

# Welcome

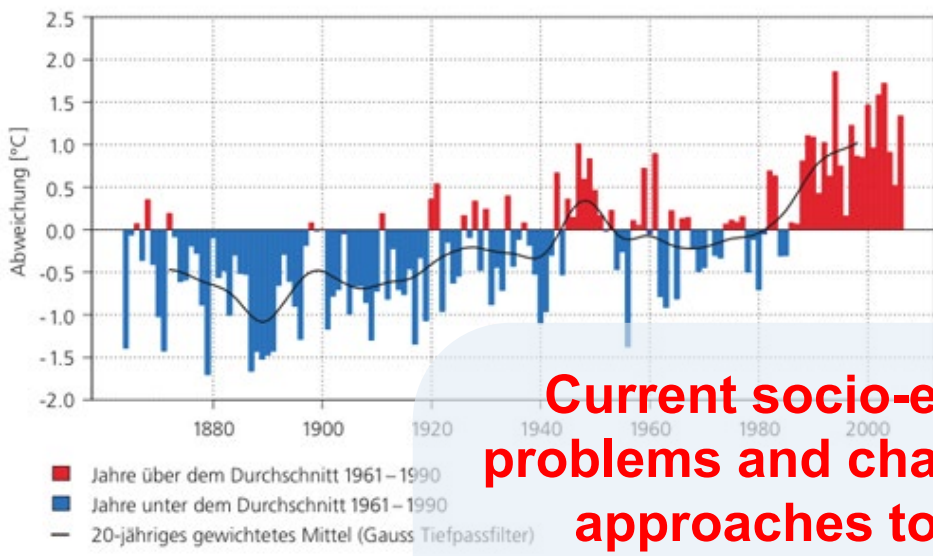


*u*<sup>b</sup>  
UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

## at the Institute of Geography at the University of Bern

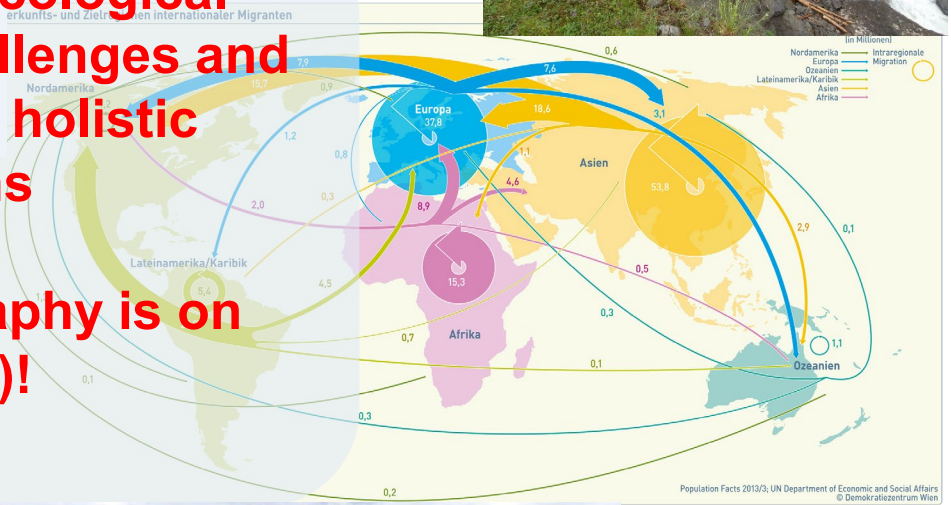
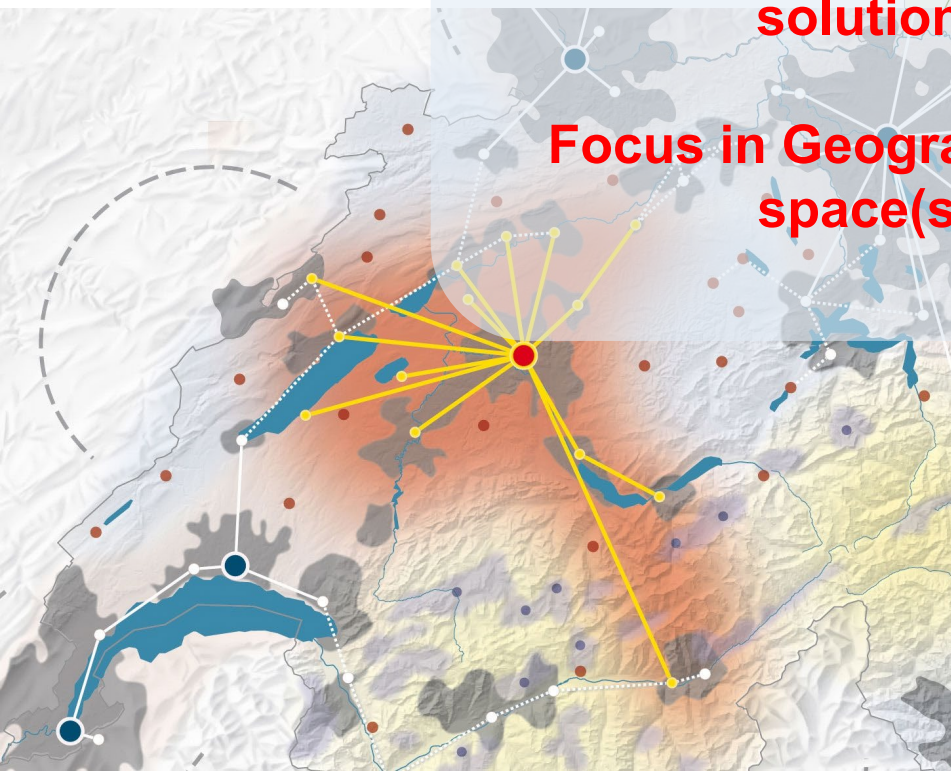






