



INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Master of Arts (M.A.)



Main building of Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Photo: Anne Günther, FSU

WELCOME TO OUR MASTER'S PROGRAMME

Are you interested in exploring what international organisations such as the United Nations or the International Committee of the Red Cross (can) do to alleviate crises, be they violent conflicts, natural disasters or climate change? Do you want to understand why and how civil wars erupt, countries slide into financial crises or the number of refugees worldwide increases year by year? And would you like to discuss with expert scholars and seasoned practitioners the dilemmas and obstacles such organisations encounter when tackling these issues? Then this is the Master you should consider.

In our programme, you learn about the growth, relevance, functioning and tasks of thousands of international governmental and non-governmental organisations worldwide. You learn how international humanitarian, financial, ecological, developmental and military crises arise, how they escalate and how they are managed. And you learn how international organisations as well as their member states strive to resolve them. This includes crises that organisations have to tackle internally, for instance, due to performance failure, deadlock in decision-making or dwindling legitimacy. On top of that, you develop the practical

skills necessary to work in international settings, where sensitivity towards other cultures, openness and adaptability are core competences.

We prepare you for a career in international affairs, be it in international organisations, ministries, think tanks, media, multinational firms or universities. Your fellow students come from all around the world. They have been well educated in various disciplines relevant to our programme. You are taught by experts in the field, including practitioners, from various disciplines. You study one semester abroad, improve your foreign language skills and get to know the headquarters of international organisations.

This brochure offers some basic information about the Master's programme. For further information, visit our [webpage](#).

We look forward to your application!

OUR PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Our Vision

Are you interested in international politics, inquisitive and eager to learn? Are you open-minded and appreciative of cultural diversity? Do you consider working in the public domain and do you have an excellent record of studies? Then you have the qualities that fit into our programme.

Our Master's programme is, at the core, about the question of how international organisations manage crises in the world. We include **intergovernmental organisations and their member states as well as non-governmental organisations**. Our understanding of crises is broad and ranges from international conflicts to refugee flows, financial and ecological crises to natural hazards. This is a booming field of study

We believe that a Master's programme can be both **academic and practical**. We value cutting-edge research grounded both in a profound theoretical and hands-on understanding of our world. That is why we designed this programme with input from both academics and practitioners. We want you to become high-quality academics while at the same time personally experiencing the world you study. And we strive to create a study environment that is stimulating, interactive and accommodating.

What you can expect

Some things are quite standard: **a two-year Master's programme, 120 credits, English-language, enrolment each winter semester**. Others are more thrilling:

- **Based in Germany** – allowing to participate in the tuition-free, high-quality German university system without German language prerequisites
- **Recruitment from multiple disciplines** – imagine class discussions with fellow students bringing in their expertise from International Relations and Political Science, or from International Law, Intercultural Studies, or Psychology
- **Learning together with people from all around the world** – an international classroom connecting people with different cultural backgrounds as a day-to-day experience
- **Getting practical experiences in what you study** – we organise study trips to headquarters of international organisations and their field offices in crisis spots, and we facilitate internships with international NGOs that contribute to crisis management on the ground or with government agencies that coordinate crisis responses with other states
- **Shaping your individual profile based on personal preferences** – the programme allows setting your own priorities: which organisations and crises you study, which languages you learn, which countries you go to etc. is yours to choose

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR CURRICULUM

- **A semester abroad** in pertinent, high quality Master's programs, such as Birmingham, Budapest, Haifa, Nijmegen, Rhodes Island or Tampere, or at one of our partner universities in Germany
- **A field trip** to international organisations in Brussels, Rome or other headquarter locations in Europe
- **A summer school** featuring alternating formats such as workshops or simulations and topics such as peace ethics, minority rights or climate change
- **Language Studies** which improve your proficiency in an additional foreign language of choice and prepare you for a career in a multi-lingual environment
- **Interdisciplinary Studies** which allow complementing your education by choosing classes from a great variety of related disciplines, ranging from law and economics, history and applied ethics to Arabic and Caucasus Studies
- **An internship**, ideally during your study period abroad, in an international organisation, a ministry or a think-tank



Flags at the headquarter of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna, Photo: Elnur, Adobe Stock



Headquarter of the World Bank Group in Washington D.C., Photo: Qingwa, Adobe Stock



Flags of the European Union (EU) in front of the European Commission in Brussels, Photo: VanderWolf



Headquarter of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Photo: Thorkild Tylleskar, Wikimedia (CC BY-SA 3.0)

