

Exchange at IfKW of LMU Munich - Key Data for Incoming Students

WINTER TERM 2025/26

INSTITUTION DETAILS

Name of Department	Department of Media and Communication / IfKW (Institut für Kommunikationswissenschaft und Medienforschung)	
Name and number of Faculty	Faculty of Social Sciences – 15	
Postal Address	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) Department of Media and Communication (IfKW) Oettingenstr. 67 80538 Munich, GERMANY	
Website	https://www.en.ifkw.uni-muenchen.de/	

CONTACTS

Incoming & Outgoing Students	Contract Management
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DATES

Academic Calendar	The academic year is divided into two semesters : October 1st until March 31st and April 1st until September 30th. The winter term 2025 will start on 13 October 2025 and end on 6 February 2026. At the Department of Media and Communication the lecture period includes the final exams. At other departments exams may also take place within two weeks after the lecture period.	
Application and Registration Procedure	Once you are nominated as an exchange student by your home university you need to register at LMU's central International Office . They provide information for exchange students who were already accepted as visiting students at LMU and who will spend one or two semesters at the Department of Media and Communication (IfKW).	
Welcome Event	We would like to welcome our international students at the Department of Media and Communication in the week before the start of the semester: We look very much forward to meeting you at our Welcome Event "Welcome Day @ IfKW" . A personal invitation follows by email on time.	



COURSE SELECTION & REGISTRATION

Online course catalogue of LMU	www.lsf.lmu.de The up-to-date course catalogue is available two months before the beginning of each semester.
Course choice	A few weeks prior to the start of the semester, the international coordinators will send an online form for choosing classes in our department (wishlist). You do not have to apply online for courses in the field of media and communication by yourself. Your coordinator will apply for you. IMPORTANT: This only works for courses at IfKW – if you would like to attend courses in other departments, too, you have to subscribe to them by yourself (the best would be to write an e-mail to the international coordinator or lecturer).
Website	https://www.en.ifkw.uni-muenchen.de/international/exchange_students/courses/index.html
Courses taught in English	We offer at least 30 ECTS of English-taught courses each semester. This includes courses for exchange students only, but also mixed courses / lectures. The courses are in the following modules: ▪ Empirical Communication Research ▪ Media Institutions ▪ Media Work ▪ Academic Writing
ECTS / Credit points	For exchange students most of the regular seminars at IfKW give 5 ECTS points, lectures give 4 ECTS points and Haupt- und Wahlpflichtseminare (advanced, 4h/week, strong focus on empirical research methods) 11 ECTS points on undergraduate level and 15 ECTS on postgraduate level.
LMU room finder	https://www.lmu.de/raumfinder/index.html#/



Course types at IfKW

Lectures at IfKW are attended by 100 to 200 students and are held each week by a Professor (usually in German). At home students are expected to read the relevant literature. Towards the end of the semester there will be a written exam (usually in the last week of the lecture period). After personal consultation with the lecturer, the examination modality can be changed if necessary (e.g. oral exam). Lectures seem easy at first glance, however, you should consider this: You won't be able to practice your German in a lecture.

Seminars are usually attended by 15 to 30 students. They will probably have to give a presentation (together with fellow students, as a rule) and at the end of the semester they will most likely write a term paper. A seminar also involves the reading of relevant literature. On occasion, there will be practical exercises. Discussions feature prominently in seminars. By and large, presentations pose no problems for exchange students, although the assignments at the end of the semester are often demanding (But you can discuss the conditions with your teacher).

'Haupt- und Wahlpflichtseminare' are advanced seminars and proceed like ordinary seminars, except they are conceived for third-year or graduate students with a focus on empirical research. If students wish to attend a Hauptseminar they should be able to speak German/English quite well and be able to proof comprehensive knowledge in empirical research methods.

English taught classes at IfKW during summer term 2025

- ! IfKW offers English taught classes with a minimum amount of 30 ECTS points on BA level. They can be found in LSF, LMU's online course catalogue and in the list below. Further courses / course changes possible. LMU is planning
- with face-to-face teaching in winter term 2025/26.



We're open for negotiation for specific examination, so it fits to the requirements of your home university.

BA MA level	We strongly recommend attending <u>the following two</u> seminars for incoming exchange students:	
	Professional Communication in Munich <i>Mardakhi, Oe67</i> (seminar, 2h/week, 7-10 ECTS, tba.)	This seminar focuses on professional communication in online, print and broadcasting media. Students take part in field trips to different media companies in Munich, communication professionals give a talk and students try out to write in different journalistic styles. The acquired knowledge will be implemented in a weblog, written by the participating students. The acquired knowledge will be implemented in a weblog, planned, edited and written by the participants.
	Writing for Academic Purposes <i>tba., Oe67</i> (seminar, 3 ECTS, tba.)	This course for exchange students only focusses on scientific basics, dos and don'ts in writing an academic (research) report – especially in the field of communication: knowledge of the most relevant libraries and online catalogues, use of important digital databases, central sources, online search methods, quotation and citation (APA) as well as bibliography exercises and a library tour (IfKW library).

