

The MAIAS Experience



Dr. Hanna Straß-Senol (Germany), MAIAS graduate 2009; now Post-doc and Lecturer at the University of Oldenburg; major area: literature

“After my B.A. in *British and American Studies* at the University of Konstanz (Germany), I was looking for a Master’s programme that would allow me to extend my expertise in the areas of postcolonial and transcultural studies. With MAIAS, I found the perfect fit! What I liked most about MAIAS was the fact that I was not forced to decide on one discipline exclusively: I could ‘shop’ around the various offers by the colleagues in British Literature as well as in American Literary and Cultural Studies. Thus, I was able to work in both disciplines and got acquainted with a large number of literary works, theoretical approaches and literary-historical contexts. MAIAS furthermore allowed me to keep following up on my interest in linguistics while I was studying for a literature degree. Gaining knowledge about different varieties of English in formerly colonized world regions provided me with a valuable historical and linguistic background that I would not want to miss as it helped me understand a number of issues pertaining to postcolonial contexts in more detail. The intercultural dimension of the programme was reflected not only in the different kinds of Anglophone literatures I was able to work with but also in its academic staff: MAIAS profits from its well-connected permanent staff who are able to bring scholars from all over the world for different events as well as from the University’s emphasis on African Studies. For me, MAIAS was the ideal setting to specialise in Postcolonial Literature and Criticism and to move further into discussions about inter- and transculturality; areas that have been my main research interest ever since. The programme provided me with a solid and comprehensive foundation and prepared me well for my future research endeavours. Last but not least, I am thankful for the friendships I established during my studies in Bayreuth, which have taken me across the world.”

Marian Ofori-Amofo (Ghana), MAIAS graduate 2017; about to start her dissertation on contemporary Anglophone novels of slave history; major area: literature

“As a 2017 alumna of the MAIAS program commencing research on my dissertation, my M.A. research on space, race and identity discourse in contemporary narratives of slavery was grounded in the holistic, interdisciplinary, inter/cross cultural and research-oriented structure of the program. This coupled with a culturally diverse and imaginative university community, has proven an excellent foundation for my future research. Choosing MAIAS has been one of the best decisions in my academic career.”





Sofia Rüdiger (Germany), MAIAS graduate 2012, just finished her doctoral dissertation on morpho-syntactic patterns of spoken English in South Korea at UBT; major area: linguistics

“Studying within the MAIAS program at the University of Bayreuth was an awesome experience. It allowed me to develop and follow my own research interests within a friendly and encouraging academic environment. Guided by experts in their respective fields, students enjoy a remarkable amount of freedom when it comes to matters of course choice, project work and their final thesis. On top, you get access to a very active campus life (including sports courses, cultural activities, general lectures, etc.) within a fantastic campus university atmosphere!”

Jude Ssempuuma (Uganda), MAIAS graduate 2008; now Post-doc and lecturer at the University of Bochum and the University of Bayreuth; major area: linguistics

“The MAIAS program provides the opportunity for foreign students with a BA in English Linguistics, Literature and Cultural studies to carry on Master’s Degree studies at Bayreuth University. With its special focus on the African continent, Bayreuth University allows students to do research in the English speaking countries under the MAIAS program. During this program, I learned how to write term papers and how to do field research and data collection. The data I used for my MA Thesis *Luganda-English Code Switching among the Baganda in Uganda* was collected in Uganda. This opened my eyes to the various research projects that could be carried on in that country. This program helped me in the preparation for my PhD Thesis, publications and presentations at conferences on Ugandan English.

I got my MAIAS degree on 10 September 2008. From October 2009 to March 2017, I got a position of research and teaching assistant at Ruhr University Bochum. In addition, I worked on my PhD project *Morphological and Syntactic Feature Analysis of Ugandan English: Influence from Luganda, Runyankole-Rukiga, and Acholi-Lango*, which I completed in January 2017. During this time, I have also published articles on Ugandan English and presented papers at International Conferences. I am currently teaching English Linguistic courses at Bayreuth University for the summer semester 2017.”



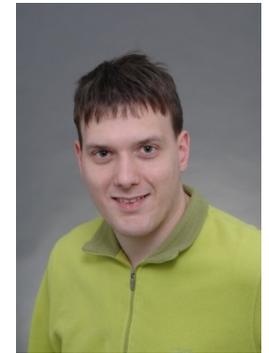


Marija Krstic (Serbia), currently writing her MA thesis, major area: literature

“The MA program Intercultural Anglophone Studies offers a wide range of courses that provide excellent theoretical background for understanding trends and recent developments in literature, film, theatre, and music. The MAIAS program encourages an independent approach to research oriented studying of cultural phenomena in the Anglophone world. The University of Bayreuth is a friendly and multicultural environment with great potential for gathering work experience and prepare for a future career.”

Sebastian Müller (Germany), MAIAS graduate 2016, currently writing a doctoral dissertation on the Neo-Frontier in contemporary American science fiction television series; major area: literature

“I entered the MAIAS program at the University of Bayreuth in 2014 and, in retrospect, it was probably the best choice in terms of a study program that I could have made. The lecturers and professors offered a broad range of interesting courses about American and British fiction and were completely committed to what they were teaching. They did not only provide me with information but also with their sustained and committed support for all of my projects during the program (presentations, papers, oral and written exam). Moreover, the program’s international orientation enabled me to get to know other students from all around the world – Ghana, Nigeria, Russia, Romania, Brazil and Iran – who by now have become some of my closest and best friends.”



Lu Gan (China), MAIAS Dual Degree graduate (with Shanghai International Studies University) 2014; currently writing a doctoral dissertation on “techno-orientalism” in contemporary American speculative fiction; major area: literature

“The MAIAS program at University of Bayreuth was my most cherished experience of intensive study. The courses are designed to provide both overview of the study and also to offer interesting insights into diverse topics. The professors and instructors are knowledgeable and ready to respond to the needs of the students. These all help me to build up a solid foundation for my current PhD research.”



Joana do Amaral Oliveira (Brazil), MAIAS graduate 2016, currently teaching English linguistics at UBT; major area: linguistics

“Throughout my MA studies, I got the chance to expand not only my verbal communication skills, through presentations and discussions in-class, but I also expanded my writing skills by writing essays/papers about interesting topics. Moreover, I noticed that the study program fostered the development of various other skills through the various assignments completed, e.g. independent work, organization, decision making and analytical skills, all of which support us for our professional career inside or outside academia. During these two years, I also had the chance to participate in the Erasmus Exchange Program by getting a scholarship: I spent a semester in Wales. This was a great chance to advance my knowledge of English culture and language. MAIAS is an international program and has students from all over the world. Thus, I also had the opportunity to enlarge my intercultural knowledge outside the English-speaking world without having to leave Bayreuth. It was intense, and it was worth it!”

Daria Dayter (Russia), MAIAS graduate 2010, postdoctoral assistant at the University of Basel, working on a habilitation project in Translation Studies; major area: linguistics

“I always appreciated the freedom of choice that MAIAS offers the students: the majority of classes were electives and could be picked from the modules according to my own interests. During my time as an MA student in Bayreuth, I learnt the art of independent research (this was made very easy by the excellent university library, which can deliver any source in the world!) - and it has served me well in the 7 years since that I've been working in academia. I think MAIAS is an ideal setting for international students to make the step from the highly structured programs towards the "European-style" graduate studies.”