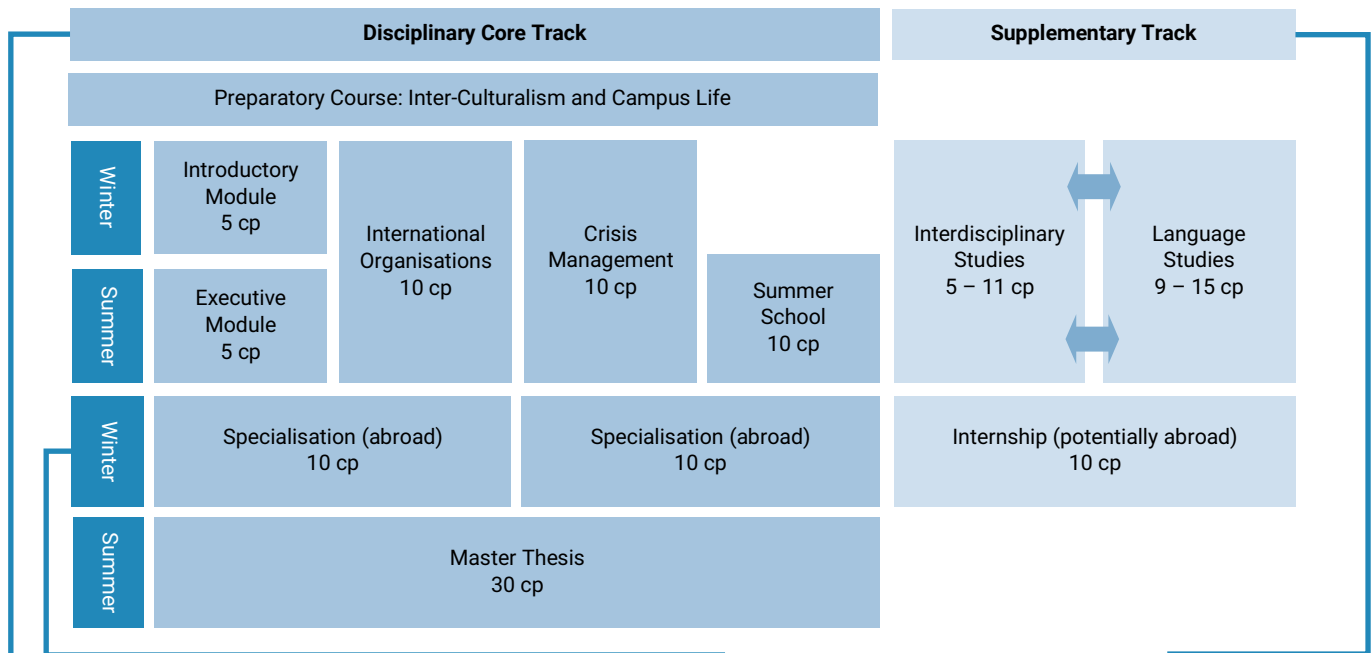


Headquarter of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva, Photo: Henry Mühlpfordt, Wikimedia (CC BY-SA 3.0)



Office of the United Nations (UN) in Geneva, Photo: Nexus 7, Shutterstock

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



The **Disciplinary Core Track** represents the core of our study programme. It kicks off with a preparation weekend before the semester start to ease you in and set you up for studying in Jena. The **Introductory Module** then lays a common foundation of knowledge for our students. Afterwards, the Modules on **International Organisation** (includes a study trip) and **Crisis Management**, each running for two semesters, serve to deepen and expand your knowledge about international organisations and their role in the management of international crises.

The **Executive Module** consists of a seminar, which is taught by a practitioner, focusing on topics close to his or her organisations' expertise. The **summer school** of around seven days features alternating topics on various aspects of crisis management.

The third semester is reserved for your stay abroad (international students may alternatively visit another university in Germany). Feel free to **select one of our [partner universities](#)**, which offer very attractive classes. Places are usually limited, though. Based on your application, the Erasmus Coordinator will make a final decision on your study placement. He or she will also inform you about any financing options.

After consulting with the Coordinator, you will then choose classes abroad adding up to **20 credit points that will constitute your Specialisation Modules**. The classes offered by our partners cover a broad range of topics, which gives you plenty of choice to tailor your education to your priorities.

