Subject: *Review: the University of Göttingen - MA Program in Iranian and Persianate Studies*

Pursuing my Master's in Iranian and Persianate Studies at the University of Göttingen has been an intellectually rewarding journey, largely due to the university's strong research-focused culture. What sets the Iranian Institute at Göttingen apart from the other institutions is its English-taught structure and its research focus, which includes the Indo-Persian realm. Through this approach, I have gained an in-depth understanding of research methodology, combining both technical competencies and regional expertise.

Throughout the semester, guest researchers contributed to the course sessions by presenting their insightful findings that sparked valuable ideas to craft for our own coursework.
In addition to this, the one-on-one sessions with the professors are so resourceful, and the professors support the students to create a roadmap for the coursework by pointing us toward relevant sources and guiding our research methods. Moreover, their personalized feedback has been crucial to our academic progress.

Beyond the studies, the institute and the university organized comprehensive orientation weeks that helped international students feel at home while navigating the culture and administrative structure of the University of Göttingen. Orientation weeks are a great opportunity to break the ice with peers and make new friends. We were also informed about the university facilities, workshops, events, and student support services. Furthermore, the administrative staff are approachable and efficient, offering practical support whenever challenges arise.
However, one of the main setbacks students face is the housing situation. The budget-friendly accommodation is really tight, and I would recommend that incoming students begin their housing search as early as possible.

Regarding potential improvements to the program structure, integrating more policy-oriented courses would make the program even stronger, preparing students for careers in policy-making alongside regional and historical studies, since regional knowledge alone is not always enough.

Overall, the program has met my expectations, as it has a student-first and research-centered attitude.

Summer Semester 2026