

# **Political Economy Master's program**

## **training program**

**For students who start in the fall semester of 2025/2026**

## Political Economy Master's program

**Valid:** For students starting their studies in the 2025/2026/1 semester

**General information:**

**Person responsible for the major:** Gergő Medve-Bálint Associate Professor

**Place of the training:** Budapest

**Training schedule:** full-time

**Language of the training:** English

**Is it offered as dual training:** no

**Specialisations:**

1. **Specialisation name:** The political economy of Central and Eastern Europe
2. **Specialisation name:** International political economy

**Training and outcome requirements:**

1. **Name of the Master's program in Hungarian:** politikai gazdaságtan

**Name of the Master's program in English:** Political Economy

2. **The level of qualification to be acquired in the master's study programme and the specification of the professional qualification in the diploma:**

- level of qualification: master (magister; abbreviated as MA)
- Hungarian specification of the professional qualification: okleveles politológus közgazdász
- English specification of the professional qualification: Political Economist

3. **Field of study:** social sciences

4. **Previous study programmes accepted for entry to the master programme**

**4.1. The following study programmes may be taken into consideration at full credit value:** from the field of economics: the bachelor's programmes of International Business, Applied Economics, Public Service, Economic Analysis, Philosophy, Politics, Economy; from the field of social sciences: the bachelor's programmes of Political Science, International Relations, Political Science.

**4.2. The following study programmes may be taken into account primarily subject to the completion of the credits specified in Section 9.3:** from the field of business and management sciences: Human Resources, Business and Management, Commerce and Marketing, Finance and Accounting, Data Analysis in Economics; from the field of informatics: Business Informatics; from the field of public governance: National Security, International Security and Defence, International Administration, Political National Security; from the field of social sciences: Sociology.

**4.3. The following study programmes courses may also be taken into account subject to the completion of the credits specified in Section 9.3:** the bachelor's and master's degree programmes and the programmes under Act LXXX of 1993 on Higher Education which are accepted by the credit transfer committee of the higher education institution on the basis of a comparison of the knowledge underlying the credits awarded.

5. **Duration of the programme in semesters:** 4 semesters

6. **Number of credits to be collected to acquire the MA degree:** 120 credits

- orientation of the study programme: practically oriented (40-60%)
- credit value assigned to the preparation of the thesis: 10 credits
- minimal credit value of continuous practical training outside the university: 20 credits
- minimum credit value to be assigned to free elective subjects: 6 credits

7. **Classification of the professional qualification according to the unified classification system of fields of study:** 313/0312

8. **The training purpose of the master programme and professional competences**

The aim of the programme is to train professionals with interdisciplinary theoretical preparation, international knowledge and a comparative approach to the development of modern political and economic institutions, their social and legal embeddedness, their functioning, the details of their governance and the processes of their transformation. They are able to carry out political and economic analyses at different levels and in different areas of the political and economic institutional system, demonstrating a broad approach and expertise of sufficient depth, to prepare decisions, to elaborate governance and development proposals, taking into account the processes and interdependencies of the political and economic institutional system. They are prepared to continue their studies in a doctoral programme.

**8.1. Professional competences to be acquired**

**8.1.1. Political economists can be described as follows in terms of their**

**a) knowledge**

- Understanding of the theoretical trends and models of political economy, including their strengths and weaknesses.
- Knowledge of the processes of modern politics and economics.
- Knowledge of typical political and economic events, types of related contracts and the characteristics of their organisational levels.
- Understanding of the institutional system and the main actors of politics and the economy.
- Awareness of the relations between the main political and economic actors at national, regional, European and global levels.
- Knowledge of the history, evolution, changes and functions of the various types of political and economic organisations.
- Understanding of the relationship between politics and the economy.
- Understanding of the correlations between the economy and various legal, constitutional and political systems.
- Knowledge of the contemporary political economy issues of major relevance in both the domestic and international dimensions.
- Knowledge of the relevant concepts, theories, analytical tools and results of political science, law and economics.
- Knowledge of the academic and evaluation criteria for independent scientific work.
- Awareness of the place of their discipline within social sciences.
- Knowledge and understanding of the theoretical and methodological strengths and limitations of political economy.
- Awareness of the relevance and applicability of the political economy approach.