The **Supplementary Track** is where you can best personalise your profile. You can get between 5 and 11 credit points in Interdisciplinary Studies, which includes classes from other sub-fields of political science as well as classes in economics, international law and more. In **Language Studies**, you can either learn a new language (beyond English) or strengthen your proficiency in a language you already have. Credits range from 9 to 15 credit points. Overall you will need to get 20 credit points in Interdisciplinary Studies and Language Studies combined.

The two-month **internship** is another practical component. You may complete it at any time during your studies. We recommend using the semester break for that purpose. The best option is to complete it as part of your stay abroad.

FURTHER QUESTIONS?

Then contact our study advisor or find further information on our website: [www.iocm.uni-jena.de!](http://www.iocm.uni-jena.de)

Study Advisor

Philip M. Tantow, M.A.

E-Mail: study-advisor.iocm@uni-jena.de

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

To apply for our programme please submit your application in English to the Master Service Centre of Friedrich Schiller University Jena until **31 July (international applicants)** or **15 September (German applicants)**. Your application has to **include the following documents**:

- IOCM Application Form
- Bachelor Certificate (or equivalent)
- Transcript of Records
- Letter of Motivation
- Curriculum Vitae
- Language Certificate

You can include **additional documents** you deem relevant, such as proof of work experience, stays abroad or language proficiencies. For more details visit our [website](#). Note that there are **two tracks** to gaining admission to our programme. We will evaluate your application based on the criteria listed in the boxes below.

Due to the interdisciplinary character of our Master's programme, we strongly encourage students from relevant disciplines beyond political science such as European Studies, International Law or Sociology to apply.

TRACK I

You will have access to our graduate programme if you meet the **following requirements**:

- You hold a first professional qualification (Bachelor with 180 credit points or equivalent) with at least 90 credit points in the field of Political Science and an overall grade of 1.5 (approx. "very good") or better.
- You have acquired at least 20 credit points from classes focused on international relations or international organisations.
- You have acquired at least 15 credit points in qualitative and/or quantitative research methods.
- You have completed at least one job-oriented internship in international relations or international organisations or studied one semester abroad.
- Your proficiency in English corresponds to level C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

TRACK II

If you do not sufficiently meet any of the first four requirements of track I, but your overall grade is at least 2.3 (approx. "good") and your studies, CV and motivation letter indicate a particular fit for our programme, you may also be admitted upon consideration of the following factors:

- The scope and grades of the courses, which are particularly relevant for our Master's programme, as well as the final thesis of your first academic qualification.
- Your international experiences as they relate to our programme.
- Your practical experiences and additional qualifications that are relevant for our programme.
- Your individual areas of interest and reflections on the content and requirements of our Master's programme, as indicated in your letter of motivation and your curriculum vitae.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

If you are not familiar with the German higher education system, we recommend consulting the information provided by the [German Academic Exchange Service \(DAAD\)](#). The DAAD also provides general information about Germany and other topics such as insurances; they also offer scholarships for your stay.

EXPERT ASSESSMENTS



“With the creation of the Master program "International Organisations and Crisis Management" (IOCM) FSU Jena pools already existing expertise, expands that expertise professionally and adds unique features, which make the program attractive and competitive for international students and prepare them at the best for an international career.”

Marietta S. König, OSCE, Office of the Secretary General, Vienna



“This Master program reflects the vastly grown need for theoretically sound and practically proven education in crisis management and intercultural competences (...). Demand is increasing not only in our national foreign policy establishment, but also in think tanks, non-governmental organisations and, of course, in European and international governmental organisations with German personnel. For a country like ours, which is internationally interlinked like few others and believes in a rule-based, institutionalised international system (...), the need for junior staff with relevant skills will further grow in the foreseeable future – not only in the academic, but also the political and social world.”

Dr. Thomas Bagger, Diplomat, Director-General of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Federal President, Berlin



“Beyond doubt, the great challenges of our times can only be tackled with capable international organisations. At the same time there is little to no specific university education tailored to the need for commensurate expert personnel. The establishment of this study program fills that gap. For international organisations, recruiting alumni of this program should be highly attractive.”

