print academic records and enrollment certificates. Further information can be found at the link below:

https://www.th-koeln.de/en/academics/online-examination-and-student-services-pssso_5918.php

7 Master Thesis and Defense

The master thesis will consist of the independent treatment of a research topic and must be written during the program as group work by three or four students of different nationalities. The intention is that such a mixed team of students will focus on an economic topic of international importance which also involve cultural aspects. The group must thereby prove their intercultural teamwork skills. Possible topics will be discussed in the Global Economics course held during the first semester at THK.

The master theses are usually registered in June, having been discussed beforehand with the examiners. Preparation of the thesis lasts four months.

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The master thesis is assessed by two examiners. The result is established within eight weeks at the most. If the master thesis is passed, the candidate is then invited to the thesis defense, which is held in December at UNF. The defense consists of a presentation of the work of all the participants, lasting about 15 minutes, followed by a question-and-answer session, during which all present may ask questions about the master thesis or about knowledge in general that had been acquired during the degree program.

8 Studying at the Partner Universities

The partner universities agree upon a “travel schedule” before the program starts. It is published on the website and sent to the members of every new cohort. It provides detailed information about the study periods (latest arrival and earliest departure) and is intended to assist students with their travel arrangements.

As a rule, every student will be responsible for his/her own visa applications, travel to and registration at the partner universities. All GlobalMBA students will receive the application materials from their three host universities by email before the program starts. These must be returned to the partner universities complete and in due time. Shortly after the program starts in Cologne the students will receive the admission letters from the host universities (provided that they submit the application documents in time). This process should ensure the students an easy transfer and proper registration. Consistent with the terms of the exchange agreements, exchange students do not pay any tuition fees at their host universities.

Furthermore, students are responsible for their accommodation. However, each partner university tries to assist students by providing information. Also, students are invited to help each other in their respective home countries regarding travel and accommodation. Practical study information can be found in the [GlobalMBA Student Manual](#).

9 Tuition Fees and Program Fee

Consistent with the terms of the exchange agreements, each GlobalMBA student pays tuition and fees only at his or her home institution, i.e. not at the host universities. If you are a THK student, you will not be charged tuition fees at your home university. Nevertheless, the following costs have to be considered:

1. The so called *Semesterbeitrag* (contains social contributions and the charge for the *Semesterticket*¹) of approx. 300 EURO per term (the whole program comprises three terms). For details please see (German version only): https://www.th-koeln.de/en/academics/re-registration-and-fees_5903.php
2. The GlobalMBA program fee of 1,300 USD. The fee is due in early August once THK has nominated the student to UNF, i.e. after the student has registered with UNF and established an UNF “student account”. It will be charged by credit card through the student’s account at UNF. This one-off administrative fee to the amount of \$ 1,300 is non-refundable.

¹ During the two semesters abroad THK students will be automatically exempt from the fees for the *Semesterticket* and only pay the social contributions.