**In addition, at the specialisation in the political economy of Central and Eastern Europe:**

- Knowledge of the political and economic history and the political and economic systems of the region.
- Knowledge of the general and region-specific political and economic context.
- Awareness of the relationship between political and economic cycles and an understanding of bilateral and regional relations between countries in the region.
- Knowledge of the course and consequences of the changes to the political and economic systems in post-socialist countries.

**In addition, at the specialisation in international political economy:**

- Knowledge of the main theories and trends in international political economy.
- Knowledge of global political and economic relationships, the evolution of and changes in these relationships, the functioning and the recent challenges of the global economy and the most important factors of economic growth and inequality.

- Knowledge of the most important international organisations and economic treaties, their significance, impact and influence; awareness of the political and economic specificities of the most important actors of the world economy.
- Knowledge of the impact of commodity prices, understanding of the functioning of and correlations between political and economic cycles.

**b) skills**

- Ability to follow the findings of the political economy literature, to interpret its theories and models, and to use them independently.
- Ability to interpret the findings of social sciences, in particular economics and political science, and to adapt them to political economy.
- Ability to manage and interpret statistical data essential for their independent work with confidence.
- Ability to analyse economic and political institutions and organisations holistically and functionally.
- Ability to recognise, identify and interpret events and processes affecting the connecting points between politics and the economy.
- Ability to monitor and evaluate domestic and international macroeconomic processes and to identify their policy implications.
- Ability to identify current challenges in political economy.
- Ability to navigate in different legal and governance systems.
- Ability to understand and anticipate modern political and economic processes.
- Ability to identify and analyse the impact of different legal systems and political regimes on the economy.
- Ability to understand and analyse correlations in the regional, European and global political economy.
- Ability to prepare analyses, reports and proposals for policy-making and economic management.
- Ability to perform the required written and oral presentation, communication and analytical tasks to a high standard in both Hungarian and foreign languages.
- Ability to carry out research and write papers in accordance with scientific criteria.
- Ability to judge the relevance and applicability of political economy approaches.

**In addition, at the specialisation in the political economy of Central and Eastern Europe:**

- Ability to examine and analyse in an interpretative and authoritative manner the economic and political institutions, organisations, events and interactions in the Central and Eastern European region.
- Ability to interpret, synthesise and apply the findings of the relevant literature.
- Ability to identify problems and to prepare analyses, reports and proposals for policy-making and economic management.
- Ability to navigate in different legal and governance systems.

**In addition, at the specialisation in international political economy:**

- Ability to analyse the main (institutional) actors of the global economy.
- Ability to analyse and interpret the functioning of the world economy.
- Ability to produce political and economic analyses for decision-makers and international organisations.

**c) attitudes**

- Commitment to enriching the discipline of political economy.
- Demonstration of a responsible, tolerant attitude, respecting the opinions of others.
- Receptiveness to interdisciplinarity and a sensitivity to innovative approaches.
- Theoretically demanding, methodologically conscious approach.
- Focusing on the essence while paying attention to details as well.
- Being up to date and striving at the constant updating and extension of knowledge.
- Demonstration of circumspection and intuitive curiosity as a researcher.
- Task-orientation and a high level of motivation in problem solving.
- Critical thinking.
- Ability to work professionally and responsibly both individually and in a team
- Participation in national and international scientific debates, professional collaborations and professional discussions.
- Sensitivity to local specificities.

**d) autonomy and responsibility**

- Working independently and backing up their findings with professionally sound arguments.
- Independent expression of their opinion with the presentation of alternatives.
- Acceptance of ethical and professional responsibility for their own work.
- Autonomy in problem detection, analysis and thinking.
- Limitation of autonomy by the ethical standards of their profession and discipline, consistently reflected in their proposals and positions towards decision-makers.
- Complex approach in line with interdisciplinary awareness.
- Responsible participation in research and development projects.
- Responsibility for facilitating collaboration between colleagues and experts from various backgrounds and for consolidating different points of view.
- Contribution to the professional development of peers and others working around.