Prof. Dr. Malte Brosig, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg



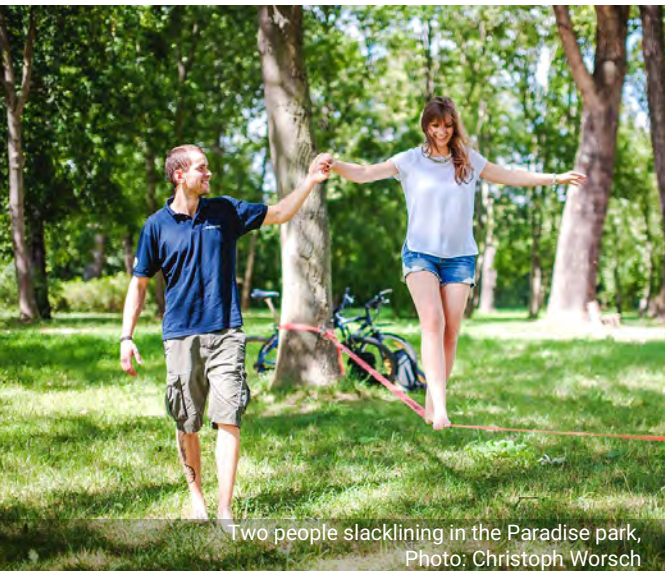
A concert at the Kulturarena in Jena, Photo: Andreas Hub



Students from Friedrich Schiller University Jena paddling on the Saale river, Photo: Anne Günther, FSU



Panorama of Jena, Photo: Christoph Worsch



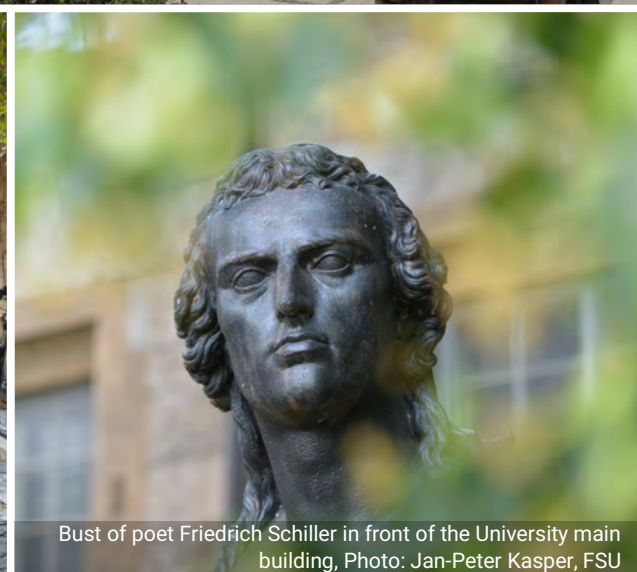
Two people slacklining in the Paradise park, Photo: Christoph Worsch



Campus at Ernst-Abbe-Platz, Photo: Jan-Peter Kasper, FSU



Wagnergasse with many bars and cafés, Photo: Daniel Hofmann



Bust of poet Friedrich Schiller in front of the University main building, Photo: Jan-Peter Kasper, FSU

STUDYING IN JENA

A Vibrant City of Students

Jena exhibits a **peculiar mix of old and new**. Prince Elector Johann Friedrich founded our university in 1558. It is named after one of the most well-known German poets, Friedrich Schiller, who taught history in Jena. Many other renowned scholars also worked here, such as Goethe, Hegel, Fichte and Zeiss. Karl Marx got his PhD at our university. At the same time, the city is modern and progressive, featuring optical, pharmaceutical, biochemical, and IT firms with an international reputation and many high-tech start-ups, which keep innovative students in the city after completing their degrees.

About **one quarter of the 105,000 inhabitants of Jena are students**. This is the highest ratio in the East of Germany and among the top ten in Germany. 18.000 of them are registered at our university with its more than 200 programs, and 5.000 are at the University of Applied Sciences. 2,300 are international students from over 100 countries. Many are visiting from our more than 200 Erasmus partner institutions.

Vibrant student life is a key factor shaping our city. **Jena is growing, and it is a young city**. 12 per cent of the population are younger than 18 years. The average age is about two years below the national average. 10 per cent have an international family background. And almost 30 per cent of the population have a university degree – which is the highest rate in all of Germany!

Jena is a city of short distances. The campus and many other university facilities are located in the city centre within walking distance. Many take their bikes. The semester ticket, which you receive upon university registration, lets you use public transport for free throughout Thuringia and thus enables you to discover the region by bus and train.

Life in Jena is attractive, not least due to the relatively low living costs compared to the rest of Germany. Many come and enjoy the lush green of the Saale river meandering through the city and its slopes, which produces the warmest and most pleasant climate the East of Germany offers. Conditions for hiking, biking, canoeing or simply relaxing are excellent.