BA | MA level

**Media Change:
Contemporary cases,
consequences and
conceptualisations***Thurman, Oe67*(lecture, 2h/week,
4 ECTS, Wed 10-12)

This lecture series is about how and why certain features of the media landscape have changed, and others haven't, and why some of them have changed very slowly. Computers and the internet have left the media landscape much altered. The world is not what it was, but neither is it novel all the way to its extremities. The lectures focus on various contemporary cases of media change, concerning how media content is produced, paid-for, distributed, and regulated; and how that content is consumed—and that consumption measured. The cases cover everything from AI to audience measurement, personalization to pornography. The cases are examined through two lenses. Firstly, a lifecycle model of media evolution that looks at how media—new and old—co-evolve through adaptation, competition, and cooperation. And secondly, Professor Thurman's own Six Rs framework—Revolution, Resistance, Rapidity, Regulation, Reversals, and Remediation—which conceptualises media change as a non-linear and sometimes slow process that is driven by much more than technology and is incessantly incorporating the past.

**Podcasting Essentials:
Concept to Creation***Peter, Oe67*(seminar, 2h/week,
5 ECTS, tba.)

Ever wanted to start your own podcast? As a rapidly growing medium, podcasting offers the perfect opportunity to explore interesting topics or create engaging entertainment. This weekly course is designed to help you make the most of this evolving platform. In this seminar, you will work with your peers to brainstorm and refine your podcast ideas. With plenty of freedom to choose your own topics, you'll have the flexibility to create content that truly resonates with you and your audience. The course is taught in English and provides a solid understanding of podcasting techniques and strategies. However, you're welcome to produce your podcast in German if you prefer. Please bring your own laptop and mobile phone; recording equipment will be provided.

**Alternative to the
mainstream? Exploring
and analysing alternative
media and the politics of
counter-knowledge***Primig, Oe67*(seminar, 4h/week,
11 ECTS, Tu 12-16)

This seminar offers a critical exploration of alternative media as a multifaceted phenomenon. Moving beyond the dominant focus on far-right populist outlets, students will engage with the historical roots, political functions, and diverse forms of alternative media. Through small, student-led qualitative projects, participants will formulate their own research questions and learn to conduct thematic analyses of selected media content. The course provides both theoretical grounding and hands-on methodological training suitable for students in media, communication, or political/social studies.

**S Kommunikator- und
Rezipientenforschung***Hajek, Oe67*(seminar, 4h/week,
11 ECTS, Wed 14-18)

The seminar focuses on an introduction to quantitatively or qualitatively oriented communicator and recipient research and its empirical application. The seminar provides a basic understanding of the approach to communication studies issues and gives an overview of the communication studies research process in communicator and recipient research. The focus of the seminar is on the practical implementation and thus practice of the chosen method.

**Exploring Emotions and
Intergroup
Communication in Digital
Environments***Kaskeleviciute, Oe67*(seminar, 4h/week,
15 ECTS, Di 12-14 & Do
16-18)

In this seminar, students will learn the full cycle of conducting a scientific research study, using an experiment as the method. The aim is to define a research topic, formulate central research questions and hypotheses, identify and integrate relevant literature and theories, design and implement the method, analyze data, and present findings. All individual steps should result in a coherent research paper at the end of the course. The thematic focus of the seminar is on social media, emotions, and intergroup communication. The course familiarizes students with key aspects of scientific work, including literature search, citation, scientific writing and presentation, understanding experimental research logic and design, and engaging in constructive peer feedback.

**Analysing audience data
to measure the effects of
compulsory online age
verification***Thurman, Oe67*(seminar, 4h/week,
15 ECTS, Fr 10-14)

In various democratic states, from France to Florida, legislation is being passed to more strictly regulate internet content, including legal online pornography. In this seminar we will explore the need for such legislation and what it aims to do and how. We will then analyse online audience data from various US states to examine the effects of such legislation. We will attempt to find out whether mandatory age verification for porn sites has reduced their consumption, including by under-18s. In this seminar you will learn about the changing regulation of internet content, how internet audiences are measured, how to analyse online audience data, and the quasi-experimental methodology of 'interrupted times series analysis'.



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DEPARTMENT OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION



	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8-10					
10-12			Media Change: Contemporary cases, consequences and conceptualisations <i>Thurman</i>		(Aktuelles/ Empirisches) Forschungsprojekt <i>Thurman</i>
12-14		(Aktuelles/ Empirisches) Forschungsprojekt, Teil 1 <i>Kaskeleviciute</i>		S Medieninhaltsforschung <i>Primig</i>	
14-16			S Kommunikator- und Rezipientenforschung <i>Hajek</i>		
16-18				(Aktuelles/ Empirisches) Forschungsprojekt, Teil 2 <i>Kaskeleviciute</i>	
18-20					