**9. The characteristics of the master's programme**

**9.1. The characteristics of the professional studies**

**9.1.1. Branches of science leading to the professional qualification, fields of expertise comprising the study programme:**

- The basics of economics and social sciences 24-30 credits
- economics: theoretical history, economic history, applied macroeconomics 6-12 credits;
- quantitative analyses: quantitative methodology, statistical and economic policy analyses, database management and research 6-12 credits;
- political science: political theory, comparative politics, public policy 6-12 credits;
- political economy: classical and international political economy, economic philosophy 6-12 credits.
- Political economy studies 24-42:
- political economy studies with a background in economics: community economics, economic policy, welfare economics, development economics 12-24 credits;
- political economy studies with a background in political science: governance, economic governance and regulation, political regimes and the economy, the economy and elections 12-24 credits;
- other political economy studies: comparative political economy, game theory and public choice in political economy, political economy of public law, globalisation 12-24 credits.

**9.1.2. Credit ratio of elective specialisations and professional modules within the programme: 24-30 credits**

- Political economy of Central and Eastern Europe: social and political history of Central and Eastern Europe; comparative analysis of political and economic institutions; political economy of democratisation and economic transformation; security policy; public service reforms and public policy 24-30 credits
- international political economy: globalisation theories, world and international economics, international development policy, international politics and economics, comparison of political and economic systems 24-30 credits.

**9.2. Requirements for the practice**

The continuous internship shall be eight weeks, as specified in the curriculum of the higher education institution.

**9.3. Minimum requirements for entry to the master programme cycle for holders of a diploma specified in Sections 4.2 and 4.3:**

The minimum number of credits required for entry to the master's programme is 30 credits in the following areas:

- economics (economic theory, international economics, world economics, finance, history of economic theories, micro- and macroeconomics, integration theories, EU policies): 6 credits as a minimum,
- methodological studies (mathematics, statistics, econometrics, impact assessment and analysis, informatics, data analysis): 6 credits as a minimum,
- political science (comparative politics, public policy, political systems, political system of the EU, theories of democracy, theories of power, governance, public administration): 6 credits as a minimum,
- political economy (classical and international political economy, globalisation, development economics, economic policy, development policy): 6 credits as a minimum,
- other social sciences (philosophy, economics and social sciences, constitutional law, public law): 6 credits as a minimum.

To be admitted to the master programme, students must have at least 24 credits in the above fields, based on their previous studies. Any missing credits must be acquired in the master programme in accordance with the Study and Examination Regulations of the higher education institution.

**10. Thesis**

The aim of writing a thesis is to demonstrate the student's knowledge and expertise on a topic of his/her choice, in the collection, systematisation, analysis and processing of scientific data related to the chosen topic, in the discussion of the phenomenon or problem chosen as a topic, in creating hypotheses, in problem-solving, in the analysis of alternative hypotheses, in arguing and disproving counter-arguments, and in expressing one's ideas, views, positions and messages in a coherent, consistent and linguistically sound written form.

**11. Type of the thesis**

Research thesis

**12. Requirements for the issue of the final certificate**

The University shall issue a final certificate to a student who has

- met the academic and examination requirements determined in the curriculum and
- obtained the required number of credits.

**13. Conditions for admission to the final exam**

Joint conditions for admission to the final exam:

- a) the student has obtained the final certificate,
- b) the student has submitted the thesis by the deadline,
- c) the thesis has been assessed and awarded a mark other than insufficient by the deadline,
- d) the student has applied for the final exam by the deadline,
- e) the student owes no overdue debt owed to the University in the given programme,
- f) the student has accounted for the assets of the University (e.g. books, sports equipment, etc. borrowed).