**Current socio-ecological problems and challenges and approaches to holistic solutions**

**Focus in Geography is on space(s)!**



Population Facts 2013/0, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs © Demokratisierung Wien

# The "Bern Model" of Geography

Research Units of Geography



## Physical geography

### Hydrology

Prof. Bettina Schaefli



### Soil Science

Prof. Adrien Mestrot



### Climatology

Prof. Stefan Brönnimann



### Geomorphology

Prof. Virginia Ruiz-Villanueva



### Geocomputation and Earth Observation

Prof. Benjamin Stocker



### Land Systems and Sustainable Land Management (LS-SLM)

Prof. Chinwe Ifejika Speranza



### Critical Sustainability Studies

Prof. Susan Thieme



## Geographies of sustainability

## Human geography

### Social and Cultural Geography

Prof. Carolin Schurr



### Economic Geography

Prof. Heike Mayer



### Political Urbanism and Sustainable Spatial Development

Prof. Jean-David Gerber



Unit-wide  
Interdisciplinary  
teaching &  
research



... helps the units organise the studies and keep track of everything.

Director of Studies Geography

- **Prof. Dr. Olivia Romppainen-Martius**



Office of the Director of Studies and Student Counselling

- **Sabine Röthlin-Spillmann**



- **Elisabeth Roggli-Schläppi**



You will find a lot of information on our **website**: [www.geography.unibe.ch](http://www.geography.unibe.ch) (Studies)

# Study goals are to...

- deepen topic-specific and interdisciplinary knowledge
- be prepared for your own scientific project (MSc thesis)
- learn how to independently carry out a project (MSc thesis)
- prepare to become a high-school teacher (Master Major)
- learn how to critically and efficiently work with (big) data
- understand complex problems and how to work on solutions
- take on responsibility
- acquire knowledge and skills that are relevant for working in science



