Research

Our Department – the largest geography department in Germany – is home to 15 different research groups. Our research is organized around eight research clusters within three main research areas: water, risk and geomatics.

Thematic areas of the research clusters:

- Climatology and Landscape Ecology
  - High mountain research and biogeography
  - Climate and human impact on ecosystems
- Geomorphology
  - Natural hazards
  - Sediment fluxes and permafrost environments
  - Paleo-hydrology
- Hydrology and Water Resource Management
  - Hydrological processes and hydrological modelling
  - River basin and flood risk management
- Development Geography
  - Political ecology and critical human-environment interactions
  - The spatial implications of processes of globalisation
  - Issues of risk, uncertainty, and vulnerability in social-ecological systems
- Urban and Regional Geography
  - Urban planning
  - Demographic change
  - Migration
- Economic and Social Geography
  - Geographical energy research
  - Geography of finance
  - Social theory and risk perception
- Historical Geography
  - Cultural landscape studies
  - Cultural landscape conservation
- Remote Sensing and GIS
  - Land use / Land cover change research
  - Geospatial technology and methodology research
  - Linking remote sensing methods, spatial data and socio-economic research

www.geographie.uni-bonn.de/research

Department of Geography

The Department of Geography follows the same guiding principles as the University does: Tradition and Modernity. Whereas our Department is housed in a building that is a historical and protected monument, our technical equipment and research environment is absolutely state-of-the-art. As a leading German geography department, we combine an established reputation for high quality research with a deep commitment to excellence in teaching.
Undergraduate Study Programmes

Bachelor of Science in Geography
The usual duration of the programme is six semesters. The programme is comprised of a geography major (150 credit points) and elective modules (30 credit points) in other subject areas related to Geography. Several modules, which often build upon one another, are to be completed throughout the course of the programme. This study programme is taught in German.

Teaching Degree in Geography
The students can choose Geography as one of two subjects of their teaching degree. After completing their Bachelor’s degree, the student can continue into a Master of Education. This study programme is taught in German.

Postgraduate Study Programmes

Master of Science in Geography
Three possible course specialisations are offered within the Master programme at the University of Bonn. All course specialisations are based upon a strong alliance of theory and practice.
- Governance and Space
- Globalisation and Development
- Environmental Systems in Change

The Master programme can be designed individually. It is possible to either combine course specialisations or to choose single courses from another specialisation. The MSc Geography is a German degree programme; however selected courses are offered in the English language.

International Master programme: Master of Science in Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security
The international degree programme “Geography of Environmental Risks and Human Security” is offered by the Department of Geography in cooperation with the United Nations University. The two-year programme educates students in an interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary manner on how to investigate and manage various resources related to environmental hazards by implementing science-based principles and methodologies to disaster risk management.

- www.ehfs.unu.edu

Master of Science: Nature conservation and landscape ecology
This new interdisciplinary Master programme is offered by the Department of Geography and the Faculty of Agriculture. The two-year programme combines new aspects of landscape ecology with the perspective of natural conservation. The MSc “Nature conservation and landscape ecology” is a German degree programme.

- www.lwf.uni-bonn.de/studium-lehre/msc-nala

Master of Education

The Master of Education programme is designed to enhance the subject knowledge and pedagogical knowledge of practicing teachers in secondary and vocational schools. This programme emphasises education as an academic field and the importance of research in the development of teaching practice. This study programme is taught in German.

Advanced Training Programme: Master of Disaster Management and Risk Governance
This Master programme is designed for postgraduates with professional experience. The programme is offered in cooperation with the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance.

- www.kavoma.de

Studying at our Department

Because the study of Geography is inherently interdisciplinary, it is necessary to cover a wide range of topics. Therefore, we offer our students an eclectic range of courses supported by the Department’s ongoing research. Furthermore, we cooperate with several partners from the political and economic spheres, such as the United Nations, the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance, the Federal Agency for Nature Conversation, and professionals from real estate and insurance industries. Our degree programmes allow students to experience an array of geographical topics in classrooms, laboratories and in the field.

Further information
- www.geographie.uni-bonn.de/studying

International

- “Internationality” is a central component of the University of Bonn’s mission statement. The Department of Geography is home to a group of students which are mostly based upon international research activities. One regional research focus of our Department is Africa. Many research projects in Development Geography, Hydrology and GIS/Remote sensing are based in West or East Africa.

In addition to the 45 overseas student exchange partnerships of the University of Bonn, our Department maintains over 30 ERASMUS partnerships in 16 European countries. Every year, 60-70 geography students go abroad as part of the University’s exchange programme. In return we have about 70 international geography students in our undergraduate and postgraduate study programmes.

Opportunities for international students at the Department of Geography
- Large number of courses offered in English (mainly MSc courses)
- Opportunity to take the exams in English in German courses
- International Joint-Master in “Geography of Environmental Risk and Human Security”
- Special courses for international students (BSc/MSc): - Winter Semester: Germany- an introduction into Geography, History and Politics with field trips (10 ECTS) - Summer Semester: Germany in the EU (6 ECTS)
- Geo2gether - Group of international geography students: academic support, field trips, events with national and international students
- www.geographie.uni-bonn.de/international

In addition to the departmental offers the International Office provides many activities and services for international students, e.g. the international choir, the buddy programme and the help desk.

- www.uni-bonn.de/international