Attractive Leisure Activities

Sport is a top priority in Jena. The University Sports Club is one of the largest clubs in Thuringia. The University of Jena offers around 80 sports and more than 450 courses each semester. More than 150 additional sports clubs call Jena their home.

Maybe **you prefer culture**. Jena is shaped by its colourful and diverse student culture. You can enjoy life here strolling through the beautiful Paradies park, visiting the theatre or the three cinemas, shopping or lingering in numerous cafés and restaurants. Or you can watch the shows of the oldest Planetarium in Germany, visit the Kulturarena in summer, listen to the philharmonic orchestras' performances or the weekly jam sessions, attend the university's annual long night of science and many other events. And if that's not enough, you can visit close-by Weimar, the city of classics, of the Weimar Republic and the Bauhaus architectural style.

Or maybe you prefer nature? Here, Jena is at its best. The town is surrounded by countryside with a magnificent landscape, including the northernmost vineyards of Germany. There are trails all over the place, in particular the Horizontale, a 100 km trail around the city where once a year hikers compete in a day-and-night contest. Others bike to the many castles around Jena, such as the three UNESCO World Heritage Dornburg castles, or to the Romanic cathedrals such as the one in Naumburg. Still others take the bike trails to reach the picturesque old cities of Erfurt and Weimar.

CAREER PERSPECTIVES

We designed the programme with input from various professionals outside academia to make sure that what we offer is competitive on the job market. Overall, there is no other study programme in Germany, and only very few in Europe, that prepares you specifically for the jobs we have in mind. You might even

decide early on which of the following career opportunities you are most interested in and focus your personal study plan accordingly, e.g. where you do your internship, which language you learn or which MA thesis topic you opt for. For your future career, you might end up working in the following fields:

International Governmental Organisations:

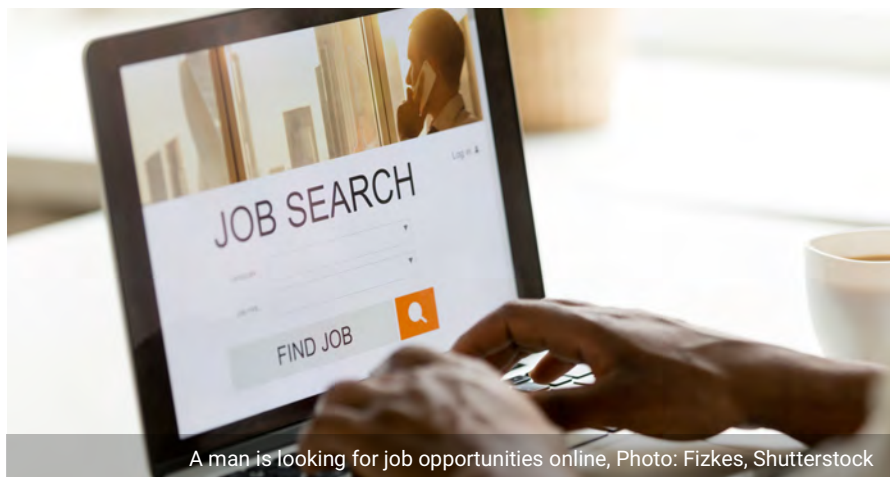
By providing core knowledge about how international organisations function, graduates are empowered to work in the more than 250 international governmental organisations worldwide. Study trips and internships will provide first-hand knowledge and key points of contact. Many work at headquarters and field presences in numerous countries.

International Non-Governmental Organisations:

Their number has skyrocketed over the last few decades and currently stands at around 9.000. Europe is at the centre of their activities. Many work in crisis management, protecting human rights, promoting democracy, providing development aid and disaster relief, caring for refugees and building peace after violent conflict.

Firms and Business Associations:

The international economy is highly networked. Consequently it is vulnerable to risk. Firms and business associations are often overwhelmed when it comes to assessing potential crises that can significantly undermine their investments, supply and markets. Reducing these uncertainties through competent advice might become your professional career in future.



A man is looking for job opportunities online, Photo: Fizkes, Shutterstock

Government Institutions:

Member states are often the decisive actors in international organisations. A wide range of domestic government institutions works towards the formulation of national positions in international organisations and many of them are in direct contact with international secretariats especially in times of crisis. Your background will make you an attractive asset for such government institutions.

Political Consultancy:

Think tanks settle in the neighbourhood of governments, parliaments and international organisations in order to influence political decisions on the basis of sound research. Political foundations often have their own research institutes. Their experts are consulted by international organisations, members-states, and international non-governmental organisations.