# 3 doctors, 4 opinions! You can help to create a good basis for decision-making!

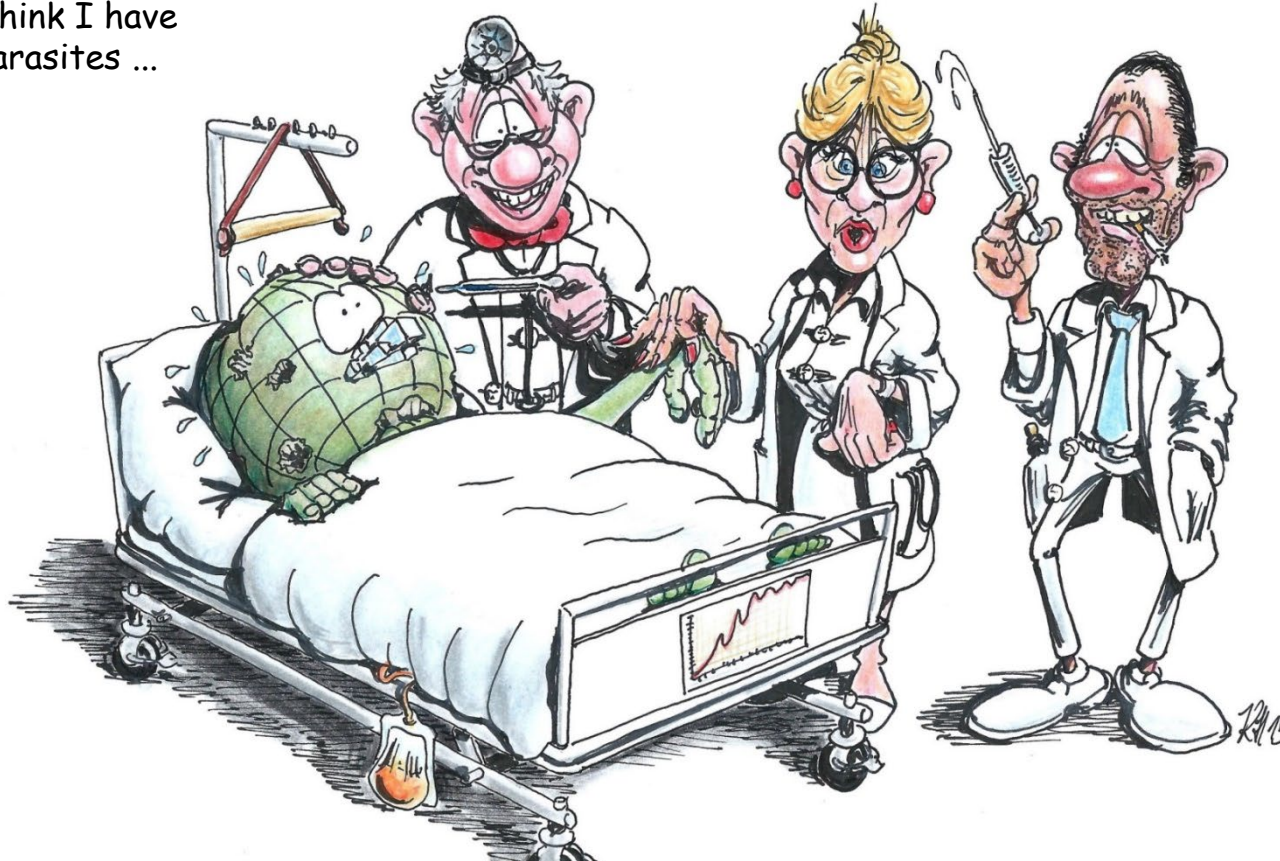


I think I have  
parasites ...

Oh no! Slightly elevated  
temperature ...  
antibiotics and a little  
rest.

No pulse. To the OR  
now!

A bit late for that.  
Have you ever heard  
of EXIT?



**Avoid disciplinary dead ends!**



# Modern Geography - Inter- and Transdisciplinary Cooperation



u<sup>b</sup>

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Play your instrument but agree on the tune!

# Geography as a minor in the Master's degree (30 ECTS) <sup>u<sup>b</sup></sup>

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**Prerequisite** is a **Bachelor Minor** degree in **Geography 60 ECTS**.  
Achievements Master Minor 30 ECTS:

Frei wählbar aus dem Lehrangebot der Units und dem Methodenmodul (« <a href="#">Leistungseinheiten zu Anhang 1 SP Geographie</a> »)	30 E
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The Master Minor forms the basis for a second subject Geography at the PH (secondary level II) Appendix 3 Study plan Geography:



## 2. Subject study geography for the second subject geography, secondary level II.

### Requirements:

1. the second subject study in geography comprises study achievements amounting to at least 90 E. It corresponds to the Bachelor Minor Geography 60 E and the Master Minor Geography 30 E. The requirements are set out in Annex 2.
2. PH students may also take the courses of the Earth Sciences of the Geography Bachelor's programme in the Master's Minor Geography (cf. "Leistungseinheiten zu Anhang 1 SP Geographie").



# Master's programmes Geography

## Mono Master (120 ECTS)

### Geography lectures (60 E)

- with specialization min. 15 ECTS courses dedicated to sustainability

### Master's thesis and colloquium (60 E)

With specialization

- The research question needs to focus on sustainability
- A chapter must be included to reflect on the role of sustainability in relationship to the issue at stake in the thesis

## Master Major (120 ECTS)

### Geography lectures (60 E)

- with specialization min. 15 ECTS courses dedicated to sustainability

### Master's thesis and colloquium (30 E)

With specialization

- The research question needs to focus on sustainability
- A chapter must be included to reflect on the role of sustainability in relationship to the issue at stake in the thesis

### Lectures Minor (30 E)

# Geography lectures (60 ECTS)

## Mono Master (120 ECTS)

### Required Electives (min. 16 ECTS)

- **1 Seminar (5 ECTS)**
- **at least 6 ECTS from the methods module**
- **5 ECTS from the field module**

### Geography courses (min. 29 ECTS)

- **Climatology**
- **Hydrology**
- **Geomorphology**
- **Soil science**
- **Paläolimnology**
- **Geocomputation and Earth Observation**
- **Social and cultural geography**
- **Economic Geography**
- **Political urban research and sustainable spatial development**
- **Land Systems and Sustainable Land Management (LS-SLM)**
- **Critical Sustainability Studies**