A student who has not fulfilled any of the conditions in paragraphs a) - f) may not be admitted to the final exam.

**14. The parts of the final exam**

The final exam is comprised of two parts: **a comprehensive examination and the defence of the thesis**. The defence of the thesis consists of the summary of research findings, responding to the opinions of the opponent(s) and answering the questions posed by the final examination board on the thesis.

**15. Topics of the comprehensive examination**

The complex examination is based on three core subjects and two subjects of the chosen specialisation. Students will be given one question from each core and specialisation subject, which will need to be developed and are meant to measure the complexity, interdisciplinarity and integrated approach of their thinking.

**16. Final examination result**

The arithmetic average of the following three grades, rounded to two decimal places:

- a) The grade awarded by the referee(s) to the thesis, established on a five-grade scale, or, in the case of more than one referee, the average of the grades awarded by the referee(s), rounded to two decimal places and
- b) the grade awarded for the defence of the thesis, i.e. the answering of the questions relating to the thesis, established on a five-grade scale
- c) the grade awarded for the comprehensive oral examination, established on a five-grade scale.

**17. Components of the diploma grade, method of calculation**

The grade of the diploma is the arithmetic mean of the following two grades, rounded to two decimal places:

- a) the credit-weighted average of the marks of the compulsory and compulsory elective subjects (if the student has taken more than the compulsory elective subjects, then all the subjects taken) in the amount of credits prescribed in the curriculum, and
- b) a final examination result (grade).

**18. Conditions for issuing a diploma**

The issuing of a diploma attesting to the completion of higher education studies is subject to the successful completion of the final exam and the fulfilment of the requirements set out in Section 9.2.

**19. Information on the specialisations**

Complete at least 51 credits of compulsory courses in the first two semesters.

Only one specialisation may be chosen.

**20. The rules for choosing a specialisation**

Ranking based on the grade point average of the first two semesters.

