

FAQ

Optional Module/Special Options Module

The Optional Module or Special Options Module is part of the American Studies degree at Goethe-University and consists of the **Academic Optional Module** and the **Practical Optional Module**.

For general information on the modules, please make yourself familiar with the information sheets provided on the **American Studies website** (https://www.fb10.uni-frankfurt.de/152226246/BA_American_Studies) and register for the **OLAT class** called “BA American Studies-Optional Modules”. Here you will find answers to (almost) all of your questions as well as an easy explanation on how to complete the module.

To add more clarity, we have listed the most common questions and answers below.

Q: When can I start the Optional Module?

A: You can and should start the module as soon as your studies commence. That will provide you with plenty of time to finish the module. As the module consists of many options - visiting guest lectures, participating in student organization groups or completing internships – you will have to attend the activities while doing your regular studies anyway, so it is best to start early.

Q: Do I have to finish the Optional Module in a specific order?

A: No, you can complete the Module in any order that works best for your schedule.

Q: I have forgotten about the Optional Module and want to finish my studies soon. Is there a way to earn the necessary credit points quickly?

A: The quickest way to finish the Academic Optional Module is to visit conferences. For each item on the conference program (such as keynote lectures, conference panels or round table discussions), you’ll earn 0,25 CP.

If you visit the entire conference, you do not have to write a one-page-summary for each talk but a comprehensive report that connects the ideas and discussions of the entire conference (5-10 pages). If you have visited the entire conference and wrote the big report, you can earn 1 CP in addition.

If you have visited, for example, a two-day-conference that consisted of 4 conference panels, 2 keynotes and a panel discussion, you would earn 1,75 CP (7 x 0,25 CP) plus 1 CP for the big report. That way, you could earn 2,75 CP in a relatively short time.

Q: What activities count towards the Practical Optional Module?

A: As explained in the information sheet on the POM, you can achieve credits for internships, work at the Chaincourt Theatre, the Editorial Team of the Literary Journal, participation in Writing Workshops, in Governing Bodies at Goethe University and as a tutor or student assistant.

Additionally, you can earn CPs through the work you do while studying. That entails anything from tutoring children to email management for a company. You just have to explain how the work relates to American Studies, regarding either the subject matter of the U.S. or the methods used in our field.

In order to get the CP, you have to upload to OLAT a list of activities you do at your job or a timesheet signed by a person who supervises your work. Alternatively, you can upload your work contract in which your tasks and hours are specified and signed by your supervisor.

Q: How many activities do I need to do in order to complete the module?

A: You can earn up to 9 CP for one activity, e.g. a long internship or visiting conferences, but you have to do at least 2 activities in order to complete the Academic or Practical Optional Module.

In the case of the Academic Optional Module, at least 1 CP needs to be earned by visiting guest lectures (0,25 CP per guest lecture and your report).

Q: What is meant by earning “additional credits” when visiting a conference? How many additional credits can I get and how?

A: You can earn 1 additional CP when you visit an entire conference and upload a comprehensive report (5-10 pages) for the whole conference instead of one-pagers for the individual program items. For more information, see question “I have forgotten about the Optional Module and want to finish my studies soon. Is there a way to earn the necessary credit points quickly?” and the info sheet on the Academic Optional Module.

Q: How many credit points do I get when I have completed a language course (48 h + exam)?

A: For the successful completion of a language course and exam you may earn 3 CP. Please note that we cannot grant CP if you have not finished the course.

Q: I have started a seminar/language class/workshop but could not finish it. Can I still get credit points?

A: Unfortunately, you can only earn CP when you have finished the seminar/language class/workshop.

Q: How many Credit Points do I get for participating in an autonomous tutorial? How many do I get for directing one?

A: You get 2 CP for participating and 3 CP for directing an autonomous tutorial.

Q: How many Credit Points do I get for participating in a workshop at the writing center?

A: For participating in a one-day workshop, you get 1 CP. A typical workshop at the writing center is worth 1 CP.