### Elective courses (max. 15 ECTS)

- **Lectures from other study fields can be chosen**
- **an internship of max. 15 ECTS can be credited to the degree program**

## Master Major (90 ECTS)

### Required Electives (min.16 ECTS)

- 1 Seminar (5 ECTS)
- at least 6 ECTS from the methods module
- 5 ECTS from the field module

### Geography courses (min. 38 ECTS)

- Climatology
- Hydrology
- Geomorphology
- Soil science
- Paläolimnology
- Geocomputation and Earth Observation
- Social and cultural geography
- Economic Geography
- Political urban research and sustainable spatial development
- Land Systems and Sustainable Land Management (LS-SLM)
- Critical Sustainability Studies

### Elective courses (max. 6 ECTS)

- Lectures from other study fields can be chosen
- an internship of **max. 6 ECTS**) can be credited to the degree program



# Required Elective courses

field module & methods module

## Required Electives (at least 16 ECTS)

- 1 seminar (5 ECTS) of a unit
- At least 6 ECTS in the methods module (at least 2 courses)
- 5 ECTS in the field module

Field Research and Practice Module	Method Module
Attend <b>one</b> large field course (approx. 10 days). Every summer (end of spring semester) the units offer various field courses/major excursions	There are various courses to choose from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Geoprocessing</li><li>• Qualitative Methods</li><li>• Applied Statistics</li><li>• Theories of Sciences</li><li>• Laboratory Methods in Physical Geography</li><li>• ...</li></ul>
5 ECTS	At least 6 ECTS
If possible in the first summer	

- According to the study plan, you have the possibility to have 15 ECTS (in the Mono Master 120 ECTS) or 6 ECTS (in the Master Major 90 ECTS) credited in the **elective area**.
- As a rule, only Master courses can be credited.
- These can be achievements at other institutes, other faculties, other universities.
- From HS23 onward also internships
- You can move credits obtained at the University of Bern into the "elective area" yourself, if not, just send an e-mail to: [studienleitung.giub@unibe.ch](mailto:studienleitung.giub@unibe.ch).
- For achievements at other universities, you must submit an official transcript of records.
- For Erasmus/ISEP, other rules apply



## internship

Master Mono

Master Major

- The internship is voluntary and there is no right to an internship
- Students look for the internship place on their own.
- The internship can be completed in a company of the administration (federal office/canton/municipalities), in an engineering or planning office (or similar company), in an NGO or in a university or non-university research institution in Switzerland or abroad.
- The internship has to be supervised by a group leader (lecturers and research group leaders according to the list of examiners).
- The candidate must find this supervisor him/herself.
- There is no entitlement to supervision, especially if the topic does not match the expertise of the supervisor.

max. 15 ECTS (elective area)

max. 6 ECTS (elective area)

## You have two options:

1. choose from lists of topics (check the websites/ask at the units/attend an info event)
2. propose your own topic (look for a supervisor)

## Do I prefer to take a subject that interests me or one with good career opportunities?

*We can't answer the question for you, of course, but we can help you decide*

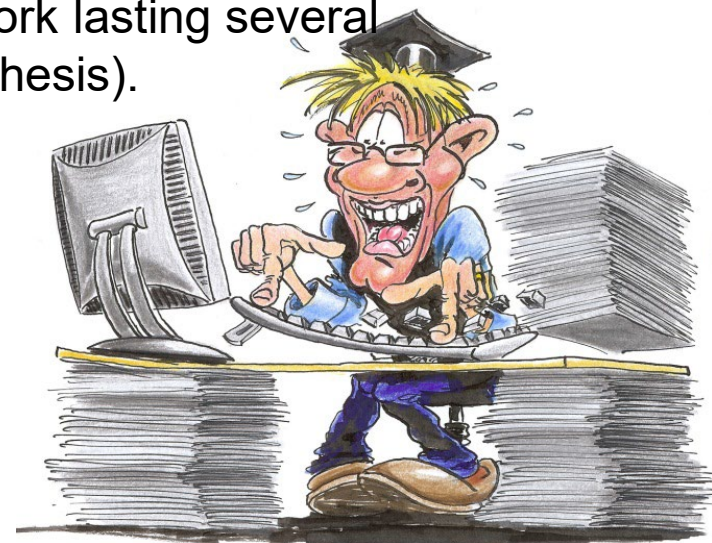
- Preferably both!
- An interesting research topic is essential for perseverance and an important prerequisite for a good quality thesis and a good grade.
- Your chances on the job market increase if you know the requirements of potential employers.