MNPOGA24ABP - Political Economy master programme in Budapest, in English, full time training Curriculum for 2025/2026/1 fall semester for beginning students																						
Subject Code	Name of Subject	type	Number of classes per week		Credit	evaluation	semester	Academic year 2025/26		Academic year 2026/27		Credit	Course leader	Institute	Prerequisites		Equivalent subject		Remark	PSO		
			Lecture	Seminar				Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring				Code	Subject	Code	Subject				
								1	2	3	4											
<b>Mandatory courses</b>								<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>60</b>										
<b>General core subjects</b>								<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>										
TARS115NAMB	Historical linkages between economy and politics	C	2	2	6	ex	Fall	6					Gergő Medve-Bálint	Institute of Social and Political Sciences			NPPT015NAMB	Historical linkages between economy and politics		yes		
TARS116NAMB	State and governance	C	2	2	9	ex	Fall	9					Zoltán Balázs	Institute of Social and Political Sciences			NPPT016NAMB	State and governance		yes		
TARS117NAMB	Empirical analytical methods	C	0	4	6	ex	Fall	6					Gergely Rajnai	Institute of Social and Political Sciences			MSST015NAMB	Empirical analytical methods		yes		
GLOB104NAMB	States and globalization	C	2	2	6	ex	Spring		6				Judit Ricz	Institute of Global Studies			NPNK006NAMB	States and globalization		yes		
<b>PE-related core subjects</b>								<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>										
TARS118NAMB	Political and economic systems and transitions	C	2	2	9	ex	Spring		9				Gergő Medve-Bálint	Institute of Social and Political Sciences			GKIO10NAMB	Political and economic systems and transitions		yes		
GLOB105NAMB	International and comparative economic law	C	2	2	6	pg	Spring		6				Tamás Hoffmann	Institute of Global Studies			NPNK007NAMB	International and comparative economic law		yes		
KOZG089NAMB	Public economics and public choice	C	0	4	9	pg	Fall	9					József Golovics	Institute of Economics			GKKK035NAMB	Public economics and public choice		yes		
KOZG090NAMB	Political economy in macroeconomics	C	2	2	9	ex	Spring		9				András Olivér Németh	Institute of Economics			KG00073NAMB	Political economy in macroeconomics		yes		
<b>Specializations</b>								<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>										
<b>The political economy of Central and Eastern Europe</b>								<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>										
GKIO11NAMB	Capitalism and development in Central and Eastern Europe	C	2	2	6	ex	Fall				6		Gergő Medve-Bálint	Institute of Social and Political Sciences						yes		
GKKK036NAMB	Post-communist political and social transformation in Central and Eastern Europe	C	2	2	6	ex	Fall				6		Attila Bartha	Institute of Social and Political Sciences						yes		
NPPT018NAMB	Central and Eastern Europe and the European Union	C	2	2	6	ex	Fall				6		Róbert Imre Csehi	Institute of Social and Political Sciences						yes		
NPNK010NAMB	Security challenges to Central and Eastern Europe	C	2	2	6	pg	Fall				6		József Dúró	Institute of Social and Political Sciences						yes		
<b>International political economy</b>								<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>										
GLOB098NAMB	International Trade Policy	C	2	2	6	ex	Fall				6		Gábor Vígvári	Institute of Global Studies			GLOB019NAMB	International Trade Policy		yes		
NPVG013NAMB	International capital and financial markets	C	2	2	6	ex	Fall				6		Magdolna Judit Hadrásznyé Burucs	Institute of Global Studies						yes		
NPVG014NAMB	The political economy of development	C	2	2	6	ex	Fall				6		Judit Ricz	Institute of Global Studies						yes		
NPVG015NAMB	Regional Economics	C	2	2	6	ex	Fall				6		István Kollai	Institute of Global Studies						yes		
<b>Mandatory internship</b>								<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>										
TARS072NAMB	Internship	C			20	pg	Spring				20		Gergő Medve-Bálint	Institute of Social and Political Sciences								
<b>Thesis work</b>								<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>										
TARS073NAMB	Thesis work	C			10	pg	Spring				10		Gergő Medve-Bálint	Institute of Social and Political Sciences								
<b>Elective courses</b>								<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>										
TS00001NMMB	Sports/Physical Education	E	0	2	2	pg	Fall	2					Csaba Vladár	Centre for Physical Educations and Sports								
IOK0001NABB	Hungarian Language SHI I.*	E/C	0	4	3	pg	Fall	3					Judit Magyar	Centre of Foreign Language Education and Research								
IOK0004NABB	Hungarian Language SHI II.*	E/C	0	4	3	ex	Spring		3				Judit Magyar	Centre of Foreign Language Education and Research								
	Foreign language	E	0	4	0	pg	Fall, spring							Centre of Foreign Language Education and Research								
	Any course(s) from the list of elective courses																					
<b>Total credits (semester)</b>								<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>120</b>										

**Remarks**

Type: C-compulsory courses, CE-core elective courses, E-elective (optional) courses, CR-criterion

Methods of assessment: ex-exam (exam at the end of the semester, but other forms of assessment are possible during the semester), pg- grade based on the practical assignments given during the course of the semester, s=signature

A subject that can be completed in a preferential study order (PSO) on the basis of Section 92 of the Study and Examination Regulation (SER)

**Physical education**

Students wishing to take part in sport can take one semester without paying a fee and the following semesters the students can only take physical education with the payment of a specified fee.

**Foreign language**

During their studies, students can learn a language in the form of paid subjects within the framework of elective subjects.

**Curriculum**

It is recommended to include the subjects in the schedule according to the sample curriculum. The student may deviate from this, taking into account:

1. the pre-study order,
2. semester of announcing subjects
3. Completion of an average of 30 credits per semester
4. In addition to the compulsory subjects, students may take elective subjects from the offer of elective subjects (see Neptun) as well as foreign languages.
5. A minimum of 2/3 of the required amount of credit must be completed at Corvinus University.

The detailed rules related to the admission of the subjects and the completion of the subjects are included in the Study and Examination Regulations!

Please note that curriculum changes are possible!