Universities:

Our research-oriented programme will empower you to carry out demanding academic projects. Given excellent grades, you might want to start a doctoral thesis and even pursue a university career. Since research on international organisations and crisis management is thriving, especially in Europe, and since there is still a lot of backlog after years of neglect, there are many research puzzles to solve.

Media and Journalism:

International crises are the bread and butter of the media, be it television, radio, newspapers and magazines or new media. Media need correspondents who can report on the spot in conflict zones, know the relevant actors and are able to place crises in larger contexts.

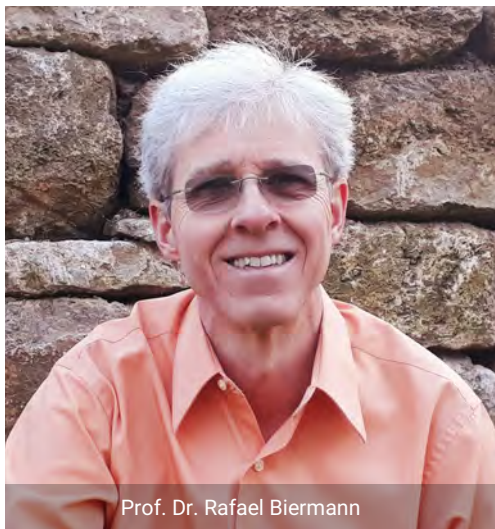
THE TEAM

Rafael Biermann is a long-time expert on peace and conflict, in particular ethics of peace, ethnic and secessionist conflict as well as the central fields of conflict management, such as crisis prevention, mediation, peacebuilding and humanitarian intervention. He has also strongly researched international organisations and their interaction, German and European foreign policy and theories of International Relations. With his prior working experience for the German Chancellor and the Minister of Defense and his strong international and intercultural expertise based on four years of study and teaching at U.S. universities and eight years as director of a double degree programme with Ukraine, he brings broad academic, practical and organisational experience into the Master's programme. His team, in addition, specialises in a broad range of fields, such as aesthetic communication in conflict, critical and psychological approaches, ethnonationalism, peacekeeping, reconciliation, the United Nations and refugees and migration. Please find more information on our individual profiles [here](#).

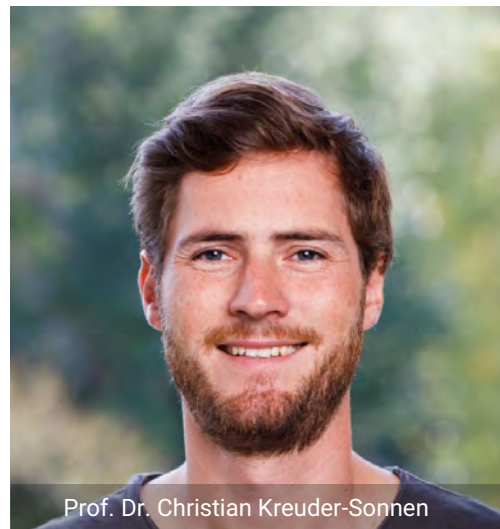
Christian Kreuder-Sonnen is an expert in the field of international organisations and particularly focuses on

diverse aspects in the crisis politics of these institutions. In his book "Emergency Powers of International Organisations", he critically analyses the responses of institutions, such as the World Health Organization during the SARS outbreak or the European Central Bank during the Euro crisis. Kreuder-Sonnen furthermore specialises in the fields of institutional fragmentation and international regime complexity as well as legitimacy and legitimation of international institutions. He previously taught at the universities of Berlin (Freie), Munich and Potsdam and has held visiting positions in Harvard and Oxford. He thus not only brings organisation and policy-field expertise to the Faculty, but also brings in a wide international academic network. Members of his team, moreover, analyse crisis-induced institutional change in comparative perspective or focus on United Nations Peacekeeping missions. Please find more information on our individual profiles [here](#).

A Professor of European Studies and an upcoming new professorship on environmental politics at our Institute and a host of regular external lecturers complement our portfolio.



Prof. Dr. Rafael Biermann



Prof. Dr. Christian Kreuder-Sonnen



Campus Carl-Zeiss-Strasse, Jena | Graphic: Freepik, edited



Campus at Ernst-Abbe-Platz, Photo: Jan-Peter Kasper, FSU

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Publisher: Institute of Political Science | Layout: Steve Biedermann, M.A., based on a template of the Section Communications and Marketing, Susanne Bukatz

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