- **Duration:** max. 18 months (60 E Master Mono) or max. 12 months (30 E Master Major).
- **Start:** organization should start as early as possible, ideally in the course of the 1st Master's semester (if the Master's programme is to be completed in 4 semesters).
- **Choice of topic:** Information can be obtained at any time from the website of the departments/research units and at the info events in the beginning of each semester.
- **Courses:** depending on the topic, certain courses must be successfully completed before; enquire at the research units!
- **Fieldwork:** depending on the topic chosen, fieldwork lasting several months must be planned (mainly concerns 60 E thesis).

=> good study planning is necessary!



# Master's defense & final grade

- Public presentation with discussion (30 min. each)
- Students organize the Master's defense themselves; 2 examiners, time and place and register the presentation with the Directorate of Studies. The defense is part of the Master's thesis.
- The final grade of the Master's thesis is composed of
  - the grade of the written thesis (counts double)
  - the grade of the Master's presentation (counts single)
- You can find all the information about the Master's thesis from A - Z on a leaflet on our website: [Studies / Study programmes, Forms, Leaflets](#)
- **The completion of the Master's thesis is not necessarily the completion of the degree programme**





- **Erasmus**  
study at an European University, registration for 2024/25 in December 2023
- **ISEP**  
study overseas (approx. 135 exchange agreements with the US and more than 75 worldwide)
  - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), Blacksburg
  - United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan
- **Mobility between Swiss Universities**  
study at an other Swiss Univeristy

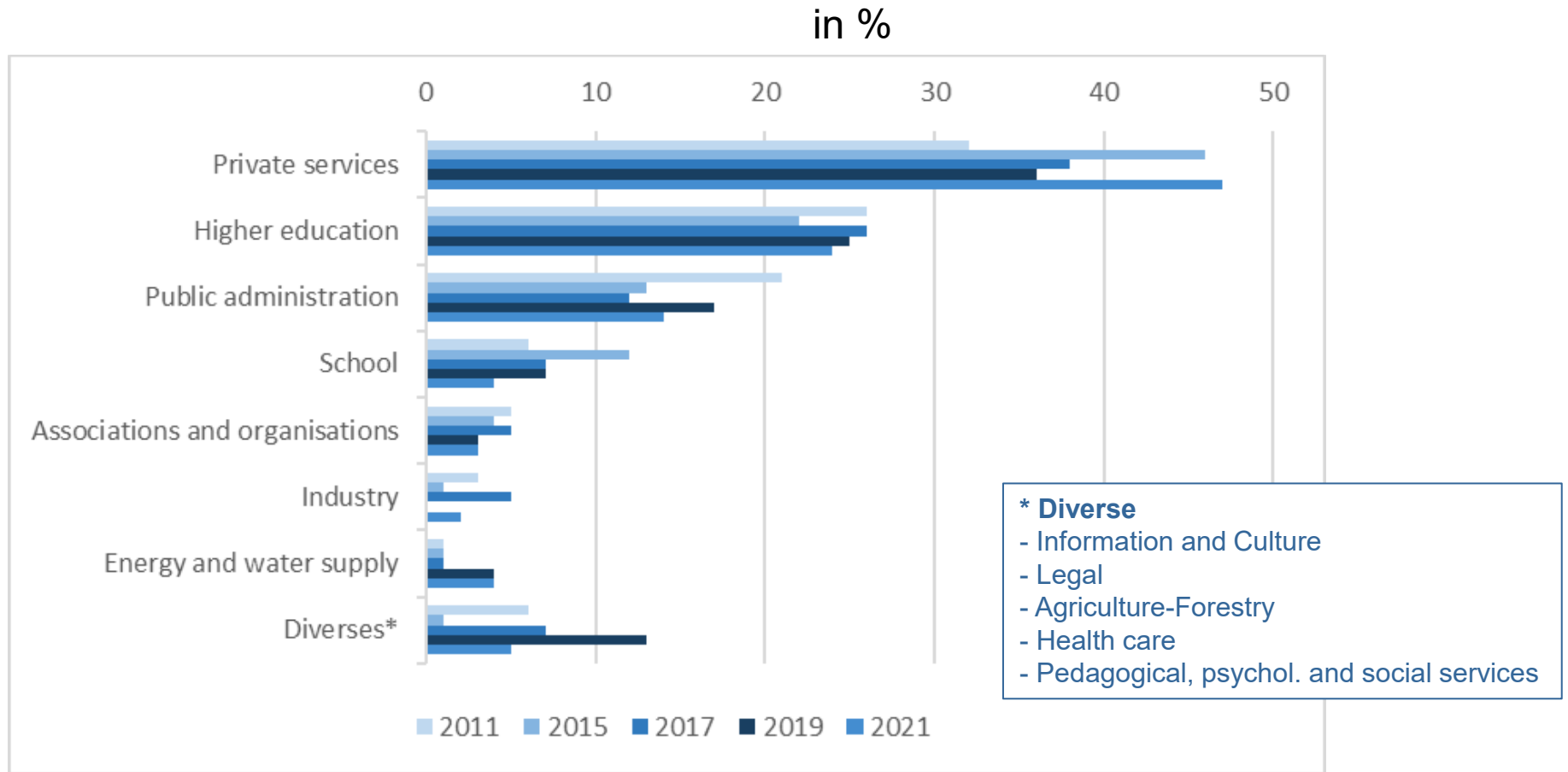
# Career prospects

The *first job* after graduation



u<sup>b</sup>

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Source: SDBB (Schweizerisches Dienstleistungszentrum Berufsbildung)





# Perseverance



**START**

**FINISH**

Manage your strength well so that you can make it to the end!

