



UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY – INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SECURITY

The United Nations University (UNU) is the academic arm of the United Nations and acts as a global think tank. The mission of the Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) is to carry out cutting-edge research on risks and adaptation related to environmental hazards and global change.

The Institute’s research promotes policies and programmes to reduce these risks, while taking into account the interplay between environmental and societal factors.

Research areas include climate change adaptation by incorporating insurance-related approaches, environmentally induced migration and social vulnerability, ecosystem-based solutions to adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and models and tools to analyse vulnerability and risks linked to natural hazards, with a focus on urban space and rural-urban interfaces.

Beyond its research mandate, UNU-EHS is actively engaged in education.

Final-Degree	Study-Options	Standard period of study	Start of Course
Master of Science (M.Sc.)	Major	4 semesters	Winter Semester (October)



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Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security



Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

B	B	Bachelor
M	M	Master Master of Science (M.Sc.)
E	E	Staatsexamen Kirchliches Examen
L	L	Lehramt



UNIVERSITY OF BONN - DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

The Department of Geography is located in a historical building opposite the Botanical Gardens and the Castle of Poppelsdorf. With 15 professors and working groups covering the different subfields of geography it is one of Germany’s leading institutions for the education of young geographers.

With a special emphasis on questions of globalisation & development, governance & space, the dynamics of environmental systems and socio-hydrological issues, the Department offers a wide range of courses based on ongoing research at the department. Furthermore, we cooperate with several partners in the fields of politics and economics, such as the United Nations, the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, and professionals from the real estate and insurance industries.



Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security

The two-year Master's programme "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" addresses new and compelling approaches and innovative concepts to better understand the complexity of physical changes in the earth system (e.g. climate change, environmental hazards) and its interactions with societal processes. Students will engage with theoretical and methodological debates in geography to better understand the complex relationship between environmental risks and natural hazards, and their implications for human-nature relations (e.g. vulnerability, resilience, adaptation).

Jointly organized by the Department of Geography at the University of Bonn and the United Nations Institute of Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), it provides a unique combination of advanced theoretical and applied engagements with the field of environmental risks and human security in an international context.

The MSc programme provides postgraduate students with detailed knowledge, critical understanding, strategies and tools to take an interdisciplinary approach towards environmental risks and human security.

Upon completion of their studies, students will be able to:

- › Understand the diversity of scientific approaches in Physical and Human Geography and related disciplines, focusing on vulnerabilities and environmental risks in the Global South
- › Critically engage with a variety of theoretical and methodological debates, focusing on environmental risks and vulnerabilities in the Global South
- › Formulate new research questions and apply the acquired knowledge in the context of international organizations and mechanisms
- › Write scientifically, formulate proposals, present academic content and perform project management tasks

COURSE STRUCTURE

The programme, which is taught in English, offers an in-depth introduction into both theories and concepts, problem-oriented research methods, as well as real life challenges that both academia and international organizations have to deal with.

Across four semesters, students will take 11 modules (120 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System), including introductory lectures, advanced seminars, research exercises, an internship, as well as the Master's thesis.

More information

Department of Geography

› www.geographie.uni-bonn.de

UNU-EHS

› ehs.unu.edu/education/masters

INTERNSHIP & THESIS

As part of the curriculum students will be required to complete an internship of a minimum of 8 weeks and write a Master's thesis. Students have the opportunity to do that in collaboration with partner institutions, where they can participate in research projects worldwide and apply the knowledge they have obtained.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The programme provides a spring board for positions in international organizations worldwide involved with development, politics and the humanitarian field. Students could also pursue a PhD or work with private or public sector organizations active in areas such as environment, human security, disaster management or insurance.

WHAT WE OFFER

- › A Joint Master of Science Degree from the United Nations University and the University of Bonn
- › A profound education in cutting-edge theoretical and methodological approaches to environmental risks and socio-ecological transformations
- › Problem-oriented and in-depth conceptual discussions combined with practical case studies
- › Strong focus on countries of the Global South
- › Intercultural and interdisciplinary learning environment
- › Possibility to engage in ongoing research projects at both institutions
- › Close cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations

ADMISSION

Applicants must possess a first, higher education qualification (Bachelor's Degree) in Geography or a related/comparable study programme, with experiences covering the following fields:

- › Human geography (or related social sciences) with, e.g. a focus on the human-nature relations, questions of globalisation and development
- › Physical Geography, Geosciences or Environmental Sciences
- › empirical research methods

A strong motivation to contribute to the field of human security and the management/governance of risks related to environmental change is a prerequisite to study in this Master's Programme. Applicants should also be highly motivated to learn in a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment.

Non-native English speakers must prove proficiency in the English language.

HOW TO APPLY

The following documents are required to apply:

- › Application Form
 - › Resumé/CV
 - › Official Transcript
 - › Letter of Motivation
 - › English language proficiency certificate (TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge Exam, or telc)
 - › Other relevant documents to support your application
- › www.studienangebot.uni-bonn.de
- › ehs.unu.edu/education/masters

FEES

The MSc programme "Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security" is tuition-free. Students have to pay a semester fee, which includes a regional public transport ticket (semester ticket).

