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.

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
  - Arctic-alpine ecosystem research
  - Boundary layer climate research
  - Process-based biogeographic research
- Geomorphology
  - Natural hazards
  - Sediment dynamics and permafrost environments
  - Paleohydrology
- Hydrology and Water Resource Management
  - Hydrological processes and hydrological modelling
  - River basin and flood risk management
  - Hydrological extremes
  - Human-water systems

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Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
Studying Geography in Bonn

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 co-operate 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

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. The BSc Geography is a German degree programme, but in three modules courses are offered in English.

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 onto 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

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.iav.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 practising teachers in secondary and vocational schools. This programme emphasises education as an academic field of study 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

INTERNATIONAL

“Internationality” is a central component of the University of Bonn’s mission statement. The Department of Geography is home to a variety of international contacts and collaborations, which are mostly based upon international research activities. One regional research focus, among others, is Africa. Many research projects in Development Geography, Hydrology and GIS/Remote sensing are based in West or East Africa. One example is the Collaborative Research Centre (CRC) “Future Rural Africa”. The CRC combines expertise from two complementary centers of excellence at the Universities of Bonn and Cologne to study newly emerging issues of social-ecological transformation and future-making in Africa.

www.crc228.de

In addition to the 35 overseas student exchange partnerships of the University of Bonn, our Department maintains over 37 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 80 international geography students in our undergraduate and postgraduate study programme.

Opportunities for international students at the Department of Geography

- Large number of courses offered in English
- 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) during the Winter Semester: Germany- an introduction into Geography, History and Politics with field trips (10ECTS)
- Activities for international geography students: field trips, events with international and German 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 club, the international choir, the buddy programme and the help desk.

www.uni-bonn.de/international