## **Equal opportunities:**

If you have a disabilities or chronic illnesses, you can apply for an [Access Arrangement](#) (Nachteilsausgleich).

## Office of the Director of Studies



Impossible things are  
done immediately  
Miracles take a little  
longer  
On request is witched



### Office hours Office 114:

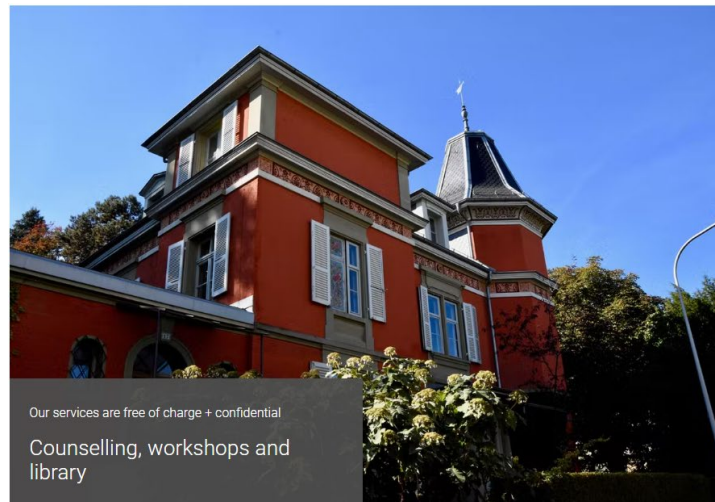
Tue – Fri 10:00 – 11:45  
(without appointment)

### Student advisory service

Sabine Röthlin  
(Appointments by arrangement)

## Universities of Bern Counselling Centre

Erlachstrasse 17  
CH 3012 Bern  
+41 31 635 24 35



Our services are free of charge + confidential  
Counselling, workshops and  
library

Studies + campus life

Studying made easy

Career entry + career path

Career planning tips

Psyche + well-being

Staying motivated and cheerful

Techniques for learning + working

Strategies for study + job

# Questions?



**Additional information for new Bernese will follow**



## **CTS = Core Teaching System (KSL = Kern System Lehre)**

- Course catalogue, registration, deregistration, grades, student administration, etc.
- Public area <http://www.ksl-vv.unibe.ch>
- Logged in <http://www.ksl.unibe.ch>

## **ILIAS**

- Web-based learning platform (e.g. upload of teaching material), no official site



# How do I organise my Master's?

Here are the most important documents that can help you with your planning:

- **Study Plan Geography** (Read the Study Plan Geography).
- **Appendix 1** of the study plan and **the units of achievement** (Leistungseinheiten Geographie) to the study plan.
- Read the **leaflets** on our website!

### (3) Lehrangebot Geographie Masterstudium

KSL-Nr.		Typ	verantw. Doz.	ECTS	SWS	Wh.	NE	Podcast	Master Spez.NE	HS22	FS23	HS23	FS24
<b>Land Systems and Sustainable Land Management (LS-SLM) (C. Ifejiya Speranza)</b>													
10909	Land Systems and Sustainable Land Management	V	Ifejiya Speranza, Messerli	3	2	1	X		X		3 (online)		3
10917	WP Seminar on Land Systems and Sustainable Land Management	S	Ifejiya Speranza	5	2	2							5
100671	Sustainability Forum	Ku	Ifejiya Speranza	1.5	1	1	X		X	1.5		1.5	
468196	Remote sensing in land systems and sustainable land management. Assessing and monitoring land surface dynamics in Bern	Ku	Ifejiya Speranza, Akinyemi, Wingate	3	2	2	X		X		3		
442444	Landschafts- und Landnutzungsgeschichte der Schweiz	V	Ifejiya Speranza, Bürgi	3	2	1	X		X		3		3
<b>Critical Sustainability Studies (CSS) (S. Thieme)</b>													
10908	Migration, Im/mobilities, In/equalities	V	Thieme	3	2	2	X		X		3		
423800	WP Seminar: Critical Sustainability Studies	S	Thieme	5	2	2	X		X		5		
445091	Film und Geographie: Transdisziplinärer Praxiskurs	B	Thieme	5	6T	1	X			5			5
471823	Globale Landpolitik	S	Zählinger, Brey	5	2	1	X		X	5			5
<b>Zusatzveranstaltungen Geographien der Nachhaltigkeit, gemäss KSL</b>													
<b>Methodenmodul</b>													
25835	WP Geoprocessing III	Ü	Wunderle, Eckert	5	3	1					5		5
12818	WP Seminar Angewandte Statistik	S	Franko, Brönnimann	5	2	2					5		
408606	WP Qualitative Methoden III	Ü	Witzler	3	2	1						3	3
24267	WP Wissenschaftstheorie	S	Witzler	5	2	1				5			5
396251	WP Fortgeschrittene Labormethoden in der Physischen Geographie I	V	Gonzales bis FS23 Chiala-Hernández ab HS23	3	2	1				3		3	
396253	WP Fortgeschrittene Labormethoden in der Physischen Geographie II	B	Gonzales bis FS23 Chiala-Hernández ab HS23	2.5	5T	1				3.5		2.5	
441682	Laborsicherheit	Ü	Gonzales bis FS23 Chiala-Hernández ab HS23	0.5		1				0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
<b>Feldmodul</b>													
25642	WP Geographische Feldkurse	E	Dozierende GIUB	5	10T	1					5		5

### Lehrveranstaltungen Master HS 2023

■ teilnehmerbeschränkt, Voranmeldung

Zeit	Montag	Dienstag	Mittwoch	Donnerstag	Freitag
08-09	100921 Kolloquium Geographien der Nachhaltigkeit GIUB 002	408606 <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">■</span> Qualitative Methoden III GIUB 002	4756 Remote Sensing in Climatology GIUB 001	483465 <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">■</span> Seminar in Applied Geodata Science II GIUB 002	465498 Introduction to network science for complex systems analysis GIUB 001
09-10			483452 Koll. Modell. Mensch-Umwelt-System. GIUB 002		
10-11		100918 Kolloquium in Hydrology MI43 016	100915 Koll. Geomorphologie GIUB 002	424361 Meteorology III GIUB 001	6414 Climatology III GIUB 001
11-12	24267 <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">■</span> Wissenschaftstheorie GIUB 001	483856 <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">■</span> Commons, Social Reprod. and the City MI43 124	4754 Limnology and Paleolimnology GIUB 001		
12-13					9773 Tutorium Kritische Geographien GIUB 002
13-14					
14-15	471823 <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">■</span> Globale Landpolitik MI43 120	445091 <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">■</span> Film und Geograph. MI43 224	100909 Koll. political urban. a. sus spatial dev. MI43 124	100905-0 Koll. in Climatology 480608 Coll. Geocomputation MI43 124	
15-16		nicht jede Woche	100912 Koll. Science GIUB 002	26650 <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">■</span> Research studio Political urban. a. sustainable spatl. development MI43 116	
16-17	100671 Sustainability Forum zweiwöchentlich GIUB 002	472384 Koll. Envir. Policy GIUB 002	100917 Koll. Paleo-lim. MI43 016	429597 <span style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 2px;">■</span> Seminar Paläolimnology HG H4, 208	396251 Laboratory Methods in Physical Geography I GIUB 001
17-18					

**Zusätzlich:** 396253 ■ Advanced Laboratory Methods in Physical Geography II (Blockkurs), 465747 Weather and Climate Data (online), 478778/478743 Vortragsreihe Geographische Gesellschaft Kolloquien, vgl. KSL

## Please watch the support video at CTS

101207	Geoproc. II	0	chnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen
102727	Geoproc. II	5	chnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	OK 5.5 5 ▼
1444	Globale Entwicklungs- u...	3	chnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	OF 1 0 ▼	indiv. anrechnen
1656	Mathematik I+II für Geo...	6	chnen	NO 2.5 0 ▼	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen
10815	Nachhaltige Ressourcenn.	3	chnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	OK 5 3 ▼
11588	Proseminar in Hydrologie	5	chnen	indiv. anrechnen	LK 0 ▼	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	hier anrechne
103751	Raumentwicklung und -pl...	3	chnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen	indiv. anrechnen

- **Courses (LV):** Register as soon as possible so that you can be reached via email and have access to ILIAS. Deadlines: HS: 15 October, FS: 15 March (for courses without participant restriction)
- Note the deadlines in the KSL for courses with limited participants
- **Examinations (LK):** You must be registered for the LK in order to be admitted to the examination. At the GIUB you must always attend the **1st appointment**.
- Please note the **registration and deregistration deadlines** in the KSL, **always click on the detailed view!**



# Courses with limited participants...

... are marked in the overview of performance units and in the timetables:

10917	WP	Seminar on Land Systems and Sustainable Land	S	Hejka Speranza	5	2	2		5		
100671		Sustainability Forum	K	Hejka Speranza	1.5	1	1	1.5		1.5	
468196		Remote sensing in land systems and sustainable land management: Assessing and monitoring land surface dynamics in Bern	Ku	Hejka Speranza Akinyemi, Wingate	3	2	2				3
442444		Landschafts- und Landnutzungsgeschichte der Schweiz	V	Hejka Speranza, Bürgi	3	2	1		3		3
<b>Critical Sustainability Studies (CSS) (S. Thieme)</b>											
10908		Migration, immobilities, inequalities	V	Thieme	3	2	2		3		3
423800	WP	Seminar: Critical Sustainability Studies	S	Thieme	5	2	2	5			5
445091		Film und Geographie	B	Thieme	5	6T	1	5		5	

## Courses **with** limited participants

### The dates for pre-registration are:

- for courses fall semester: week 33 and 34 (definitive allocation at the end of week 36)
- for courses spring semester: week 2 and 3 (definitive allocation at the end of week 5)
- there is **NO "first come - first serve"**.

**The lecturers will announce the definitive allocation;** any automated confirmations from KSL are not binding.

- Please consider registrations as **binding**; it is a matter of fairness towards your fellow students to participate if a place is guaranteed.
- Attendance is compulsory for all courses with limited participants!

Read the leaflets "*Anmeldung zu Kursen*" and "*Prüfungen am GIUB*", which you can find on our [website](#).



- **Each course** must be assessed (written or oral examination, written paper, exercises, presentation, etc.) **Without assessment, no ECTS credits can be awarded!**
- The **1st assessment date** must always be attended (justified exceptions only upon request to the head of studies before the LK date).
- **Keep the examination weeks free (calendar weeks 7 / 23 / 37)**
- Each unsatisfactory performance assessment can be repeated once (= 2nd date). **The 2nd attempt always counts!**
- **Check approx. 3 weeks before the examination dates** whether you are correctly **registered to all LKs!**



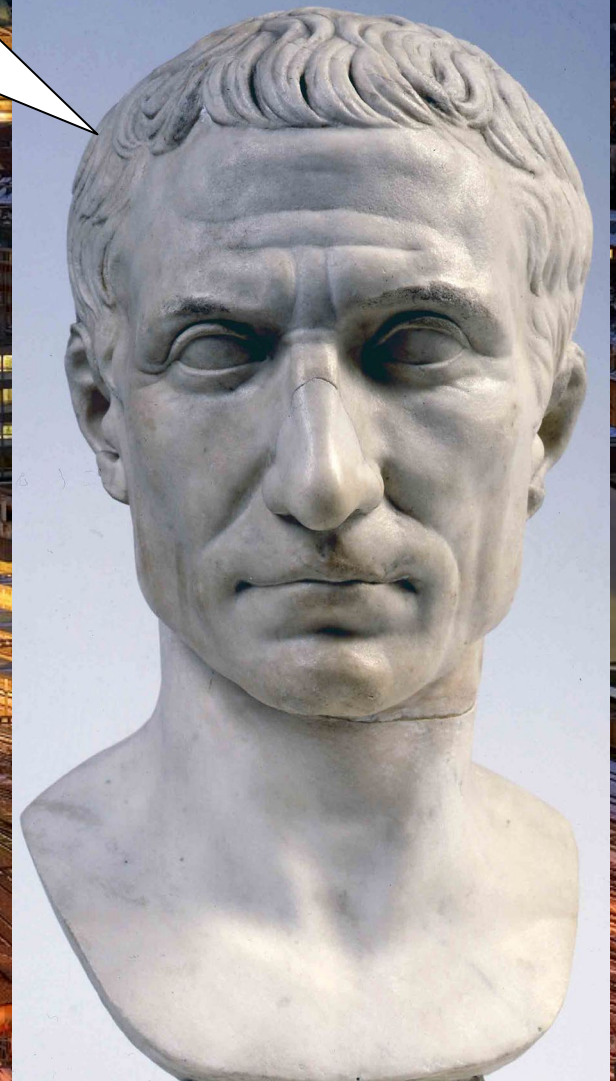
## ... e.g., extension of the studies duration

- Official requests always in written form (on paper or as pdf per email)
- Request templates are available on the website
- Carefully check who the correct recipient is:
  - Directory of studies: Studienleitung Geographie, Hallerstrasse 12, 3012 Bern
  - Dean's office: Dekanat Phil.-nat., Sidlerstrasse 5, 3012 Bern





It is all Greek to me ???



Fragen?



Au ja

Nö